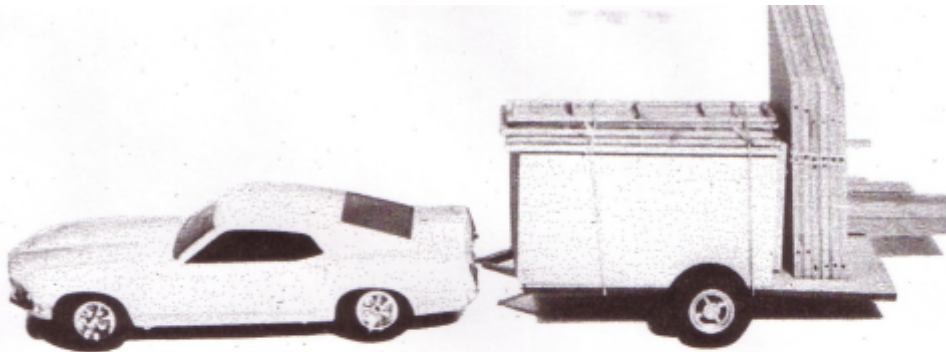


# THE BOLT-TOGETHER HOUSE

A prefabricated tiny vacation home from the 1970's

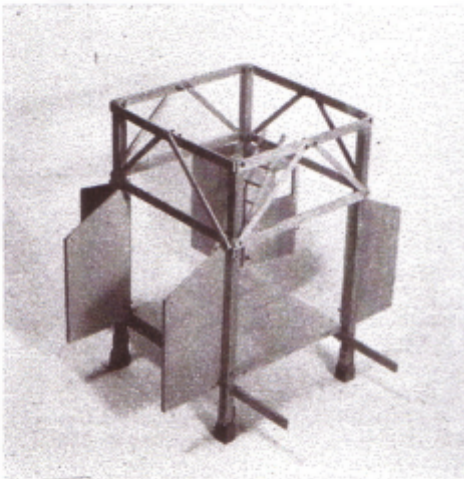
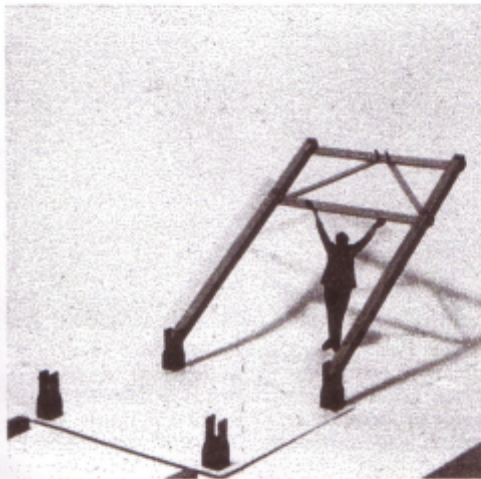
What follows is an article from Family Circle magazine (March, 1972) about a tiny cabin that could be built (then!) for \$2,500. Much of the work could be done in a home workshop and then assembled on site.

While such an old design would no longer meet energy codes nor the structural requirements for most localities, it is still an informative historical exercise that provides many ideas that can be adapted to a current design.



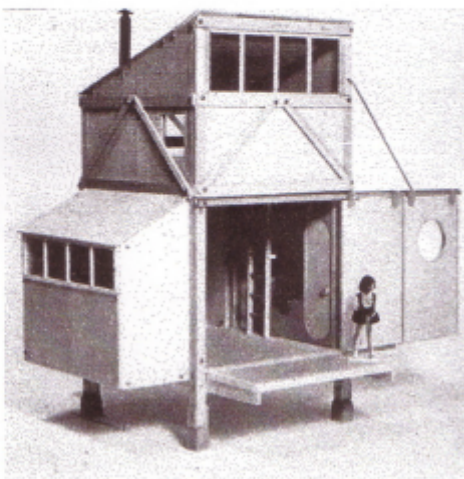
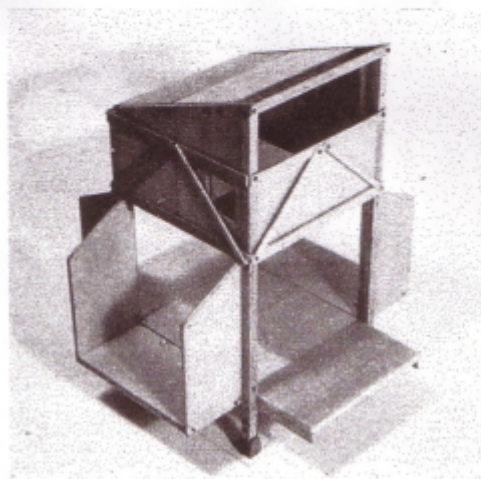
You can haul the panels and materials to the site with your Pinto!

