

My dream house would be along a beach just behind the dunes because I do not want the water to come up and hit my house. I also want a house with a beach front view because seeing waves and hearing them break relaxes me. I would be able to go to the beach everyday to go swimming or boogie boarding. In addition, if I had homework I could do it on the beach. I would keep my house warm most of the time because I love to be warm.

I chose insulating concrete forms (ICF) to build my dream home because I wanted a house by the beach and since hurricanes hit a lot of beaches I had to build it out of something that can withstand the weather on the coast. ICF homes are up to 8.5 times stronger than wood frame houses and are capable of withstanding the winds of a hurricane. ICF homes are "green" because they are made from limestone which is an abundant natural resource and renewable resources like fly ash, slag cement, and silica fume. These products all are waste byproducts that come from steel mills, power plants and other manufacturing facilities. Being made of ICF, my houses insulation would be it self because the concrete is sandwiched between insulating foam forms and has good insulating properties. ICF homes are energy efficient because of the insulation and they are well sealed, it is 44% cheaper to heat and 32% cheaper to cool than wood frame houses. The insulation keeps the heat in my house in the winter and the insulation would help keep the heat out in the summer. I can also close the blinds in the summer so the sun doesn't heat the house through the windows. Ocean breeze would help cool the house down when the air conditioner isn't being used. Another reason I chose concrete was because it is very durable as it won't rust, burn, or rot. My dream home has wood for the interior wall structure and the deck would be made out of composite decking material. Composite decking is made from recycled materials. My house would have solar panels on the roof to power most of the electricity and heat the water. In addition, I would have bamboo flooring because bamboo is a renewable resource and compact fluorescent lights instead of regular fluorescent lights or incandescent lights. Compact fluorescent lights use less energy than other lighting. I would also have a rock fence cemented together so it would not get washed away from all the waves. Another benefit of ICF homes is that they are more soundproof than other houses.

Thomas Edison invented the first concrete in 1906, but these homes cracked and leaked and were not as well insulated. Modern concrete homes are made from ICF and are better constructed. They do not crack as easy as the early homes and they are better insulated. Today there are many websites and companies that sell concrete houses. There are many different models and there are many builders. Unlike the first concrete homes today's concrete homes can be stacked in many ways like sideways, vertical, or even diagonally.

My house fits my needs because it gives me shelter which will keep me warm in the winter and cool in the summer. It will keep me dry from the rain and the ocean because ICF homes are impervious to water. Because of all the energy efficient features, my house will not cost me much after I move in. These are some of the reasons why I chose this type of home.