



WIDEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING TRADES

CONSTRUCTION ZONE

UPDATE ON THE 2006-2007 STUDENT-BUILT HOUSE

NOVEMBER 9, 2006



Learning About Insulating Concrete Forms at Polysteel of Colorado



Widefield High School Building Trades... "Going Green"

According to an October 27, 2006 article in the Denver Business Journal, "In Colorado especially, builders are responding to an increased consumer and industry awareness that "going green" is smart -- smart for business and smart for buyers who want homes that will be healthy and energy efficient for years to come." Insulating Concrete Forms (ICFs), patented in the 1960s, are lightweight, insulating casts that are stacked much like legos. Concrete is poured into the forms, resulting in insulated concrete walls that are "stronger and more durable than wood frames, resistant to inclement weather and free of chemical treatments that can give off toxic gasses..." (Denver Business Journal). ICFs have better energy efficiency and less sound transfer and, thanks to increasing energy costs, are growing in popularity among consumers.

Students in Dan Vogel's Building Trades classes are not only learning about ICFs and green building (construction that emphasizes natural resources conservation, pollution control and energy efficiency), they are going a step further, building this year's house out of Polysteel Insulating Concrete Forms in an effort to give them a competitive edge utilizing construction technology and methods that will be the choice for many consumers and builders in the future.



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