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BACK TO TIMBER



The houses under construction with the main materials being timber and lots of glass.

Apart from the typical Swiss chalets, practically all the housing construction in Switzerland has always been done in concrete or bricks.

But recently, an architect decided to revert back to the old use of timber, not only for single houses but for complete rows of them as the picture shows.

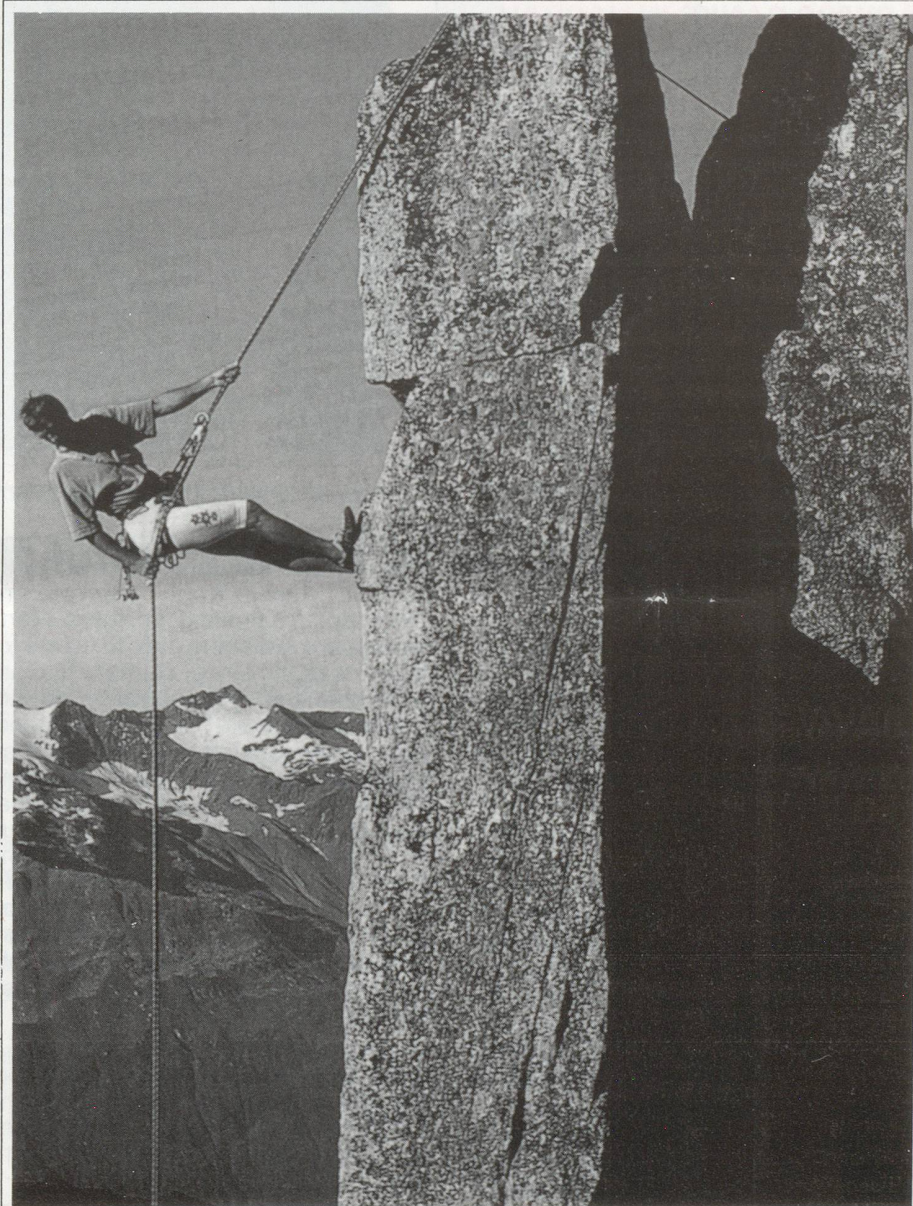
All the timber for the exterior walls is pre-cut at the factory and assembled on site. Each house consists of basement, ground floor and first floor with an open design to suit each individual purchaser. All houses will be heated from a central heating system. Hot water will be provided mainly by communal solar panels supplemented by a water heating system when required and the rain water will be collected in large underground tanks and used for toilet flushing. Novelty: The roofs will be covered with vegetation to keep the houses warm in winter and cool in summer.

One little drawback though: The houses cost between 800.000 and one million dollars each to buy depending on the interior finishing required by the purchaser. Certainly still a lot of money for a wooden house. But then this is Switzerland and not New Zealand.

BERNARD RUSSI, NOW MOUNTAINEER

Bernard Russi from Andermatt (UR), the former Olympic Ski Champion and winner of many down hill ski races throughout the world, is now 48. Although most of his life is still somehow connected with the sport of skiing, Bernard Russi devotes more and more of his free time to his long time hobby of alpinism.

That he is as good at that sport as he was at skiing is clearly shown in this picture which shows him "abseiling" from the granite summit of the Gross-Schijen, high above his beloved Andermatt.



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