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Twin Cities Edition

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Cornerstone Custom Construction
Building a Concrete Future

**Pull-Out Buyer's
Guide Included**



An ICF home, although made of concrete, is a energy efficient and comfortable place to live.

Cornerstone Custom Construction Building a Concrete Future

By Kelly Borup

Insulated Concrete Forms (ICFs) have exploded onto the marketplace with Minnesota leading the way as one of the top states for ICF building. ICFs are hollow foam blocks that are interlocked and stacked to form the shape of the exterior walls of a building or home, reinforced with steel rebar and then filled with concrete. ICFs combine one of the finest insulating materials with one of the stron-

gest structural building materials, steel reinforced concrete.

The result is a wall system of unmatched comfort, energy efficiency, strength, and noise reduction. In the Twin Cities market, Cornerstone Custom Construction is a leader in the ICF building movement.

Concrete seems to have followed Kelly Hemp throughout his life. As a child, Kelly spent time chipping mortar

off of blocks for his dad. He began working for other companies at age 11 tending block and finishing concrete. Kelly now he has become a local expert on ICF installation and use in the building process. Kelly Hemp went to Bethel College with every intention of becoming a Biology and Chemistry teacher. During his second year, however, he realized teaching unvarying and predetermined facts was not going to be

“We made the switch to ICF form block and have been very satisfied. Cornerstone is the local expert on ICF and delivers a quality product on a timely basis at a price which is competitive with block.”

–Kurt Erickson, Quality Home Transformations, Inc.

“Cornerstone Custom Construction has taken a lead role in the Twin Cities construction market.”

—Dave Jackson, Fox Blocks.

the true career path for him. So he decided to study things that always change: people. He earned his Communications Degree - a degree well suited for a builder in today's society, and established a career path that is perfect for a person who is curious about many different subjects and always wants to learn new things. Building combines art, science, math and English-everything a would-be teacher would find thrilling in a career.

Today Cornerstone Custom Construction works in the residential building market but also does remodeling and light commercial work. The true passion of the company's owner has not strayed from working with concrete. It is just in a new form, a more energy efficient one of Insulated Concrete Forms (ICFs). Cornerstone Custom Construction provides professional installation expertise in this specialized field, and are certified installers. Kelly truly believes it is the best option out there when it comes to the structure of a home, business or additions. “It is the best way I have come across to build almost anything, ever.”

Kelly Hemp has been working with ICFs since 1998. When he first started, the drive to learn more came because he could never get the block crews to show up on time at his job sites. It was costing him money and he had to find a more efficient way to build. ICFs were beyond any expectations he had. Today, Kelly and Cornerstone Custom Construction work with builders all over the Twin Cities as the ICF installation experts.

The need to become an ICF expert came from his experiences working with the many manufacturers of ICFs. Each one could tell you about their product and explain what advantages they had, but no one in the marketplace

“Cornerstone Custom Construction is without question a builder truly committed to high quality ICF and green building technology.”

***—Ted Capistrant,
The Profit Builder's Network.***



Above and below: Teaching builders how to use ICFs is the passion and the drive of Kelly Hemp of Cornerstone Custom Construction.





Above and at right: ICFs are hollow foam blocks which are interlocked and stacked to form the shape of the exterior walls of a building or home, reinforced with steel rebar and then filled with concrete.

simply helped builders install ICFs, no matter what the brand.

Teaching builders how to use ICFs has become the passion and the drive of the entire team at Cornerstone Custom Construction. Many builders attempt to make the switch to ICF and have a project fail due to the lack of experience and knowledge on how the system works. The ICF form manufacturers are doing a great job of selling the product, but not really educating. Kelly says, "ICF is really an industry. When a particular form company is really only focused on selling their forms, it leads to misconceptions and can result in failed expectations and projects. ICF has a serious learning curve and learning to build with ICF requires dedicated people." So Kelly Hemp took his skills in teaching and has been helping builders, architects, and engineers learn this new energy efficient way of building. Kelly is consistently trying to build the best team he can in his field, office, and training personnel. The passion he has for ICFs and what they mean to the building industry is unmatched. A person cannot help but see the benefits and

"ICF is at the forefront of the newest high quality and environmentally-sound building technologies, and Kelly Hemp and Cornerstone offer builders and homeowners integrity and expertise in this field."

—Dave Sheridan,

Sheridan Performance Group / On-Deck Seminars & Charters

quality that ICFs bring to a project after talking with Kelly.

Kelly also teaches classes on ICF building. He felt it was necessary for people to learn how to use ICFs in their own building projects from someone who is not an ICF sales person or authorized dealer - but a builder just like them. People are able then to truly learn about the most efficient way to build an energy efficient home and capitalize on the available tax credits. With all this being said, it is Kelly Hemp's professional field personnel, office, and sales and training team that make Cornerstone such an effective force in the ICF industry.

Kelly Hemp's family is also a big part of the work he does. Carrie has spent many years within the sales industry, and has consistently risen to the top of her field, including her management

positions. She is an excellent sounding board and quite often has just the right perspective Kelly needs to pull everything together. Carrie has an extremely sharp business mind. She also truly enjoys working from home and spending as much time with their daughter, Ella, as she can. Ella already helps drive the CAT machine at home and likes to build things with her Legos - and of course ICF blocks. Kelly says, "She can stack Legos, but she's not quite ready to build a house!" Time will tell, but she is a pretty sharp little girl, who just may also influence some change in the construction industry! In the end Kelly Hemp did become a teacher. His classroom is usually a construction lot or a conference room, and his students are a little older, but the skills and passion to share the knowledge he has discovered are still there. To find out how Kelly Hemp and Cornerstone Custom Construction can help you on your next ICF project call 763.754.3939 or visit them online at www.cornerstoneccinc.com

"Kelly is not only dedicated to building his business; he is dedicated to helping people build homes that are safe, energy efficient and environmentally friendly. Kelly is an asset to the building community and a leader in innovative solutions."

—Fred Corrigan, Aggregate and Ready Mix Association of Minnesota