

TECHNOLOGIES & PRODUCTS

AT HOME ON CAPE COD FEATURES PRODUCTS AND TECHNOLOGIES BEING USED BY OUR MEMBER BUILDERS AND SUPPLIERS TO ENHANCE THE DURABILITY AND VALUE OF HOMES HERE. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SHARE IDEAS WITH US.

3-D DESIGN



FOR AN ONLINE DEMONSTRATION, PLEASE GO TO MCPHEEASSOCIATESINC.COM

MCPHEE ASSOCIATES OF CAPE COD

Looking at a three-dimensional design lets homeowners easily visualize their new house or addition. The reality is that most people have a hard time looking at a flat piece of paper with line drawings and understanding what they are looking at. Technology today helps eliminate this problem, and it allows you to better understand the design of your project.

“Seeing custom 3-D floor plans and elevations before the construction drawings are completed ensures the homeowners are comfortable with the design and aesthetics of the home before construction begins. This lessens the chance of costly changes to the structure during the building process, and it better assures that the home being built is truly what the homeowner desires,” says Rob McPhee, whose East Dennis-based custom building company increasingly relies on the software.

Builders and architects are using 3-D to show clients how their homes will be situated on their property, paying close attention to sunlight directions and outside views.

Homeowners can view their homes as if they were walking around the home and outside property.

Architects and designers are able to guide their clients through every room in the house, and they can point out the specific design attributes of the virtual home.

Some designs may appear fabulous, but they may not translate well to the finished product.

With 3-D, the structural engineer can take a virtual tour of the home to help determine any potential challenges that affect the structural integrity of the house. The end result translates into a well-thought-out design that can eliminate surprises during the construction process for all involved.

INSULATED CONCRETE FORMS (ICFs)

This state-of-the-art technique emphasizes energy efficiency and a commitment to recycling, while responding to the Cape’s high winds and storms. ICFs are stay-in-place foam forms that are filled with reinforcing steel and concrete to provide the structural system for foundations, houses and swimming pools.

The technique is about 3-percent to 5-percent more expensive for new home construction, but with the new high-wind requirements in the updated building code, it may end up being less expensive in the long run. It also begins to pay off immediately, through long-term energy savings, less maintenance, drier and higher finished basements, less risk

of mold, quieter interiors and even home insurance discounts, explains Todd LaBarge, a civil engineer and owner of LaBarge Homes in Harwich.

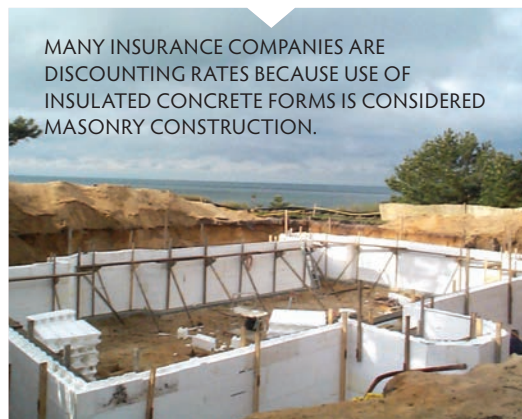
As an alternative to standard wood-frame construction, concrete is poured into the foam forms. The exterior is coated with a peel-and-stick membrane, sort of a rubber wallpaper, for both below-grade waterproofing and conventional siding above-grade. The interior wall board is attached directly to the forms in one step, as opposed to a conventional foundation that would need to be framed with wood studs, insulation and then wallboard.

The insulated concrete forms can serve solely as a home’s foundation or can be applied to the entire structure, all the way up to the roof.

Given the rising concern about hurricanes, it presents a stronger building against high winds.

The forms are commonly used for all exterior walls, including the gable ends, but there are aesthetic benefits as well. The concrete walls also lend themselves to more flexibility for floor plans, as well as 12-inch walls that allow deep “antique” window sills and casings to accommodate window treatments like plantation shutters.

TO LEARN MORE, YOU CAN REACH TODD LABARGE AT (508) 432-6360 TODD@LABARGEREALESTATE.COM



MANY INSURANCE COMPANIES ARE DISCOUNTING RATES BECAUSE USE OF INSULATED CONCRETE FORMS IS CONSIDERED MASONRY CONSTRUCTION.

LABARGE HOMES

SPRAY-FOAM INSULATION

When you build or remodel, you have two basic choices to insulate your home: fiberglass batts or spray foam. While most homes are insulated with batts, spray foam is gaining momentum because it is more effective reducing energy costs and creating a sealing envelope around your home.

Batts are the less expensive route, but if it's in your budget, spray foam has about twice the insulating capabilities for the same amount of space, along with many other benefits.

CONVECTION Spray foam greatly diminishes heat transfer, which is also called a convection loop. The R-value and the air filtration benefits are so advantageous that convection is almost eliminated.

INSTALLATION Installation requires professional, well-trained personnel with protective gear, whereas batts can be installed by almost anyone.

TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE GO TO WWW.FOAMINSULATIONTECHNOLOGY.COM

ROLLER SHUTTERS

Roller shutters have been available in Europe for over 30 years, but now are gaining popularity here, especially among homes on the water. They were originally made of timber, then PVC, and the latest designs are manufactured from attractive and durable composite materials ensuring a longer life span - especially against salt-air corrosion, ultra-violet rays and ever-changing climate.

“Insurance companies are encouraging customers to consider roller shutters because they are proven to reduce storm damage, water penetration and subsequent claims,” said Paul Craig, owner of Shade and Shutter Systems in Hyannis.”

Many shutters now can be controlled via home automation systems. They can be automated to work with sun sensors, wind sensors and security systems. You can access your shutters via the Internet and even a smart phone. You can be safely in your winter home and operate them before a Nor'Easter is about to pound Cape Cod.

Craig points to a slew of benefits: They increase the life cycle of expensive windows and doors, add value to your property's equity, serve as a crime barrier, are essentially maintenance free, improve energy performance and cut heating and cooling costs. They also are easy to clean.

TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE GO TO WWW.SHADEANDSHUTTER.COM ◉

FOR SECOND HOMEOWNERS, WHO ARE NOT ON THE CAPE YEAR ROUND, ROLLER SHUTTERS PROVIDE PEACE OF MIND.



SHADE AND SHUTTER SYSTEMS