



## *Ty Village - Aurelie Moy*

Elaine: To start, Aurelie by quoting you, “my dream is to live in a tiny house. I created a corner of paradise here.” So where actually is this corner of paradise, and how did you make it happen?

Aurelie: So, this corner of paradise is called Ty Village, ty or tant it means house and it is a village of tiny houses. It's in Saint Briec, in the northern part of Brittany, and it's a village now there are five tiny houses. In a couple of months or years there will be 20 of them, and the idea is to learn how to live differently in smaller areas, smaller spaces inside with a bigger space outside and reconnect yourself to the nature outside and to the other people with whom you live. So, how did this come to life. I was personally myself I was in love with tiny houses from the first time I discovered this alternative way of living, and this very like small space made of wood so a very sustainable house in this minimalism movement, and learn how to live with fewer material things and enrich yourself and your life with other things than just material stuff and properties. And so I just wanted to build a tiny house for myself at the beginning. Sometime for myself when I was studying in Sydney, in Australia, I was doing a masters in environmental engineering and I had some free time to just spend on personal projects. So my dream of tiny house came back to my mind at this moment and I started to look at the, who were the builders in France, how much this house cost and how long it takes to build it. And so this is how I came up with my house and then I was thinking, okay, but if I have a tiny house I need somewhere where to put it, and so I am thinking where could I put it and then I remembered that my dad had this piece of land here in Saint Briec in Brittany. So I asked him if I have a tiny house would I be allowed to put it on this land and he told me yes, and then I started to imagine my small, tiny house on this big piece of land, and I thought, well there is space to build more of them and maybe create a village and I knew that there was some lack of student housing in Saint Briec and so I thought it might be the way to rent those tiny houses to students and so create a tiny house village for students so this is how it came out.

Elaine: And so where are the houses actually constructed?

Aurelie: So the houses are constructed in Saint-Didier, it is near to Rennes. They are built by two guys who are called Sébastien and Guillaume, so they are wood engineers. They have done also engineering studies specialising in wood construction, so they are young people as well. They are about 30 years old and they have launched their own company in 2016. So I discovered them, I met them when I started to do my research on tiny houses in France and we really get along very well.

Elaine: How many more do you plan to build?

Aurelie: So there are six more tiny houses coming by the end of November and then there will still be some space for 10 more of them, so maybe we will build another four ones this year with them and then see how it goes.

Elaine: And I also understand that you are very interested in the ecology and that you have got in the tiny houses composting dry, dry toilets.

Aurelie: Yeah, we have dry composting toilets with the purpose of this village is to experiment new things about like new ways of living, so in a tiny house that is on wheels so no foundation so we try not to have any impact on the land where we have the village and also try to use as few energy as possible so the



houses are very small and they are very well insulated so it consumes very few energy, consumes as few water as possible so the dry composting toilet is very convenient for this because you don't have to flush.

Elaine: No water being wasted.

Aurelie: Yeah, exactly and also then the compost is a very valuable resource because we are planning to install some shared gardens and plant a lot of fruit trees so the compost will be very useful for that. The first five people living in the village, they are mostly students - they are all between 20 and 25 years old but then the idea is as well to open the village to other persons and to other generations and we would be very happy. Like in the people coming in November there is a couple that are 28 years old, there is a family, they are about 30 years old and they have a baby, a six-month baby, and also we would be very happy to have seniors living in the village as well, so we just have to design the tiny houses differently because most of them are not at ease with the stairs, so we are thinking about designing longer tiny houses where the bed would be downstairs, so that it's pleasant for older people and we can have different generations living together.

Elaine: It's a lovely idea, it's brilliant. It's your, your vision is being realised, your dream.

Aurelie: Yeah, well that's really my dream and that's today the Ty Village is really a way for me to express how I see the world in the future. A kind of post transition world. A world where we could live by respecting the finite limits of the planet.

Elaine: Excellent. Thank you very much, Aurelie, and I wish you the very best of luck in realising the rest of your dream.