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Prefabricated houses "fashionable"

Prefabricated houses have been termed "fashionable" by one of the world's most famous newspapers.

Asking the question "is prefab fab?" the comments were made by the New York Times when discussing a new summer exhibit which will focus on the offsite construction of modern homes.

Real houses as well as prototypes will be on display at a vacant car park in New York next to the Museum of Modern Art.

"We really want the spectacle of 'there's no house there' and, three days later, 'there's a house that you could move furniture into', said Barry Bergdoll, the event organiser, who with his comments demonstrated how quickly prefabricated houses can be assembled.

One of the houses, System 3 - which was designed by Leo Kaufmann and Albert Ruf - can be put together in just 36 hours.

The New York building industry appears to have really taken to prefabricated techniques, with a new version of the Willis Bridge currently being built offsite.

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