*progetto e foto Jeffrey Milstein*



This model shows the basic sequence of construction:

- Four pier footings with brackets are poured.
- Structural frames are tilted into position and locked.
- Panels for walls, floors and roof are attached to the frame.
- Interior work proceeds in a weather-tight shell.



The Family Circle article follows.

This article is assumed to be free from copyright. Contact [John Raabe](#) if this is not the case.

FAMILY PROJECT No. 7: By ROBERT L. ANDERSON, Special Projects Editor

# A VACATION HOUSE YOU CAN BUILD



# FOR UNDER \$2,500-COMPLETE!

GREAT  
LIVING ON  
A SHOESTRING



Almost unbelievable, but this small, efficient prefabricated house can be built for just under \$2,500—a price that includes lumber, all hardware, wiring, plumbing, bathroom fixtures, kitchen appliances, wood-burning heater with flue pipe and chimney, built-in beds, mattresses, fold-down dining table and closet and storage units. Everything but furnishings and accessories. ■ The house is made of rough-sawn plywood panels bolted to a framework of lumber posts and trusses. The double panels are sandwiched with fiberglass insulation to make it an ideal, four-season getaway. The roof is corrugated aluminum; windows are non-yellowing plastic with redwood frame. ■ Here are two ways to make this dream come true. (1) If you have a large garage, your husband can prefabricate the panels (none is larger than 4'x8'); cut, drill and paint the posts and trusses; then move the entire house to your site in a 16-foot rented truck. You don't have to commute to the site or worry about the weather. On site, you'll need four concrete piers for a foundation (no excavation needed), plus a few strong friends to help you set it up. (2) Or, if your husband is not skilled, you can have a builder do the job. Granted, this will be costlier, but it's still one great buy!



MONTE MARCE



GREAT  
LIVING ON  
A SHOESTRING

**N**ot an inch of space is wasted in this vacation house. In only 224 square feet of living space, it can efficiently accommodate two adults and two small children. (It can be doubled to expand it for larger families, as shown in plans.) The two doors in front slide on a barn-door track for great indoor/outdoor living in summer. A small winter door (*opposite, below*) is cut in one for cozy ski weekends. The living area boasts a  $\frac{3}{4}$ -size bed (*opposite, above*) that doubles as a sofa, closet and storage unit, wood-burning stove, picture window, skylight and dining area. The ladder leads to the sleep loft with a full-size mattress (*shown below with a quilt*). Other photos view living area from this perch.





P. 5 - Bolt Together House from PlanHelp.com

**A**ll of the structural materials and details in this house are exposed—rough-sawn plywood, wiring, plastic plumbing pipe, wood-burning heater. This honest, straightforward approach to design not only lends a certain amount of charm, it also realistically cuts building costs, saves construction time and makes maintenance easier. Another cost-saving factor: All materials and tools (other than plywood and lumber) are available through the Sears catalog. In the kitchen at left, for example, the compact working area was carefully designed to accommodate the sink, refrigerator, gas range and the hidden water heater, all from Sears. Through the submarine-type door below, you see the bathroom with sink, toilet and shower, also from Sears. ■ The house was designed for Family Circle (with the cooperation of the American Plywood Association) by Jeff Milstein, a young architectural designer, and prebuilt in a barn in Cornwall, Connecticut, with the help of two architectural students, John Wasylyk and Eli Niven. The house now nestles on a wooded slope in Woodstock, New York.







The plans for this house (5 blueprint sheets of 24"x 36") can be downloaded here: [Bolt Together House Download](#). This download requires a membership to the [PlanHelp](#) site (\$29 for three months). You may wish to see the [other downloads](#) that also come with your membership. When you join the site you are agreeing to hold other members harmless for your use of their plans and information. This allows designers and architects such as Jeff to be able to share their work.