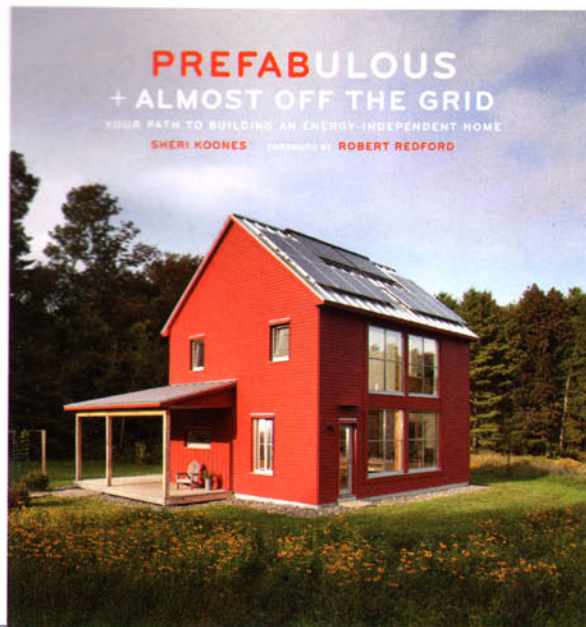


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THOROUGHLY MODERN MODULARS

Prefabulous + Almost Off the Grid: Your Path to Building an Energy-Independent Home (Abrams), by Sheri Koones, with a foreword by noted environmentalist (and, yes, Hollywood megastar) Robert Redford, focuses attention on the benefits of customizing homes that are built in a factory and then trucked to the site for assembly. And if this notion conjures up visions of cookie-cutter similarity or spaceship-shaped pods, forget that: The best new modular homes (like the historically inspired examples from local builder New World Home, left) are well constructed of completely green materials, with none of the off-gassing or inherent ugliness that gave early modulars a (well-deserved) bad rap. sherikoones.com; newworldhome.com



CLEAR VISION

The artisan furniture makers at Plexi-Craft—a 50-year-old company based in Long Island City—take particular pride in crafting custom acrylic pieces, made precisely to a designer's specifications—including this easy chair, by BNO Design. plexi-craft.com

THE FRENCH CHEF

Ludo Lefebvre, a classically trained chef, eschews the confines of a 5-star kitchen to create spontaneous meals in "pop-up restaurants" where cooking becomes performance art. This fall, HarperCollins releases the cookbook *LudoBites*, so you can dare to try his recipes at home. harpercollins.com.

