

P. 121

South archipelago

A vacation cabin made of plastic which was constructed in the middle of the space age became a fishing shelter on an islet in south archipelago for a futurist from Åland Islands in the beginning of the 1970ties. His daughter administer the legacy and within soon the plastic house will become a party hideaway for the teenage daughters.

P.122

A cheap and maintenance free fishing cabin, that was what Titti's father was after when he bought a house made of plastic.

It was also with these attributes the plastic houses were introduced in the end of the 60ties: Futuro represents a modern, trouble free way of housing -practical coziness.

Cheap housing for everybody, a Volkswagen house, that was the vision. A comfortable and flexible living. Instead of buying a house tied to a certain location you could take the house with you if you had to move.

In the same rational spirit of time the idea was that the houses could be flown out with a helicopter to anywhere one wanted a house. The news were also the mass production, the use of plastic as building material, the elliptical form and that all furniture already were in place. Everything was also electrical, lights, heating, ac and the Retractable stairs.

The result shook the Finnish local authority rules for building permits and made the Finnish architect Matti Suuronen to an international recognized name.

Finnish design got international recognition and newspapers all over the world wrote about the Futuro as a product of the optimism of the 60ties and the space age, a period when the USA and Russia competed in the space. The spectacular race made deep impressions in the contemporary culture and design.

An oil crisis drove up the production costs so high that the Futuro production had to be ceased.

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In 2007 one Futuro house was sold for 140.000 euro at Christie's in Paris.

The Swedish air defense bought three houses as surveillance bases. In then named the Soviet Union they were used as luxury after ski cabins. In New Jersey as banks. One men's magazine named it the ultimate bachelor pad.

Titti Sundblom which inherited her house after her father sees it as perfect party get away for her daughters when they reach their teens. There they can party without braking things...

Titti's father was a futurist. Everything should be ultramodern. He was interested in computers in the 50ties and he worked with them when they filled a room.

It was a sensation on Aland islands when it became known that a Futuro house was to be placed on a little islet in the archipelago. Titti's father was not to be discouraged. He dared to choose his own way,

regardless what the people talked.

P125

I'm sure I have this from my father. If I give people something to talk about, then they have something to think about and doesn't have to die out of boredom.

The plan was to have the house delivered to the islet with a helicopter but the only one that could do it belonged to the army. In the end the house was transported on a boat in several parts and mounted together where it stands today. Sadly her father passed away in his 40ies, before electricity was drawn to the islet.

P.126

Titti was only a child when the house was new but she remembers the parties and how the children found it exiting with a house where you literally could run up the walls. Her mother had with the parties in mind opted for a bigger kitchenette and left out the bathroom.

Our family always finds a reason to get together and maybe have a bottle of champagne. Me and my cousin even have a champagne club. The club only has two members but a lot of hangar rounds. That is the rest of the family...

If someone asks me about my hobbies I'd say taking care of my relationships. I like to socialize and have a lot of people around me. I love parties, crowds.

We are a big tight family. We live close together of each other so our children run between the houses naturally.

We also have our own family christening gown, remade from an original used in the family during the 1800s. Until today 7 children have been christened in it and every time there's a new record in the parish.

Possible newcomers into the family have to pass family's needle eye but so far it has worked out well. One story is about when the men of her two cousins were presented for the grandfather. Their grandfather loved lingon berries. Even beer was had with lingon berries which was something the newcomers never had tried before. They drank the lingon berry beer and passed the test.

We have a family grave where the older generations are buried. Quite a lot of things has to be decided about how to take care of it and see, this is another great opportunity to get all together for a meal. With champagne.

Now there are new plans for launching another tradition, an Ebba-party. Titti's godmother Ebba passed away the other year. She was "Ebba" and godmother of the whole family. The family is to have a yearly dinner and remember Ebba, talk about funny memories and enjoy... champagne.

One memory is when Ebba told the then quite young goddaughter - You know Titti, you can always enjoy a whiskey, but never before 12 o'clock.

Later it happened that they both were laying by the pool in Florida and Titti's mother served them each a glass of whiskey.

Titti looked at her godmother as they had not had lunch yet. Ebba looked back and replied, - Well,

there's always somewhere in the world where time is 12 o'clock.

Titti Sundblom is a gold- and silversmith and partner of the handicraft studio SALT in Mariehamn, Aland Islands.