

# Trend-Setting Laneway Homes use Insulspan SIPs

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada



Photos by  
Two Column Marketing

## Insulspan® SIPs place this stylish laneway house among Vancouver's most energy efficient

When the City of Vancouver approved the construction of laneway homes in 2009, Lanefab Design/Build jumped on the opportunity, building the first laneway house in the city. Vancouver's EcoDensity program permits the construction of small secondary dwellings or "laneway homes" in place of a garage along alleys or back lanes.

As of May 2013, more than 500 laneway homes have been built in Vancouver. Lanefab stands out with an energy efficient and sustainable take on laneway home design. All 20 of their laneway homes, including the one at 20th and Highbury (pictured), are built using the Insulspan® Structural Insulating Panel (SIP) System for the walls and roof.

For Lanefab co-owner Mat Turner, Insulspan SIPs offer a higher effective R-value, faster construction, and a continuous air barrier that limits heat loss due to air infiltration.

"With SIPs, we can do an extremely airtight building and we can do it very quickly," said Turner.

Combining Insulspan SIPs with triple-glazed windows and

triple-glazed glass doors allowed Turner to downsize the home's heating system to a small air-to-water heat pump.



These features earned the home an EnerGuide rating of 87, making it one of the most efficient homes in the city when it was completed. Lanefab has replicated this successful strategy to build laneway

homes with EnerGuide ratings of 88 and 89.

Turner estimates that building with Insulspan SIPs saved them 60 to 70 percent of the labor that would have been required using conventional wood framing. Crews completed the exterior walls and roof of the home in just two days.

"I've been working with Insulspan for quite a long time," said Turner. "The panels are extremely precise, they are always done very quickly, and the coordination is always good."

"Lanefab is building on the sustainable EcoDensity program by reducing the energy use and carbon footprint of their homes with the Insulspan SIP System," said Insulspan SIPS Sales Manager Dave Stevenson.