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# Factory-built homes make comeback

Lower cost, quicker construction make them attractive option

Silicon Valley / San Jose Business Journal - by [Dorothy Stonley](#) Special To The Business Journal

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Silicon Valley is the capital of fast. People ask, "How fast is it? How long will it take?" When they are talking about building a home, the answer is often out of step with the lifestyle. Homes built in the traditional way usually take many months, if not years.

Factory-built homes address the need for speed.

The time and resource-efficient techniques used to construct factory-built homes blend well with Silicon Valley ideals.

"In 1997, over half my business was in the South Bay" said Dennis Foster, owner of California Pre-Cut Homes in Danville. "I've done homes and additions from Saratoga to Gilroy, from Sunnyvale to Redwood Estates."

Homes built in factories vary widely in looks, price, quality and style.

The most common type is known as a manufactured, or mobile home.

These homes are built on a chassis to conform to a regulatory code established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. After delivery, most of these homes never move again. They rest on piers and are anchored to the ground by steel straps.

Modular homes are completely built in a factory, shipped in sections to the purchaser's land, and assembled on site according to local building codes. A modular home is installed on a standard permanent foundation.

A close cousin to the modular home is a panelized or prefabricated home.

The major elements in this approach of the house, including exterior and interior walls, interior millwork and trim, roofing, windows, doors and flooring are made in the factory and then shipped to the construction site as a kit.

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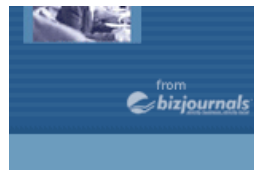


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