



This year's module
The ultimate prefabs

Rose Prince's kitchen makeover
Bathrooms of the future
One room, three budgets
The bedroom wishlist

Pod squad

The Huf Haus is just one of a burgeoning crop of 'instant' homes that take the prefab to a whole new level. Kiera Buckley-Jones and David Nicholls look at the options



THE LOFT CUBE The German designer Vitomar Avdicger came up with this concept to take advantage of unused space on highway rooftops, although it is also marketed as a potential holiday home, office or 'floating home'. Inside, the wall panels are modular, so you can construct a layout that suits your needs. Passageways can also be created between Loft Cubes if you have more than one. It arrives fully constructed and ready to be craned into place. **Living area** 37sq m and 55sq m. **Cost** £60,500 and £88,500 respectively for the cube only. Prices go steadily up if you have a built-in kitchen and built-in appliances (loftcube.net).

MICRO COMPACT HOME This is simply craned into its slot once the site's foundations and plumbing have been prepared. It was originally a student project set by Professor Richard Horden (of the British architectural firm Horden Cherry Lee) at Technical University Munich. The 2.6m cubic units made for the general market include two double beds, dining space for five, air conditioning, microwave, and two flat-screen televisions. Even fancier versions have solar cells, and a carbon-neutral pod is in development. **Cost** About £20,000, not including installation (microcompacthome.com). **Read More** Architecture by Richard Horden (Thames & Hudson, £18.95).



HOMES 2 GO This product is made by the Dutch company Spacation and is brought to Britain by Benfield ATT Homes, a specialist in self-build constructions. Described as 'temporary housing', it is made up of what look like designer cargo containers that can be laid side by side or stacked. Each 'module' is fitted with a kitchen and bathroom and also incorporates a small living space; they arrive ready to be furnished. Simply plug into the main electricity and sewage and you're off. An ideal holiday home. **Living area** 18sq m or 30sq m. Two bedrooms, 90sq m apartments can also be created. **Where** The first British development is due to be erected in east London early next year. **Cost** An 18sq m unit fully equipped is £22,950, excluding delivery (benfieldatt.com).



WEBERHAUS These houses are made in Germany and transported by truck to the site ready to be put together. The company uses a timber frame structure with triple-glazed windows already inserted and sealed. There are also a number of smart energy options, including solar collectors for hot water generation, while photovoltaic sensors generate electricity. There are many models to choose from and clients can also work with Weberhaus to create a unique design. **Cost** The 30sq m model shown here is from £200,000 (weberhaus.co.uk).



M-HOUSE Pronounced 'moozil', the m-house arrives as two 3m pieces that are joined together on site. One of the clever things about the m-house is that it was designed to fit in with the legal status of a caravan, which means that planning permission is not required if it is placed in a designated caravan site or in your garden, or exterior corners in a variety of fields, from aluminium to cedar to painted, inside there is about 100sq m of living space, all under-floor heated, and walls can be placed in a variety of positions or removed altogether to create an open-plan space. **Cost** £147,500 (plus insulation costs of about £5,000) (m-house.org).



ECO POD BY ECO HAB As its name suggests, Eco Hab's aim is to provide a house that addresses issues of energy consumption and CO₂ emissions. The pods are heated using a wood burning stove that also heats the water in a copper cylinder that provides under-floor heating. When rainwater pours down on the pod, it is harvested at a rate of about five litres per millimetre of rain. Only high-efficiency appliances are used, and low-energy lighting. Higher-end versions have solar panels and a wind turbine connected to four 12-volt batteries to provide electricity. The Eco Pod may need planning permission, but there is a 'planning package' in development to help ease the process. So pleased with his product is Peter Quinn, the founder of Eco Hab, that he lives in one of his two-floor, 6m diameter pods. **Cost** About £20,000 for a 28sq m pod (ecohab.co.uk).