



New and Improved

River Reach homeowners chose to embrace a new construction method to improve efficiency, while maintaining the style they desired.

Just as there is more than one way to skin a cat (apparently), there is also more than one way to build a house. The style that most people are familiar with—the way homes have been built in the United States since the late 1800s—is casually called *stick style*, referring to the wood studs used to frame a home. While that does not sound very sturdy, many historic stick-built homes still stand on the peninsula. They are beautiful, but to their detriment, they are not very energy efficient.

This weakness in stick-built homes led the building industry to invent Insulated Concrete Forms (ICFs), which not only mirror the beauty of a stick-built home, but also provide an R-value of 50. The R-value measures the resistance a material has to heat transfer. To offer some perspective, traditional wood-framed homes (insulated with standard batt) only give an R-value of 19.

Amvic, a Canadian company, was the ICF manufacturer of choice for lo-

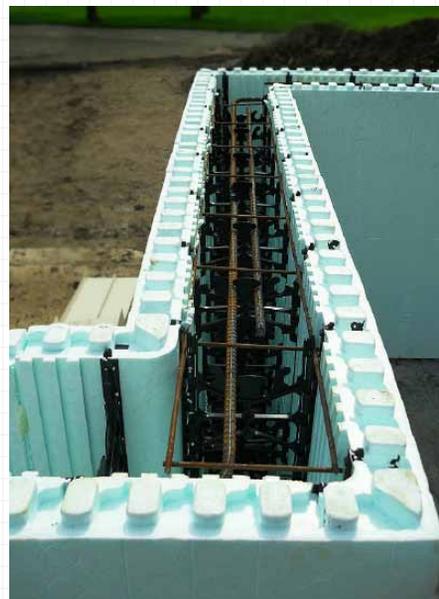
cal builder Cook Bonner Construction on this cutting-edge residential project on River Reach in Mt. Pleasant. Cook Bonner branched out and began building with ICFs when the homeowners and architect, Anita King of Ink Architecture, requested the alternative. “There was a lot of input with the house from Anita and the client. We embraced it,” says Cook Bonner’s David Ebeling. “It’s a super house. It’s stronger because it is solid concrete.”



Story by Christy Conway • Photography by Kaylen Saxon



(above) A passerby would never know that this beautiful home was made with Insulated Concrete Forms instead of traditional wood. (left) The homeowners' favorite room in the house, the kitchen, features wall-to-wall cabinetry, tile floors, and a dual-slab granite island countertop. (below left) So much of the appeal of this home is the efficiency; Energy One America applied spray foam from the top of the ICFs (example shown below right) along the whole roofline to increase the insulation of the home.



In order to completely insulate all sides of the home (not simply the walls), Cook Bonner chose to employ the team at Energy One America for their spray foam and encapsulation expertise. "Even with ICF walls, the roofline is still made of wood sheathing," explains Dean Paulk of Energy One America. "That is where we come in. We increase the efficiency of the home by insulating the roof with spray foam. By encapsulating the crawlspace, we're keeping all the outside elements away from the

home, which controls the humidity, temperature, and air conditioning of the crawlspace." With these subcontractors in place, Cook Bonner Construction was able to focus on executing Ink Architecture's inspired design and installing some truly unique finishes. One room that David and the homeowner particularly appreciate is the dramatic kitchen, replete with a dual-slab island, shiplap that accentuates the high ceilings,



(from left) Dean Paulk of Energy One America with David Ebeling of Cook Bonner Construction



(above) Every finish in this home, from the light fixtures (provided by Carolina Lanterns) and hand rails to the hickory flooring and bold stonework, was carefully installed by the quality builders at Cook Bonner Construction. The bathroom features tile by A&A Tile and countertops by Granite Shop.

and an extensive wall of windows with muntin accents along the top.

The fact that Cook Bonner was able to achieve these charming results proves that ICFs might be just be the wave of the future—beauty meets functionality. ❖

For more information about this project, call Cook Bonner Construction at (843) 795-9301 or visit cookbonner.com. For more information about spray foam or crawlspace encapsulation, call Energy One America at (843) 388-6260 or visit energyoneamerica.com.

VIDEO EXCLUSIVE

Company: Cook Bonner Construction and Energy One America
Project Type: New Construction
Location: Mt. Pleasant

