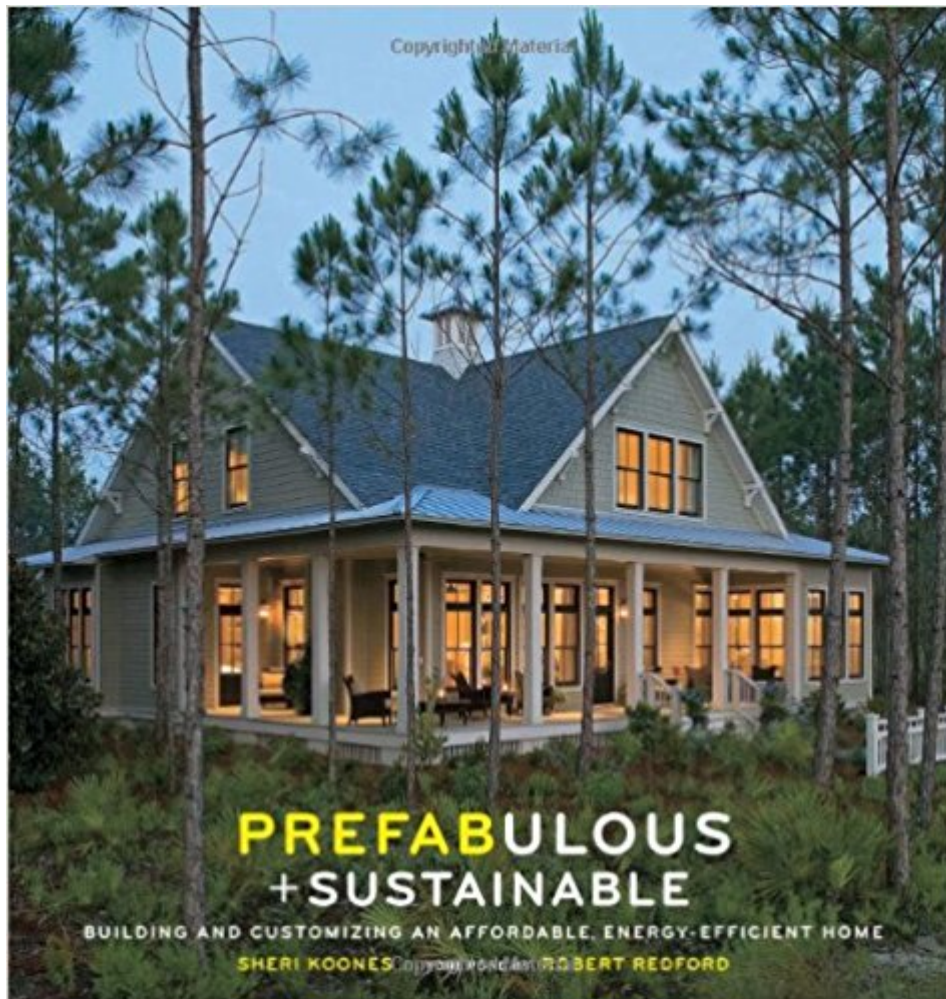


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# Prefabulous And Sustainable: Building And Customizing An Affordable, Energy-Efficient Home



## Synopsis

Prefabulous and Sustainable dispels the negative myths associated with prefab homes and shows the reader how beautiful and remarkably green prefab homes are. In this guide to prefab home-building author Sheri Koones, demystifies the prefabricated house by using 25 unique homes to showcase how factory-built homes are greener, more efficient, sturdier, and more cost-effective than site-built homes. The book is divided into 3 categoriesâ"green, greener, greenestâ"and the homes featured vary in style, design, type of construction, and size. All of the homes included in Prefabulous and Sustainable have been customized to create a level of sustainability beyond the inherent qualities of prefab. Written in an easy to understand and approachable style, author Sheri Koones walks the readers through each of the homes, explaining the materials, strategies, and systems used to create a sustainable living environment. Photographs, captions, floor plans, and sidebars illustrate to readers that green living is not as complicated as one might think, and attainable for everyone. Also included is a resource guide, making this book a hand-on guide for homebuilders.Â Praise for Prefabulous + SustainableÂ âœAuthoritative and beautiful. Once again, Koones builds her case for pre-fab thoroughly, and presents it in a compelling, well-organized package.â •Â âAllen Norwood, NAREE Book Competition Head Judge

