

Dream Home on a Budget



It was on the rolling green hills of central California outside of Vacaville that Jim Upson wanted to build a custom home for his family. He had owned the perfect building site for ten years, but now escalating construction costs and high contractor fees were major obstacles to constructing his dream home.

Then Upson met Ken Porter, Vice President of **SIP Home Systems**, an authorized dealer of **Insulspan Structural Insulating Panels (SIPs)**. Porter, who is also a general contractor, showed Upson how he could save labor costs by using prefabricated SIPs from Insulspan. SIP Home Systems provided Upson with a conceptual design and then completed the house plans and engineering for the home.

To further reduce construction costs, Upson decided to take a vacation from his day job as a branch manager for a masonry distributor and act as the general contractor for his new home. Even as a first-time builder, Upson was able to build his home at a rapid pace using Insulspan's **ready-to-assemble** system.

"It was very quick to build the exterior structure of the home with SIPs," said Upson. "Over three-quarters of the house was built the day we started. You couldn't begin to do that with stick framing."

The 2,300 sq. ft., three bedroom home came together quickly and Upson was able to lower the carrying cost of the construction loan. Upson also plans to save money on utility costs because of the high thermal resistance and airtight construction of **Insulspan SIPs**.

"Another reason I chose SIPs was the insulating factor," he said. "It gets hot and cold here, and the SIPs will help keep an even temperature throughout the house."

With Upson's specialty in masonry there will be plenty of stone used in the Italian villa-inspired home. A decorative rock and acrylic stucco finish adorns the exterior of the home, and exotic travertine stone tiles are used for flooring in the bathrooms. Although Upson is not ready to quit his day job just yet, he and his family really enjoyed the building process.

"I would definitely do it again," he said. "I definitely enjoyed working with SIPs and I would suggest that anybody build with SIPs other than a stick frame home."