

Clarum Homes and Premier Building Systems Partner to Create a 10-Home, Zero-Energy Community

Clarum Homes, headquartered in Palo Alto, CA has partnered with Premier Building Systems to construct 10 zero-energy homes in Danville, CA. Each home features an outer shell constructed from Premier Building Systems' structural insulated panels (SIPs). The SIPs used for Clarum's new zero-energy development were 10 inches thick, providing superior performance and unmatched energy efficiency.

Dubbed Hansen Lane Estates, Clarum's new zero-energy community features four-, five- and six-bedroom high-performance, enviro-homes. Hansen Lane is Contra Costa's 1st Zero-Energy and LEED for Homes Community. The homes range from approx. 3,600sf to 5,000sf.

A family-owned development company dedicated to constructing exceptional new-home communities and apartments throughout California, Clarum's newest 10-home development was built to mimic classical Tuscan architecture through old world stucco exterior façades and clay tile roofs. The 10-inch thick SIPs allowed the design to blend the Tuscan feel with California's classic mission adobe style.

Besides appearance, the SIPs provide a number of additional benefits, including a significant reduction on environmental impact. SIPs are an energy-efficient alternative to traditional stick-frame construction methods, as they help reduce heating and cooling costs by as much as 60%. SIPs are also installed significantly faster than standard framing methods, resulting in lower labor costs and quicker installations.

SIPs feature an expanded polystyrene core sandwiched between two layers of oriented strand board (OSB). The OSB used in Premier's SIPs is made from fast growing species that are specifically harvested for OSB production. The rapidly renewable OSB creates a durable product that is manufactured with minimal impact on the environment. When manufacturing the OSB, virtually the entire tree is used to limit waste.

In addition to the energy-efficient and environmentally friendly Premier SIPs, these Clarum Homes feature other eco-friendly attributes. Each home features a solar electric power system, solar assisted hot water system, high performance insulation and state-of-the-art heating and cooling systems.

The homes are currently applying for Gold and/or Platinum status through the United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) standards.