

Kraft Residence

Saranac Lake, New York, USA



Photos by BASF and Rich Kraft Construction

New York program helps builders construct energy-efficient homes

Several New York builders will be receiving free assistance from a team of energy efficiency professionals courtesy of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). Richard Kraft of **Rich Kraft Construction Company** was selected to participate in the NYSERDA High Performance Residential Challenge, which pairs builders with a consulting team that optimizes the builder's design for maximum energy efficiency.

Kraft is building a 1,800-square-foot home for his family in the small town of Saranac Lake, located just outside of Adirondack State Park. His initial design was reviewed by a team that included Insulspan Authorized Dealer **Panel Pros**, Long Island-based architecture firm **Chaleff and Rogers**, and chemical manufacturer **BASF**. The team worked with Kraft Builders to create an energy-efficient building envelope for the home using the **Insulspan® Structural Insulating Panel (SIP) System**. Insulspan SIPs will provide an airtight roof for the home that will reduce heat loss and prevent moisture related issues that commonly arise in wood frame roof systems with cavity insulation.

"The builder was sold on the concept of SIPs, but he was a little intimidated about the cost," said Zack LeRoy of Panel Pros. "The truth is that if you are trying to build an advanced building, with a high level of insulation, SIPs are the most cost-effective solution to reach that level of efficiency."

Insulating concrete forms (ICFs) were used for the walls and foundation of the home, along with high performance windows to complete the building envelope and reduce the home's heating load by 45 percent.

For designs like Kraft's Adirondack lodge-inspired home, SIPs present even greater cost savings on the home's cathedral ceiling. The Insulspan system is strong and capable of spanning long distances, while saving 50 percent on framing labor.

According to LeRoy, "If you are looking for a better way to build—more energy-efficient and more labor efficient, there is no better system than SIPs."

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