

THE ROOT REPORT



April 2015 - ISSUE 3

Huge Success For Root's First Tree House Ministry Day



The construction field often gets the bad of contractors cutting corners, cheating owners or focused on just making a buck. I originally found my passion for building on the mission field in Guatemala. As a young teenager I got my first taste of seeing a projects come to life with a group of sweaty kids working in the trenches in the third world. I fell in love and have been hooked ever since.

To be honest though I've gotten a little burnt by the construction paradigm a few times myself. At Root we've decided to turn the construction paradigm on its head with Tree house Ministries. We're a bringing together professional local builders that not only have a passion for building but a heart to dig deeper and change peoples lives.

This first tree house was a great success and good reminder of why we do this in the first place. We'll definitely be continuing on with at least one tree house a year. It looks like our next Tree house project may be in Uganda, Africa!! (stay tuned)

Follow us on Facebook to hear announcements and learn how you can be involved in future tree house projects!



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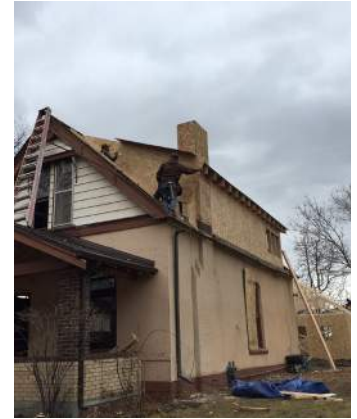
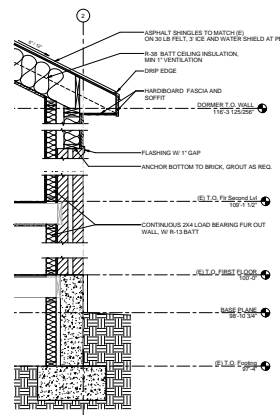
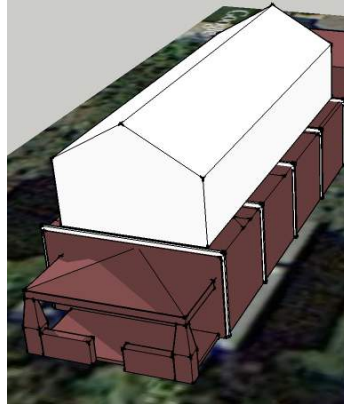
Project Highlights

- Tree House Ministry Success!
- What to Know Before you Pop the top
- Interview With Studio Shed

March "On the Board" Featured Project 2463 High Street Duplex



What to Know Before you “Pop The Top”



We have been doing a lot of second story addition lately, commonly known as “Pop tops”. I thought it would be good to share a few key things to consider if you are looking at popping the top on your current residence. The most important thing to consider is what lies beneath the surface not above. The second story most be able to find a path for the new load all the way down to the ground.

In Denver a number of the pop top candidates are turn of the century bungalows looking for additional square footage. Unfortunately most of the construction of this time period was load bearing brick walls on pore foundations. These wall types tend to degrade over time and are rarely capable of carrying a second story.

The solution for this is typically to either fur out the interior walls or provide a new “post and beam system” through the house to carry the second floor. Stud walls either 2x4, 16” O.C. or 2x6 24” O.C. tend to hold up better over time and are a much better

candidate for reuse to carry a second floor.

Foundations are key as well. It’s not uncommon to dig up an old foundation here in Denver to find just a few inches of crumbling brick sitting on dirt, (I’ve also seen bodarc stumps, cmu blocks on dirt, and even a wheel rim, you never know what waits beneath the surface!) These obviously are not good candidates. You’re typically hoping for reinforced concrete going at least 3 foot below grade. If you do not have good foundations or good existing walls, you’ll need to plan on either reinforcing or pouring new ones. This may mean a new footing for interior fur out walls or caissons for post and beam systems.

If you’re considering going “up” have a licensed architect or engineer evaluate your foundations and walls early to make a recommendation. We include both as part of our Needs and Option Review consultations.

Interview with Studio Shed Founder Jeremy Horgan-Kobelski



Jeremy is the designer and builder of the original Studio Shed, and co-founder of the company. Studio Shed makes super cool smart, fully finished, prefabricated backyard structures. Listen to Root’s Interview here. http://traffic.libsyn.com/root-review/RootReview_Epis_001.



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