

## The Weekend House: An opportunity to industrialise lightweight construction in France (1935-1940)

*Marie Kinda Fares*

In 1936 in France, the Under-Secretariat of State for Agriculture called on constructors, architects, designers and engineers to compete for the creation of a “dismountable weekend house made of French wood”. About forty projects were presented, some of them barely outlined. The Society for Promotion paid for seventeen of them and published the designs. One has the impression that the kit house could be erected or dismantled in one day. All the projects made the most out of innovations in processes and materials, as well as in erection techniques, and the method of quickly assembling and disassembling these multi-layered, insulating and light panels. The house, ‘offers also the simple comfort that result from the precise order of certain components (kitchen, toilet, cupboards).’

The Weekend House competition brilliantly demonstrates the industrialisation of lightweight timber in a sector considered by mentors of modernity as a farming sector and, in addition, as ancient.

Biography:

Kinda Fares is an architect with a PhD in the history of technology entitled *The Industrialization of Housing in France (1885-1970), From The Lightweight and Removable Construction to The Heavy Construction and Architecture*, CNAM, Paris, 2012. She is currently a temporary teacher and researcher in history and theory of architecture at the National Institute of Applied Sciences in Strasbourg- France (INSA de Strasbourg)