



# TOOLING AROUND

DESIGNER NILS HOLGER MOORMANN TURNS  
THE HUMDRUM TOOL SHED INTO A UTILITARIAN  
HOMAGE TO THE SIMPLE LIFE

Story TIFFANY JOW Photography OLAF JÄGER

In Henry David Thoreau's 19th century treatise, *Walden*, the philosopher examines his existence in relation to nature, suggesting how to lead a simple, uninhibited life. Named after Thoreau's work and inspired by a personal fascination with small, obsessively organized rooms, German designer Nils Holger Moormann conceived Walden, a 12.5 x 21-foot shack that offers a place for all things outdoors, from tool storage to al fresco dining to cloud watching.

Walden's slender rectangle, resting on the lawn outside the designer's Bavarian studio, resembles a picture frame more than a garden shed. Its cubbyholes display typical instruments – a watering can, flowerpot, wheelbarrow, bird feeder and lantern – as if they were works of art, and hidden compartments contain drawers for additional storage. When it's time to take a break from your yardwork, you can sit at the picnic table on the ground floor or climb a ladder to stargaze through a sliding panel in the roof. "This was an opportunity to create something never seen before," says Moormann's landscape architect, Monika Schwaiger. "Walden is our effort to connect the notions of working, living and relaxing in the broadest sense." **TJ**