

In *The Summer Refuge* series, created by *2024*, for *Architects*, summer is not a time of rest but a time of being. Beamed in nature, novel landscapes, vernacular architecture, and closely connected to nature make for "Summerhomes," "slow living," and Martin Heidegger's "Dwelling," namely the art of being present in the world, the series focuses on seasonal houses that shelter time, memory, and dreams.

In the ninth episode, we follow *Kosmos Architects* as they reimagine shelter with the futuristic Tin Can Castle, an international nomadic community developing on living spaces in Georgia, Kosmos Architects created Tin Can Castle as a modular unit with a distinctive character, custom designed and constructed to fit the collector's "magical landscape," intended to grow over time into small cluster settlements.

By *Melissa Aronson-Pollansky*



Architects work best when it is playful, versatile, spontaneous. In collaboration with *Chitra Chatterjee*, an international nomadic community developing on living spaces in Georgia, Kosmos Architects created Tin Can Castle as a modular unit with a distinctive character, custom designed and constructed to fit the collector's "magical landscape," intended to grow over time into small cluster settlements.



With an affordable estimated cost of \$6,000 per unit, this project is imagined to host art residencies and children's camps, gradually transforming the site into a hub for cultural and social exchange.



"We believe that falling back into childhood is wonderful—especially if you have ever fallen out of it," the team behind Chitra Chatterjee says, affirming the good architecture responds atmospherically to our inner needs, desires, and



Designed for a utopian yet tangible magical world, Tin Can Castle is a truly sustainable, down-to-earth construction.



Built from found materials collected within a two-kilometer radius of the site and inspired by local DIY construction, the metal-clad castle is a small, self-contained unit that can be assembled with minimal tools and straightforward building techniques.



Reused tires from the foundations, reinforced with steel beams for added stability against wind loads, while a simple timber frame supports a lightweight corrugated metal envelope punctuated by a distinctive hexagonal window. A large square opening and a smaller rectangle on the side let in natural light while ensuring a strong visual connection to the surrounding landscape.



By relying on locally available and repurposed materials, the building can be erected quickly, keeping both environmental impact and costs low.



Experimental yet grounded, futuristic yet present, at once universal and local, autonomous and expandable, Tin Can Castle is an unexpected yet essential refuge, offering protection for wanderers and dreamers—a safe haven for those who drift.



**Project Title:** Tin Can Castle  
**Type:** The Summer Refuge, Festival  
**Location:** Kakheti, Georgia  
**Status:** Completed, 2022  
**Built Area:** 100m<sup>2</sup>  
**Client:** Chitra Chatterjee  
**Architects:** Kosmos Architects  
**Photography:** Chitra Chatterjee