

Kemp Residence

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada



Photos by Darren Willis and Scott Kemp

British Columbia's first LEED Platinum home

As a practicing architect, Scott Kemp is no stranger to sustainable design. Kemp primarily works with Canada's First Nations, and he pushes his clients to build green on all their projects, from a single home to large interpretive centers. When it came time to build a new home for his family, he decided to design and build the first home in British Columbia to reach the rigorous LEED Platinum standard for green building.

"It is a house for my family, but also a way to demonstrate sustainability and a new, inventive way of building," said Kemp.

One of the key aspects of the LEED for Homes rating system is energy efficiency. That is why Kemp chose the Insulspan® **Structural Insulating Panel (SIP) System** for the walls and roof of the home.

"The reason to use the SIP system is twofold," explained Kemp. "First is the performance of the SIP itself, with excellent insulating quality and airtightness; and second is that SIPs receive points under LEED for Homes."

By providing a well insulated and airtight building enclosure,

Insulspan SIPs were able to reduce the heating load to the point where it could be handled solely by a geothermal heat pump. Kemp designed the home with a calculated solar orientation and an 8-inch thick concrete floor for passive solar heating that does not require any fossil fuels.



Insulspan's **Ready-to-Assemble** system was combined with a cedar timber frame that was crafted from downed trees on nearby Vancouver Island. Despite the complicated timber frame structure, Kemp was able to dry-in his home in just two and a half weeks.

"The SIPs are fantastic and they went up really fast," said Kemp. "They arrived prefabricated, the tolerances were great, and everything just slid into place without any issue."

"I've been very impressed with Insulspan. As an architect, those are the type of suppliers you like to have: they are very dependable and when the product gets on site, it fits perfectly."