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For Immediate Release

### **Britco Builds Modernistic 'Green' Home Designed for Healthy Living**

Britco Structures of Surrey, BC is building the first modular 'Glidehouse', which is a modernistic home designed for healthy and environmentally-friendly living. The project is generating interest from coast to coast and is making headlines from the New York Times to Sunset magazine.

Glidehouse is the work of 35-year old San Francisco, CA architect Michelle Kaufmann, who designed and built the first Glidehouse in Marin County, CA for her husband, Kevin Cullen, and herself.

"We wanted to make our home as green and sustainable as possible," notes Kaufmann. "Several friends saw what we had done, and said 'we want something like this as well', so we took the next step and contacted several modular home manufacturers."

Kaufmann is the principle at her own design firm, MK Architecture, and has worked on projects in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Las Vegas and New York. She is recognized for her ability and ingenuity in combining architecture, interior design, landscape design and furniture design in her projects.

The shape and design of the Glidehouses mean that the homes are an ideal fit for Britco's factory-constructed modular building system. Nine different floor plans are currently available from a 672 square ft. one-bedroom cottage, to a 2,016 square ft., four-bedroom plan with a courtyard.

Britco is one of two North American modular builders that can build the homes at this time. For the Glidehouse and some of its other US projects, the company works closely with Construction Resource Group (CRG) in Redmond, Washington. CRG is handling the sales and coordination end of the Glidehouse project, while Britco completes the actual factory construction and shipping. The Britco factory, which is in Agassiz, BC, will supply the western Canadian market, along with the Rocky Mountain and western states, including California, where a prototype of the modular Glidehouse will go on display May 15. Britco shipped the prototype from its factory in early May to Menlo Park, CA, where it will be erected and displayed on the grounds of Sunset Magazine's headquarters.

The home will be on display during Sunset's seventh annual Celebration Weekend, where 20,000 attendees will be in attendance to take part in a festival that will showcase home, travel, and food as they relate to Western living. Kaufmann will be on hand to answer questions about Glidehouse and participants will be able to tour the home, which is a 1,344 square ft., two-bedroom model that is certified by the American Lung Association (ALA) as a Health House®. After completing the requirements as set out by the ALA, Britco is entitled to provide registered Health Houses□, which include features and components such as: air



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sealing and advanced insulation techniques; energy efficient, high performance windows; energy efficient and sealed combustion appliances; high efficiency air filtration and ventilation systems; humidity control; and carefully selected interior finishes.

The name 'Glidehouse' is derived from the home's design, which includes gliding glass walls at the front of the home. This feature provides wide views of the surrounding landscape, while blurring the boundary between the interior and exterior space. The opposite wall incorporates a storage bar, which is designed to maximize organized storage, and includes space for media, literature, clothing and cooking objects. Gliding wood doors transform the storage space into an attractive wall when access to stored objects is not required. Windows above the storage bar open to provide breezes throughout the home, along with indirect natural lighting, which minimizes the need for electric lighting. In fact, with power options available such as solar panels, wind generators, and hybrid systems, the Glidehouse does not need to be connected to a source of external electricity, reducing the long term cost of ownership and widening the range of potential building sites.

"The Glidehouse is designed around creating less waste, using less energy, and living simpler, which are all trends we are seeing right now in the home design world, as a new generation of designers and architects works to create affordable housing," says Britco's housing manager, Tom Faliszewski.

Britco, Faliszewski, and CRG worked collaboratively with Kaufmann to keep her original design while making Glidehouse a modular reality. "This project represents an evolution in the modular building industry," adds Faliszewski. "It is a very high-end house with classic architecture. It basically continues the modernistic movement that was started in the 1930's but incorporates technology and materials that are available in 2004."

Britco is an award winning designer and builder of factory built structures. Their commercial, institutional, and residential buildings include fast food restaurants, gas station/convenience store combinations, hotels, schools, single-family homes, and condominium and apartment complexes. Britco also produces bank kiosks and electronic equipment shelters for the aviation and cellular phone industries.

In addition to their corporate office in Surrey, BC, Britco operates four satellite offices; one in Nanaimo, BC, one in Kelowna, BC, one in Kamloops, BC and one in Edmonton, Alberta. The company has up to 100 full time employees at their 92,000 square foot factory in Agassiz, BC. An additional 25 sales, design, project management, and administration professionals are employed at both the manufacturing facility and the company's offices. Britco's products are sold around the world. For more information about Britco, go to [www.britco.com](http://www.britco.com), or call 1-800-527-4826.

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For More Information contact:

Tom Faliszewski  
Phone: 604-888-2000