

Green Eichler Remodel

Monte Sereno, California, USA



Rendering by Jridner + Design
Photos by Bryan Mekechuk

Homeowners renovate a classic California design to LEED Platinum standard

In 1997, Bryan Mekechuk and Jo-Anne Sinclair purchased one of the original 11,000 homes in California that had been built by influential real estate developer Joseph Eichler in the fifties and sixties. Referred to as Eichlers, these popular modernist homes broke from conventional home designs of the post-war period by using open floor plans, post and beam construction, and numerous windows and skylights.

Although Mekechuk liked these features, the 1969 house required a lot of energy to heat and cool. He started a complete remodel to add a lower level and renovate the main floor to reach the Platinum level of the rigorous LEED for Homes green building standard.

One of the key aspects in improving the energy efficiency of the home was to cover the home's atrium and replace the existing roof with the **Insulspan® Structural Insulated Panel (SIP) System**.

"With SIPs I get great insulation value, I get great space with a vaulted ceiling, and it will result in a very airtight house," said Mekechuk.

The R-47 roof panels will be topped with 8.4 kW of solar panels that will actually generate more energy than the home consumes. The home was calculated to be **72.9% more energy-efficient** than California's Title 24 standard.

Part of Mekechuk's mission is not just to utilize green building products, but to use innovative building techniques as well, like offsite construction. Prefabricated hollow core concrete panels were used for the floor, and Insulspan provided a **Ready-to-Assemble** system that reduces onsite installation time.

"Insulspan is ISO 9001 certified. That means they have a robust quality management program in place that ensures the product I ordered will arrive on the jobsite with exactly what I need for my project to be successful," explained Mekechuk. "The other manufacturers are not like that. I know that I can rely on Insulspan."