

Yani and Leo's Thatched Mayan House

By Katy Cullinan

Did you know Yani and Leo have built a thatched Mayan house in Cozumel, MX?



Janet and I were on a cruise that stopped in Cozumel February 19, and we had a lovely visit with Yani and got to be the first from FMC to see it.

The windows are recycled colored glass bottles in different groupings by colors and in different patterns—such a creative idea!



They also have recycled floor to ceiling French doors along one wall with shutters that open and with curtain screens that zip or close with magnets.



The house is quite small, just one rectangular room (15x21 feet) and a bathroom.



But despite that, they have managed to fit in a wicked cool little indoor pool! It's at the back right above, close-up at right. They save space elsewhere with a table that drops down like a Murphy bed and indeed they hope to change their traditional bed for a Murphy bed someday.



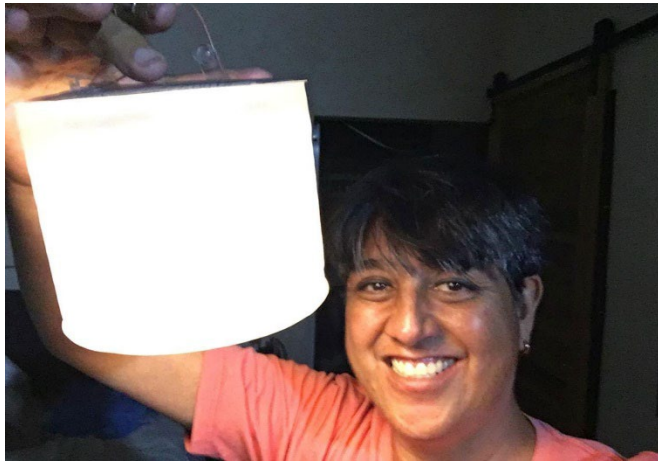


And they've made room in their lives for a sweet rescue dog named Brady.

It's in an amazing location, in the middle of the city but in the middle of nature—this is the forest path that leads from a busy city street to their house.



They are basically off the grid with a well for water and a solar panel for limited electricity. They plan to install a second solar panel which will be a big help.



Their newest solar feature is a portable, rechargeable, waterproof lantern that Betsy H and Tom O’C gave them.

And for the first time since they were 15 and 16, they don’t have a car. They have been using only bikes since January, 2023.



I would not have had the courage or imagination to do something like this myself but, in these days of climate catastrophe, it was inspiring to see what they’ve done!