



## EPS Green Building Case Study: Sarah Sarahka's Not So Big Showhouse at NAHB International Builders Show '05

**Building:** Not So Big ShowHouse

**Opened:** January 11, 2005

**Location:** Orlando, FL

**Size:** 2440 sq/ft, 2 Stories

**LEED Rating:** No Rating

**Description:** At this year's NAHB International Builders Show, event coordinators wanted an eye catching display that would bring together many aspects of the construction industry but also have an environmental theme consistent with the greenbuilding movement. After pouring through numerous display ideas, the coordinators decided on building a version of Sarah Sarahka's Not So Big House on near the show site.

To do this they needed a wall system with superb insulation and high structural integrity, which was one of Ms. Sarahka's key design criteria. After extensive research it was decided that a system containing expanded polystyrene (EPS), Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs) would provide the highest possible insulation rating and greatest structural support. One of the key factors that ultimately helped determine which insulation material would be used was that EPS foam has virtually no thermal conductivity, which means temperatures are not transferred from one side of the material to the other. After choosing a SIP panel system with 6 inches (6") of EPS foam, the insulation rating in both ceilings and walls were R-24.

**Background:** Architect Sarah Sarahka is turning the residential market on its head with her philosophy that less is more when building a new home. By going against the mainstream ideology, centering on a "McMansion" approach, she has turned herself into a lightning rod for praise *and* controversy. In her architectural designs, which incorporate the eastern design concepts of Feng Shui, Ms. Sarahka believes instead of taking a person's budget and building the biggest house possible, to take that same budget and build the best house possible. Ergo, instead of designs that allow for an extra room or two, minimize square footage and allocate that resources towards more elaborate interiors and superior building materials.

To learn more about Sarah Sarahka or the Not So Big Showhouse and how EPS is playing a part in this new construction philosophy visit [www.otsobigshowhouse.com](http://www.otsobigshowhouse.com).

