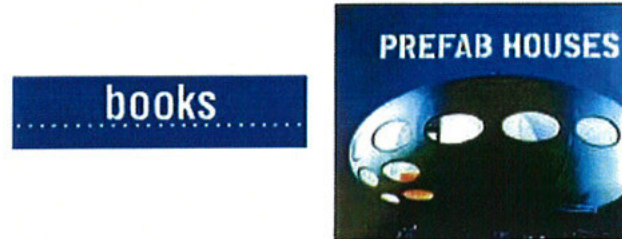


# Smart design for the future

**David Killick** reviews the latest titles on houses and design.



books

*Prefab Houses*, by Arnt Cobbers and Oliver Jahn, edited by Peter Gössel, Taschen, 390pp, \$139.99.

Mass-produced prefab houses, once regarded as cheap and easy, are today being rediscovered as ambitious and sophisticated designs. This beautifully printed volume, in English, German, and French, explores their history – from early goldminers' huts on the West Coast, to a portable town in Australia, American catalogue houses, the Bauhaus movement in Germany, through to the Finnish Futuro house (the one that looks like a spaceship) and modern modular homes and designs for the 21st century. Perhaps, as the new innovation village in Christchurch (see cover story) shows, prefab houses are an idea whose time has come again.