NewFuture

Building A Better Future

Steel and Concrete Construction:

Superior homes with a wide range of benefits

There are dozens of reasons why steel and concrete homes are becoming more popular with homebuyers: better value, strength and durability, style and flexibility, energy efficiency and environmental sustainability. This long list explains the increasing demand from builders and homebuyers alike. Steel and concrete construction can create homes in an unlimited variety of styles and designs. This is one of many factors that make these materials the most desirable for home building.

Steel and concrete offer an unparalleled durability and stability to home construction. The materials last longer than any other and have an incomparable strength in withstanding fire and severe weather. They are naturally water-resistant, non-combustible, resistant to wear and tear, rot and insects. Because steel, in particular, is strong and lightweight, it can be better engineered to withstand earthquakes. These factors contribute to homes that are built to last and hold their value.

Both materials are fire- and heat-resistant, giving these homes added protection. Even if a steel and concrete home does catch on fire, the damage does not seriously affect the structure, making repair a simpler and more cost-effective task. Maintenance costs, in general, on steel and concrete homes are a lot less. Without the shrinkage seen in timber-framed homes, there are fewer repairs required as the building ages.

Steel and concrete homes are quieter: compared to timber-framed homes, up to 75 percent quieter.* Concrete floors provide the perfect sound-dampening. To reinforce concrete's natural insulating qualities even further, New Future pours thicker floors than the industry standard where possible. In addition, walls built using steel studs and double-layered drywall offer extra sound protection.

Steel and concrete also provide insulation from the elements, slowing down the passage of heat and cold. This means concrete homes stay warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer, reducing heating and air conditioning bills and conserving energy. With environmental concerns on the rise, steel and concrete homeowners benefit from materials that are not only energy efficient, but environmentally sustainable as well.

Steel production and processing is environmentally friendly, and steel itself is recyclable. Concrete, unlike what is required for the production of wood — vast amounts of land, a limited natural resource and a production process that takes a heavy toll on the environment — is an ecologically wise choice. It comes from a mix of the earth's most common and abundant raw minerals, uses recycled materials such as scrap tires and fly ash, and requires no preservatives, coatings or sealants, as wood does.

All the concrete is produced locally, reducing transportation costs and, therefore, the costs of construction and the final home. It improves indoor air quality by giving off no gases or toxicity. Steel and concrete construction offers endless possibilities in shape, finishing, colour and texture. Together, these materials allow for a smaller ecological footprint because buildings can go higher and with a smaller base than those with a wood frame. This has the benefit of increasing density on less land, but it also results in more homes with better views.

Steel and concrete construction creates buildings that are aesthetically appealing, cost-effective, durable and environmentally sound. Consumers are recognizing the benefits and are increasingly willing to pay a premium for quality steel and concrete buildings that, compared to wood frame construction, hold better value over time.

* The Concrete Centre, Camberley, UK