

# Wren ★ Feathers

## Housing your Lottie

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So, this was actually going to be a post on the **Betsy McCall dollhouse**, whose existence I learned of a few short weeks ago. The (extremely ambitious) plan was to make it for my new (to-me) Ginny and Betsy, and post all kinds of printies like wallpaper, pattern envelopes, magazines, food packaging, etc. As I was eagerly ranting chatting about it to DH, full of plans and excitement, he asked "And just HOW big is it?" and that's why it didn't get made. The house is a whopping 51" wide with the carport, but even when I promised not to do that part, AND to make it of foamcore so he didn't have to cut any wood for me, he still didn't like the idea of something so enormous in his living room. And also pointed out the structural limitations of my building material. **You can always trust the engineer to pop the architect's balloon of happiness.**

Setting: A new police station being designed. A frustrated engineer needs to make changes to the air conditioning ductwork because the architectural drawings have changed yet again. This time, the simple, squared walls of the corridor have changed angles.

Engineer: Um...so, why did you change the angle of all the walls in this corridor to this weird new angle? Now my ductwork goes through the wall at an odd angle and that hole in the wall is going to be hard to build for the contractor.  
*Why did these walls change?*

Architect: They wanted to be like that.

Engineer: But...

Architect walks away ...

When the architects get their way, you end up with a building which can be awesome to look at from the outside, but has a variety of issues on the inside, for instance, the Denver Art Museum. Last time we were there, condensation dripping from several windows required towels underneath.

Anyway, back to the Lotties. I did a post back in November about different types of dolls and playing with them. The Lotties fall in what I called “scenario” dolls. If you have a few, they can be made to interact with each other and what better place for that than a dollhouse, right? So, what about size? Technically, as “children” of about 7” they are 1:6 scale, which is Barbie size. You can put them into a 1:6 scale house and they will look perfect as children for the adult 1:6 scale dolls. Ikea makes 2 furniture sets that I’m aware of that work great for this size/scale called HUSET:

<http://www.ikea.com/us/en/catalog/products/50263150/>

<http://www.ikea.com/us/en/catalog/products/50292261/>



Huset bedroom furniture and green table from living room furniture

and a backdrop called SPEXA, (below) all of which work splendidly with Lottie and any dolls about 7-12" tall.

<http://www.ikea.com/us/en/catalog/products/20257971/>



Yes, I hear you, it's still not a house. While you could buy a 1:6 scale AKA playscale or Barbie scale house, it will take up a lot of room, and most I looked at were pretty cheap-looking for their price, as well as unrealistic, having furniture drawn on the walls and long but narrow floors that make furniture arrangement difficult.

## Enter the Lori Dollhouse:

<http://www.loridolls.com/urban-living/loft-love>

The Lori dolls are 6" tall (same as AG minis) and I had my doubts that Lottie would fit, but DH snapped one up on sale and it worked! Technically it's not the "right" scale because they appear adult-size in this house but it takes up far less room than a Barbie house or my (sadly unbuilt 😞) Betsy house. It's really unique and modern-looking too and comes with a tasteful/realistic "stainless" and dark-finish kitchen! The open floorplan means furniture can be arranged all kinds of different ways, not constraining the "owners" to separate tiny boxes for each room. That also means it can work for different scales, as you'll see below.

The stairs that go from the loft to the living room are held on with 4 small screws and easily removable for better furniture placement. The light unit in the kitchen is low enough that the Lotties could hit their heads and appears to just be screwed in too, but I chose to leave it.



The Ikea furniture works here, although astute observers will note the couch actually covers the door



Here's the Lori house with a picco neemo (1:12 scale) and Yotsuba (technically 1:6 scale) and the standard Lori kitchen that comes with the house minus the marble eating counter. There's a bit of rement in all the pix too, and their scales vary a bit. You can see the house is super spacious for a 1:12 scale doll and her furniture.



Here's a comparison of picco neemo (1:12 scale) and Lottie. Not all of the room looks correct for Lottie. The kitchen is a tiny bit on the small side, but it works, and a child is unlikely to even notice.





The Ikea furniture looks great on the rooftop patio!

Notice what a difference a good backdrop makes when photographing it, as well as the angle. In the top photo, the plain sky-blue backdrop is fine, but the angle means you can see the gaping holes in the floor. The middle one has a more realistic look, whereas the bottom one has unrealistically thick foliage to pass as a rooftop anywhere but a deep jungle.



First pic of the house as it comes. Stairs are still in place and kitchen is taped in.

Yes, you do need backdrops unless you're taking the house outside. Nothing says "dollhouse" more than looking out the windows and seeing your human-scale table legs! 😊



This dollhouse offers a LOT of possibilities for playing with lighting, both natural sunlight and artificial additions.

