



The New Bohemians

ARCHITECTS CASPER MORK-ULNES and Nick Damner call their Modern Cabana an adult playhouse. Not that kind—think yoga studio, guest cabin, or hideaway. Modern Cabanas, designed and made in San Francisco since 2007, are modular and customizable—somewhere between a kit shed and a plop-down prefab—and come in preassembled panels that nail together and sit atop concrete piers (no need for a foundation). Features include recycled-denim insulation, floor-to-ceiling windows, and eight-and-a-half-foot ceilings.

Mike Wang, 37, a web producer by day, and by night and weekends an artist and father, paid \$14,000 for a model with French doors that open onto a 160-square-foot deck. “We didn’t add 100 square feet, we added 1,875,” he says, referring to the neglected hinterland of

WHAT: 99-square-foot art studio

WHERE: San Francisco, California

WHO: Mike Wang, Kimberly Swan, and Kailani Wang

COMPANY: Modern Cabana, moderncabana.com

COST: \$9,750 and up

his 75-foot-long backyard where he plunked down the cabana as an art studio for himself and his 3½-year-old daughter, Kailani. Wang’s 99-square-footer flies just below the radar of San Francisco’s housing code, since structures 100 square feet or more require a permit, as do those with electricity. Luckily, Wang likes painting with natural light.

It took him three days, plus an envoy from Modern Cabana and a coterie of buddies, to assemble the studio. “It’s not like a piece of Ikea furniture,” says Damner, adding that the company plans to make the buildout more layperson-friendly in the future.

Mike Wang, Kimberly Swan, and daughter Kailani at play in their new backyard bungalow.



Photos by Cody Pickers



