

Real Estate

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Home of the Week

Shipped as panels from Sweden, house fits right in



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BELMONT — The house at 68 Thomas St. in the Clark Hill section of town was delivered by ship last October in five 40-foot containers. And though it was completely assembled in the following two weeks, it fits the neighborhood.

The parts to the "Scanhouse" were manufactured at a factory in Stockholm to specifications and drawings that were provided by Erik Rhodin and his wife, Taina Rhodin, both of Line Company Architects of Waltham Inc.

Price: \$629,000

Style: Colonial revival condo

Rooms: 6

Bedrooms: 3

Baths: 2 full, 1 half

Sewer: Public

Year built: 2001

Lot: 5,885 sq. ft.

"Scanhouse began manufacturing panelized homes like this one just

after World War Two, when the need for housing in Europe was great. Today, 98 percent of the houses in Sweden are panelized construction," Erik Rhodin said.

The 4,700-square-foot Colonial Revival-style building is now two condominiums, one of which has been sold. The other is for sale by Rhodin for \$629,000.

"It all started when the owner of the small Victorian on that land passed away," Rhodin said in a recent interview. "The house was purchased by a developer. He tore the house down and poured the foundation for a new one.

"For some reason, he never went any further with it. I ended up buying the property with my partner, Bob Fraser."

Fraser, a Milton resident, and Rhodin have been principles in Scanhouse since 1983. The principles designed the condos and watched as Swedish carpenters sent by the factory put the house together like a giant puzzle.

These structures come in numbered, premanufactured clapboard covered panels, many with windows already installed. Like modulars homes, the panels are lifted by cranes and set on the existing foundation.

"We added things like exterior pilasters, the garage door, and pergola and trellis on the deck in back. The front porch and columns came with the house," Rhodin said.

Each unit has a private entrance on opposite sides of the house. On the unit for sale the door opens to a great room. The 23-by-16-foot room, which will probably serve as a living room/dining room, has a 2½-by-12 foot tiled window seat that overlooks a mahogany deck.

The floors, made in Sweden and installed here, are tongue-in-groove laminated beechwood. Rhodin also installed a fireplace.

A pocket door hides the kitchen. The sunny room has beechwood counters and farmer-style cabinets. Appliances and a double basin sink are stainless steel.

Wood stairs lead to the second floor, which has a large, sunny foyer/common

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GLOBE PHOTOS/AMY NEWMAN

Top: A pergola was added to the back of the Belmont house, which is actually two condos. Left: The front porch. Right: The family room.