

<https://www.mfah.org/blogs/inside-mfah/when-a-house-is-more-than-a-home-installations-by-daniel-joseph-martinez>

Inside the MFAH

When a House Is More than a Home: Installations by Daniel Joseph Martinez

By [Kerry Ingram](#)

December 15, 2017



[*HOME—So Different, So Appealing*](#) is bookended by two installations by Daniel Joseph Martinez, both architectural and monumental: The wheels of *the west bank is missing: i am not dead, am I* are each 15 feet in diameter, and *The House America Built* replicates a 10-by-15-foot cabin.

the west bank is missing: i am not dead, am I opens the exhibition. Each of the enigmatic, towering wheels features 11 sides imprinted with the shapes of real homes drawn from a 1940s architectural experiment to create planned housing in Irvine, California. The housing plans later had a second life outside of the United States—in the disputed West Bank settlements. Martinez describes the wheels as “essentially machines that make settlements.”



In the final gallery of *HOME—So Different, So Appealing*, ***The House America Built*** also addresses how a seemingly innocuous American ideal can have unintended implications. The installation is a copy of the Montana cabin built by Ted Kaczynski, the domestic terrorist known as the Unabomber, who in turn based his home on the idyllic cabin where beloved author Henry David Thoreau lived while writing *Walden*. Martinez repaints the cabin using Martha Stewart’s signature paint collection for the current season—so the colors, drawn from the fall 2017 palette, are special to the Houston presentation. (As Martinez notes in the Facebook Live video below, when he first made this installation in 2004, both Kaczynski and Stewart were in federal prison.)

<https://www.facebook.com/mfah.org/videos/10156005539739432/>



See more in ***“HOME—So Different, So Appealing,”*** on view in the *Law Building* through *January 21*.