

## CAA PROJECT FOCUS

### PREFABRICATION

In the past, prefabrication implied remote factory completion of major building elements, to be shipped for attachment to a site-built foundation. This process is inherently inefficient, because it involves the double (or triple) shipment of components, and does little to simplify their final installation. With advances in jobsite ergonomics, a new approach developed during the early 2000's that focuses on delivering parts for quick assembly, right at the project address. Because of new tools and techniques, the shop floor of the factory now literally extends to the jobsite: a prefabricated metal shell is quickly erected to provide a weatherproof envelope, and the building is rapidly completed within it. Instead of sending things like cabinets or stairs to a remote factory for attachment to a building fragment, later itself to be moved, they are sent directly to the project. Since the site is now a "factory" in its own right, the inefficiencies of separate production are eliminated. As a result, the modern kit-type prefab is many times cheaper and faster to construct than its ancestors, and its appearance is unconstrained by the modular disciplines of road and railway transit.

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