Vuntut National Park Visitor Information and Operations Center

Insulspan SIPs ease construction in Canadian north

Winter construction is complicated. Factor in a northerly site characterized by permafrost and an isolated location that dictates that all construction materials be flown in, and the logistical complexities of cold-weather construction can start to add up.

Which is exactly why Kobayashi + Zedda Architects, an award-winning architectural firm based in Whitehorse, Yukon, decided to make the **Insulspan Structural Insulated Panel (SIP) System** a key component of the 3,500-square-foot building they designed for the Vuntut National Park Visitor Information and Operations Centre.

Located at Old Crow, the only community located in the northern part of the Yukon Territory, the visitor and operations centre ***"is an all-Insulspan SIP building,"*** says Tony Zedda, whose design called for **Insulspan SIP floors, walls and ceilings**. By going with Insulspan SIPs, Zedda ensured optimum quality control of the factory-built-and-cut panels delivered to the site via air transport.

The prefabricated panels definitely eased construction in an area where skilled labour is limited – and expensive, says contractor Randy Shewen, president of Building Industry Consultants Inc., which handled construction.

Construction workers could heat the building as soon as the shell was in place. That was a bonus given the early-winter start of construction, says Shewen.

The limited amount of construction waste was another plus. *"When you're flying in materials, you don't want to pay for the 25 per cent of materials that will be wasted on the site of a conventional stick build,"* adds Zedda.

While the Vuntut project was the first time Zedda and Shewen worked with **Insulspan SIPs** technology, both say **it was a good fit for the environment and they will use the product again.**

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