



1617 House

Address: 1617 Cornell Ave., Indianapolis

Designers: Jason Wolfe of Demerly Architects and Veronica Vela

Builder: Re-Development Group

With its unique design and use of materials, this home has not only attracted attention from neighbors and passersby, but it is also helping to spur new development in the Near Northside neighborhoods, Kings Park and Martindale-Brightwood. The house's outside ingenuity extends inward with lots of surprises, even though each of its three levels is only 700 square feet. Examples include a sliding polycarbonate plastic panel that acts as both wall and door, bare light bulbs arranged artistically in a stairwell, and a library that's tucked away in an upstairs hallway. The home was completed in 2008, but the homeowners plan to add a few more features, including a skyway from the second level of the house to the detached garage.

With a small footprint, this house provides a counterpoint to the larger suburban homes that are often on home tours, and it provides a starting point for a dialogue about our need for such large spaces.