

Living in the round suits couple
Florida retirees build first Deltec home in Nova Scotia
By BRUCE ERSKINE Business Reporter
Fri, Feb 4 - 4:55 AM

ROBERT AND LINDA Rein are enjoying life in the round.

The retired Florida couple are building Nova Scotia's first Deltec round home in St. Peter's, Cape Breton.

"It's bright, it's open, it's warm and functional," the retired police investigator said Wednesday in an interview from his other Deltec house in Green Cove Springs, Fla.

Deltec, based in Asheville, N.C., has been building the hurricane-resistant round homes, which have no interior load-bearing walls, since the 1960s, said Steve Linton, the company's director of sustainable technologies.

The wood buildings, which can withstand high winds and heavy snows, were originally designed to meet the needs of the ski and coastal resort industries, he said in an interview from Asheville on Wednesday.

"That was the genesis of the round shape," he said, noting that the energy-efficient Deltec design resembles traditional Native American and Asian dwellings. "It was an engineering solution."

Deltec ships its pre-manufactured wall panels, which take about a week to assemble, to customers around the world.

The shells range in size from 300 square feet to 2,500 square feet for a single-floor structure and cost between \$30 and \$50 a square foot, Linton said.

Multiple-level structures of up to 10,000 square feet are also available.

Buyers are responsible for providing foundations and completing interior work, which Rein said provides owners with a great deal of

design scope.

"It's unlimited what you can do," he said, noting that the two-storey St. Peter's home being built by a local contractor on 250 feet of Bras d'Or Lake water frontage has nine large windows facing the lake on each floor.

"It's very warm and comfortable and allows you to have a splendid view," he said.



These photos show the interior of the Rein's Deltec round home in Green Cove Springs, Fla. Deltec is based in Asheville, N.C.



Robert and Linda Rein are building this home in St. Peter's, Cape Breton. It is Nova Scotia's first Deltec round home and features nine large windows facing the water on both floors.

Rein said he and his wife, a veterinarian originally from Ontario, plan to summer in Cape Breton to avoid the Florida heat once the St. Peter's house is built.

"We love Cape Breton Island," he said, noting that they visited the Maritimes several times before buying the St. Peter's lakefront property. "It's beautiful."

Rein, who toured Deltec's Asheville facility before buying his Florida home, said the St. Peter's house is 80 per cent complete and the couple plan to come to Nova Scotia in April to oversee interior work.

Deltec has shipped eight other homes to Canada, including six to Ontario, one to Saskatchewan and one to Quebec. A 10th Deltec home will be shipped to British Columbia in March.

Other Deltec homes have been sent to France, Italy and Australia, Linton said.

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