

# Compact Living | Spacious Feeling \_ 2 Bedroom Dwelling

## Heidemann Architecture

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## Project Description

### Concept | Organization | Space

The project ***Compact Living | Spacious Feeling*** proposes a 2 Bedroom House of 1100 SF.

By means of its efficient and compact organization the design offers a spacious feel on a relatively small footprint. The house is organized in layers and relies on a simple plan layout. The backbone of the house is formed by the *utility wall* that services the house and contains a part of the kitchen counter, shelves, closet space, mechanical systems, washer/dryer and storage space. Along this service spine, the living and dining area with the open kitchen, the children's room/office, bathroom and master bedroom are arranged. The volume containing the bathroom and the children's room divides the house into a more public zone of living and dining and the more private zone of the bedroom, but keeps the spatial and visual continuity intact. Thereby, the house appears generous and open.

The generous sense of space is further highlighted by the inner slope of the roof with a high ceiling giving the house an airy and spacious feel despite its compact size.

All rooms face out on a narrow covered porch that extends along the length of the house and forms an intimate spatial layer connecting the rooms with the outside space of the garden.

The layout of the house is highly flexible and can adapt to changing needs. For young professionals the large room to the left can accommodate a start-up business/office/shop with the option of a separate client's entrance.

When the family and the business grow this room can be configured into the master bedroom and the smaller room in the center into a children's room.

The smart-living approach of ***Compact Living | Spacious Feeling*** provides a modern and simplified lifestyle catering to young professionals and young families, but can also be appealing to senior people looking to downsize from a big house.

### Materiality | Construction

The house features a simple building volume reminiscent of a cottage style with a modern twist. The actual house and the porch towards the garden as its special feature are comprised in a unified form giving the house its unique character.

The visualization shows the building clad in shingles as a traditional material found on Cape Cod, but could also be imagined with horizontal siding. In the interior, the underside of the roof is shown with a light coloured wood lining (e.g. low cost birch plywood) that continues into the utility wall, creating a warm and light atmosphere as well as a subtle contrast to the plastered walls.

To ensure affordable construction the building and roof form is deliberately kept simple and relies on a minimal amount of interior walls. The simple form and layout make the design ideally suited for a high degree of prefabrication. Prefab systems such as SIP-Panels (Structural Insulated Panels) would allow for economical construction, fast assembly and low cost.

For the roof, a series of standardized, identical scissor beams are used, that create the interior sloped ceiling and extend out to generate the covered porch without additional support.

Depending on the site and ground conditions, the foundation can be a slab-on-grade foundation or use a crawl space.