

Man Cave Transformation

Ann Arbor, MI, USA



AFTER

BEFORE

Clients looking to save on energy with a bigger environmental picture in mind.

“Habitable but not functional,” is how Jason Patterson, a project manager for Ann Arbor, Michigan-based custom home builder Meadowlark Builders, describes the ‘before’ of the project home his clients purchased. Not exactly high praise. But the owners had a vision: Turn this circa 1980s part-barn-part-man-cave (complete with a basketball court *inside* the house), spectacularly situated overlooking a lake, into something extraordinary they and their two young daughters could call home.

Redefining the spacious but neglected structure was not the only driving force for the client. Jason explained that conserving energy was important since this is a big house, “but they are also mindful of the bigger environmental picture.” Meadowlark is similarly green-minded. They encourage their clients to choose the right energy efficient materials firmly believing it will save money over the long run.

This transformed man cave would be no exception. Introducing the idea of Insulspan SIPs, the Meadowlark team educated the client that using the panels would result in a more energy efficient building at equal or lesser cost than conventional materials. “Once they started calculating the savings over time, doing the entire house – walls *and* roof – with Insulspan panels made sense,” says Jason.

While they were looking to conserve energy, the client also wanted to preserve the view. Using the well-positioned and structurally sound existing foundation allowed that to happen. It also meant placing a good amount of confidence in the Insulspan team’s expertise to accurately measure and plan for panel production.

More accustomed to being involved in a project once the digging has started, Jason praises their willingness to educate him on the design process using SIPs. A carpenter for eight years before his role as a project manager, Jason describes using “panelized products” that do not allow for much modification as somewhat daunting. But once the shipment arrived, and knowing the measurements for door and window openings were correct, “everything came together quickly,” he said, adding, “any framing crew can easily install SIPs.”

Energy efficiency, speed and ease of application, three points Insulspan Sales Manager Aaron Hinde noted as critical for this transformation project and many others like it. “SIPs were part of an ambitious plan to refurbish, revive and reuse an old structure and turn it into a modern, highly energy efficient home.”

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