

CUSTOM BUILT THE SWEDISH WAY

Elegant, energy efficient and simple to build, Svenskhomes are an increasingly popular choice in Suffolk

Trevor and Dee Taylor are building their own house at Ashfield Green with the help of Svenskhomes, which specialises in pre-manufactured, energy efficient homes “We chose the Swedish ‘flat pack’ style of house because we wanted a well insulated, efficient home that could be built in a short time frame,” says Trevor. “Having seen other people building conventionally, falling foul of the English weather and having their schedule pushed back with the resultant increase in costs, we decided on a different route.

“Dee and I are both very practical people, and have renovated homes in the past, but this is our first experience of being involved in building our own home.” The couple have lived in Ashfield Green for 12 years in a bungalow which sits right at the front of a plot of about two-thirds of an acre.

“It’s such a lovely area to live in with great neighbours. We needed more room but we just didn’t want to move away.” So they applied for, and got planning permission to build their dream home in the middle of the plot, behind the bungalow.

“It’s very exciting to open the curtains

in the morning and see our beautiful home evolving before our eyes,” says Trevor. Both retired, Trevor and Dee look forward to sharing their new home with their children and grandchildren and have designed it with a large open plan kitchen/lounge with French doors and a 4 metre wide sliding door that opens onto a patio. There are four bedrooms – one downstairs and three upstairs – and a large family bathroom accessed over a mezzanine ‘bridge’ that crosses over the full height hallway.

Last November the couple travelled to Gothenburg to see their house being assembled in the Svenskhomes factory. They commissioned local builders Yew Tree Homes to prepare the foundations, and on December 3, the house arrived on a series of lorries. By the end of the first day all the downstairs walls were up, at the end of the week they could climb a ladder and walk around the first floor. Christmas week the house was watertight, as it arrived with all windows and doors fitted. Once the roof had its breathable membrane fitted it could stand up to any British weather.

Once Svenskhomes had completed their five-week schedule, Yew Tree Homes took over and after four months the



ABOVE: Trevor and Dee Taylor’s Svenskhome is under construction at Ashfield Green



house is nearing completion. Upstairs is decorated and the bathrooms are being tiled, downstairs is plastered and nearly fully decorated, all plumbing and wiring installed. The next job, says Trevor, will be oak flooring throughout downstairs and to fit the kitchen and bathroom furniture. "We're very pleased with the progress and we're still within budget. The advantages of this type of construction are obvious. The walls and structure are built in a warm, dry factory. Environmental insulation is fitted prior to shipping, as are all the triple glazed windows and doors.

"Once the kit arrives on site it can be craned into place and fixed together very quickly. After the roof sections are fitted the other trades have a warm dry place in which to work, unhindered by weather."

The main challenge, says Trevor, was making all the decisions about all the choices in every room. "Also, during a working day the various trades are firing questions at you regarding positioning of switches, lights, pipes and everything else that makes a house. An ability to juggle while riding a mono-cycle is an advantage." Trevor and Dee were due to move their possessions 10 feet from their old bungalow into their new home sometime in April.

"Then we will have to demolish our present home within three months to comply with planning requirements. It's been a great experience working with Svenskhomes and Yew Tree Developments' fabulous team of tradesmen. We would definitely do it again. ♦ svenskhomes.co.uk