You may not find the expected car behind every garage door. In fact, many Chicagoans do not use their garages for parking at all. Instead they run businesses, fix bikes, build furniture and organize protests in these spaces. This project proposes re-designing the “accessory building” code, allowing current “non-conforming” uses to become the norm. Rebel Garages investigates and celebrates the secret lives of garages. Historically, alleyways were flanked by coach houses for horse and carriages. Now, self-driving electric vehicles and car and ride-share businesses are projected to reduce the need for parking. What could these alleyways and their architecture look like in 10 years? Rebel Garages sees the Chicago alley system as a unique city asset that can become a vibrant civic space. Beginning with a provocative rethinking of the city’s codes, through simple but radical changes, such as allowing for new plumbing or reducing height limitations, Rebel Garages imagines a new future in everyone’s backyard.

See examples at: http://rebelgarages.tumblr.com