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December 20th, 2005

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Kirkus Reports: Home Improvement

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MODULAR MANSIONS

Author: Koones, Sheri

Review Date: OCTOBER 01, 2005

Publisher: Gibbs Smith

Price (hardback): \$39.95

Publication Date: August 2005

ISBN (hardback): 1586857126

Classification: HOME IMPROVEMENT

Cracking the stereotype, Koones showcases homes of modular magnificence.

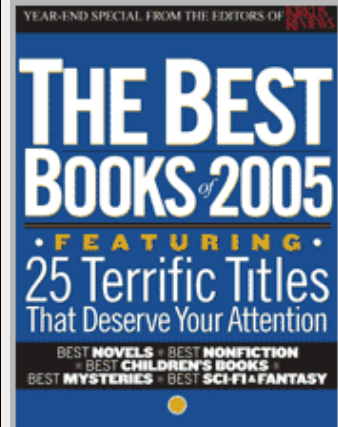
When contemplating modular homes, Koones advises, it's important to remember that they share a particular mode of construction, but not any one style. They are factory-built boxes—which can add a lot to the final quality of construction, Koones demonstrates, since they are built in the factory, protected from the elements, and built strong to withstand the travel—but as the technique evolves, they can be increasingly upscale and sophisticated. She makes this obvious with the near two-dozen homes she displays in this handsomely designed, photo-rich book. Ranging from 1,300 to 12,000-square feet, comprising from two to 26 boxes, the homes evoke an architect's customized touch, be they weathered-shingle Federals, Arts and Crafts, Colonials, Cottage, Victorian or Georgian revivals. With unpretentious clarity, Koones discusses why modular homes are less expensive than the stick-built variety, which has much more to do with the relatively brief construction time (typically between three to eight months) than it does with the excellence of materials. And homeowners are free to add personalized features and amenities.

These little boxes aren't all the same, and many little boxes can make for an eye-striking, capacious home.

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