Jerry Trotter of Equity Contracting has been in the construction industry forever. He has been building custom homes and providing major renovation services in Vancouver and the interior of British Columbia for over 25 years. Jerry is a master carpenter with a passion for open, contemporary design. Today, living in Kelowna where the housing market is still red-hot, Jerry is building with insulating concrete forms.

New Tricks...

No one would ever call Jerry an old dog, but he does have some new tricks. His innovative use of Insulating Concrete Forms (ICF) to create a niche product line for his custom-built home business proves there are better ways to do things in the residential building market.

“I wanted to get back to building custom homes but due to a physical setback, my ability to do any lifting was significantly curtailed. I needed to find something different that was light-weight and yet impressive. I saw Quad-Lock’s ICF and was totally impressed. I wanted to build something really different and here was my opportunity.” Jerry’s third custom-designed project, with a flair for concrete is a 4100 sqft rancher perched high above the valley floor in Kelowna, BC. It has 4 bedrooms, 3 of which are self-contained, a gourmet kitchen and a walk-in shower in the master ensuite that has an impressive 7-window exterior radial wall. In addition to the attached large, double-car garage, there is an ICF detached garage complete with its own in-floor radiant system and 3-piece bathroom. The home features 9’6”ceilings, 7” concrete floor with an in-floor radiant system and impressive views from the front, westerly facing side of the residence. “There are unbelievable views up and down the valley from this 10-acre property. And, because of the insulation properties of Quad-Lock, you can see flights taking off and landing from the international airport, located on the valley floor below, but you have to open a window or a door to hear them.”

The original home plans were designed by Jerry and are an open-concept, well-planned residence. Originally designed years before the house was to be built, Jerry had in mind to use 2 X 6 wood-framed construction. No changes had to be made to the original plans once Jerry decided to switch to Quad-Lock ICF concrete construction. “After all my years in carpentry – if you understand header systems and bulkheads – you literally can just get started. Quad-Lock was the easiest, simplest product with which I’ve ever dealt. It was less expensive to build than if I’d built the residence using 2 X 6 wood-framed construction.”

Being in the renovation business, Jerry can tell you about the short life span of wood-framed homes – he’s seen the damage that rot can cause in coastal areas. “The renovation business is an endless source of work, especially in B.C., where mold and mildew will eventually prevail to make replacement of a wood-framed home inevitable. This concrete home will be around for centuries.”
The upside to building custom or spec homes in Kelowna right now is it’s a hot market. The downside to custom building is the extreme labor shortages – simply because the construction industry in general is so hot. To combat the shortage of labor, Jerry hired a 3-women crew to install the Quad-Lock forms. “ICF construction really levels the playing field for women who want to get into the construction industry – it’s lightweight and really easy to move around the jobsite.”

The Ellison Estates residence is virtually maintenance free. The exterior is finished with stucco and custom aluminum trim; it will easily withstand the seasonal temperature swings seen in the interior of British Columbia. “I am eager to work with Quad-Lock again. I see concrete home construction with its sustainable attributes, energy efficiencies and its easy adaptation to any traditional or modern design elements as very desirable characteristics sought after by progressive, knowledgeable homeowners.” Jerry is not the only one talking about ICF construction; Mike Holmes, of Holmes on Homes fame is equally taken with the construction technology:

“...I’m more excited about what is called insulated concrete form (ICF) construction than any other building method out there. These forms, made of foam insulation, are put in poured concrete walls, and stay in place as a permanent part of the wall. They provide excellent insulation and sound barriers, and they don’t develop mould.”

Quad-Lock has proven itself as the manufacturer of the most versatile and highest quality insulating concrete forming system on the market and customer satisfaction is its mission.

For more information on Quad-Lock and its products visit www.quadlock.com, email info@quadlock.com or call 888.711.5625.