

Infill Wall System

Historically, timber frame construction had infill walls made of wattle and daub (a weaving of wood lath with plaster finish) fit within the individual post and beam bays. The infill wall provided a monolithic bracing to each individual bay, which contributed to the rigidity of the entire framework. Visually, it gave a balanced completeness with the structural timbers exposed, the positive (masculine) framework combining with the recessive (feminine) infill. Later, boarding was used to cover or envelope the entire framework, it was quick and simple but lacked the visual impact that infill walls gave.

Today this envelope framing is referred to as 'strap-and-wrap.' Basically the method is to 2" x 6" (38 x 125 mm) strap frame the outside and insulate, then wrap, usually with a board-and-batten finish. All the framework is concealed, no roadside appeal, so-to-speak. This method is also not conducive to prefabrication and needs to be site-built. Recently many timber frame companies have adopted the structural insulated panel (SIP) as a modular envelope wall system that can be shipped and assembled with the framework. Refer to project Hammer Bents for more information.

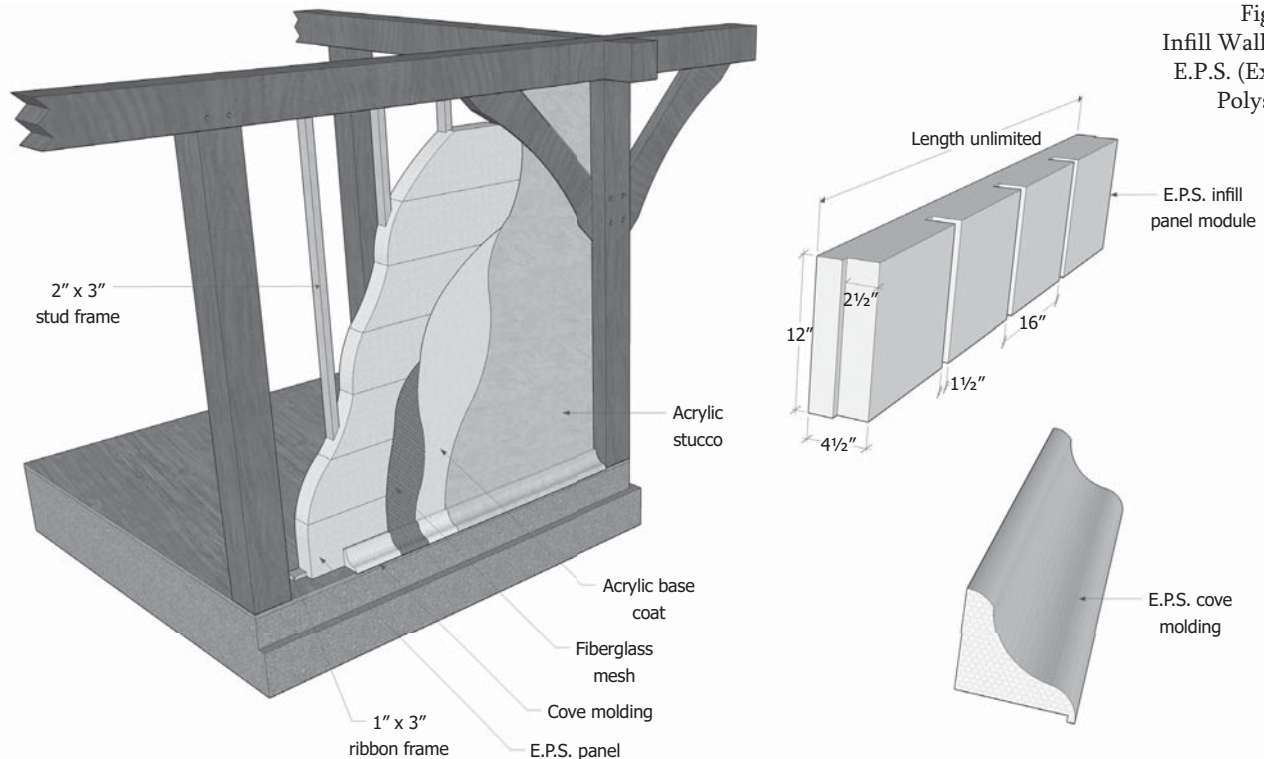


Figure 6-1
Infill Wall System
E.P.S. (Expanded
Polystyrene)