

CORRIGE

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PREFAB LIVING

A new generation of architects has given prefabricated homes a much needed refashion.

The rising costs of real estate have led architects to search for ways to create a fabulous yet affordable home. So they are looking to prefab, in order to overcome the industry's reputation for building flimsy shelters prone to flying away in thunderstorms.

5 The average Brit moves every seven years, and government officials estimate millions of new homes will be required in the next 25 years to accommodate new homeowners. That is why the British architectural firm Yorkon put up good-looking and affordable prefab units in East London. It's that attempt to apply style on the cheap that is getting attention: prefab is making *pied-à-terre* everywhere from Channel 4's *"Big Brother 3"* to the cheap, hip Target warehouses in the United States.

10 Even Ikea, the champion of do-it-yourself furniture from Sweden, introduced Bo Klok (Swedish for "live smart"), intending to provide affordable homes for single moms.

In Japan, the government also promoted prefab housing imported from abroad. After the 1995 Kobe earthquake, tens of thousands of prefab houses were set up as emergency homes for victims. Those homes were taken apart and sent to Peru to be used as classrooms.

15 In the United States, prefab is also taking root among couples looking for bargain first homes. Richard and Kim Markham stumbled upon a new building block – the shipping container – after realizing custom-designed modern homes were too expensive. "We investigated traditional construction methods and realized the units would cost \$220,000 and up," says Markham. "Many people we know can't afford that." They hope to build their 2,000-square-foot homes for less than \$100,000 each by stacking four of the 8-foot by 20-foot reinforced steel boxes. A precut metal and glass staircase structure will connect the four stories. "Shipping-container homes in a warehouse district", says Markham, "just makes sense."

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It's downright prefabulous.

Adapted from *Newsweek*, September 15, 2003.

1 Corrigé de l'expression en français (10 pts)

Cet article du magazine américain *Newsweek*, publié en 2003, aborde le thème du regain d'intérêt que portent les architectes aux constructions de maisons individuelles préfabriquées qu'ils souhaitent rendre plus esthétiques et plus solides.

Des raisons économiques expliquent principalement ce phénomène. Les britanniques, par exemple, déménagent souvent, ce qui crée un énorme besoin de logements pour les 25 prochaines années. Or, le coût de l'immobilier est considérable en Grande-Bretagne. En Suède, les familles monoparentales ont besoin de logements bon marché. C'est également une solution pour les pays en voie de développement comme le Pérou où ces constructions abritent des écoles.

La mode joue aussi un rôle. Aux États-Unis, par exemple, les jeunes couples branchés n'ont pas les moyens d'acquérir des maisons construites de façon traditionnelle. Ils achètent donc, dans des zones d'entrepôts, des logements construits à partir de conteneurs métalliques empilés, dont les étages sont reliés par des escaliers de verre et de métal.

154 words

2 Corrigé de l'expression en anglais (10 pts)

1. What are the advantages and drawbacks of prefabricated houses? (100 words), 5 pts.

Les candidats devraient mentionner au moins les avantages et inconvénients suivants :

Advantages

- They are far less expensive than traditional houses.
- They are fashionable and can be built easily and quickly.

Drawbacks

- One might be concerned by the possible lack of proper insulation and the flimsiness of construction;
- The fact that they are located in warehouse districts might also put off some people.

2. Would you like to live in a prefabricated home? Please explain why. (100 words), 5 pts.

Le développement doit comporter l'expression du point de vue et les raisons qui le motivent. Les candidats peuvent donc présenter des opinions modulées, contrastées, voire tranchées.

Exemple :

I don't think I would choose to live in a prefab house because I'd much rather live in a large house with a garden located in the countryside. I like traditional cottages and I'm not keen on trendy or designer houses. I would be worried by possible insulation problems and the risks in case of thunderstorms. On top of this, I can't imagine myself living in a warehouse district. I wouldn't even buy one as a second house/home. However I can easily understand why such houses might appeal to some people, young people in particular. Etc.