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## Customer Reviews

Let's start of with the good. The book is beautiful. The photography is excellent, the layout is good and there is a nice variety of homes. It's a great book to flip through for someone ready to take on a

mortgage and have a green home built for you. You can find your architect, builder and designer in the Resource List at the back of the book. I think the text presentation leaves something to be desired. I do not need to read over and over the benefits of prefabrication. I really wish Ms. Koones had simply stated those benefits up front and then done the individual houses as case studies pointing out how each one accomplished the design goals. Ms. Koones does a fair job of explaining what goes into the houses to make them green, but never is the actual cost of any of those things mentioned. Some relative costs are discussed such as the concession to vinyl windows in one home, but not how much that actually cost or saved. No where did I find the green aspect of a smaller house mentioned. There are only two houses under 1000 square feet and one of those was designed and built by the University of Maryland for just under \$550,000. Ten houses are 1000-1999 square feet, 7 are 2000-2999, 4 are 3000-3999 and two are over 4000. I would really like to see a book on affordable green building with hard data and some DIY information. If you never care to pick up a hammer or touch any of the materials of your home before it's complete you may love this book, but I wanted to know much more than the glossy overviews given here.

I'd like to weigh in specifically on the comment stating that this book is about Euro style houses. In full disclosure, I designed one of the buildings in this book, but far from slanting my opinion, it puts me in a better place to address some of Pixel's thoughts. The book covers a design of ours, built in Lawrence MA, one of the poorest communities in the state - the poverty rate is more than three times the state average and double that of the rest of the US. Our mission was to create a capital "A" Affordable house that was also stylish, healthy and energy efficient. Modular was one tool we used to get us there, among many others. I personally feel that the genius of this book is that it has BOTH Euro (perhaps expensive) houses AND houses like ours that were constructed at well below the regional average cost, despite its dense, urban infill location. If anything, the spectrum of styles and price points illustrated here shows folks that "green" does not have to look like anything in particular or cost any more than a "normal" house. I think painting innovative, sustainable housing and this book with one big brush "misses the boat".

If you want to see the future of home building you really need to follow this new book and Sheri's other books. Prefabulous & Sustainable beautifully displays the possibilities of modular homes, and other building systems for Green Building. Just like her earlier book, Modular Mansions, dispelled the myth that modular homes are limited to low end cookie cutter designs, her new book, carefully and with great detail, both shows and tells the reader that the future is now. Sustainable and prefab

are two concepts that are forever married. The collection of 24 homes is broken down into three groups based upon their level of "Green-ness," using labels of Green, Greener, and Greenest, the book clearly shows that Green can be defined in different ways by different buyers. Building design, selection of materials, finishes and systems can result in sustainable homes that vary in size, style and buyer appeal. Even some of the Greenest homes still offer affordability. Perhaps one of the greatest contributions of the book is it provides options and discusses tradeoffs and design goals. Far too many books on sustainability take on a preachy tone and try to sell an agenda supporting one optimum solution. A subtle message throughout the book is the idea that diversity is welcome in the search for sustainability. A variety of solutions in a graphically beautiful and detailed presentation may be just what is needed to finally spur people to actually start building more sustainable homes and to search out the factories, builders and designers who have already accomplished the wonderful designs in this wonderful book. A handy tool in this book is the Resource Guide that will help homeowners find the professionals and suppliers they need to build their own sustainable homes. A must read for all homeowners.

This is an excellent book for anyone thinking of designing, building or purchasing a new home. The author explains the benefits of prefabrication and of building sustainably in a non-technical way that is easy for all to understand. From "Curly Bulbs" to "Net Metering," Sheri provides information and inspiration for ways that we can all save energy and effectively utilize available technology. The many high-quality color photographs enhance the written descriptions of the twenty five houses that are profiled in the book, in categories of "Green, Greener and Greenest." I particularly appreciate the way that the author presents the information without bias for any particular building type, or method of construction and the way that she succeeds in proving that sustainable homes can be built beautifully and in any style to suit any climate. This book is for those of us who care about the earth. In the author's words: " If we hope to leave our children with a planet that can supply them with all their needs, we need to consider how we are using our resources today-particularly in building our houses." Prefabulous + Sustainable shows what can be achieved by designers, owners and builders who care.

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