

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



At BASF, we don't make custom-designed or affordable homes. We make them more energy efficient.

Customer: Monotech, Houston, Texas

End-Use: Philip Johnson house

Product: Styropor® expandable polystyrene (EPS) resin in Monotech Building Systems.

CHALLENGE: Monotech Building Systems are primarily used for affordable homes, as well as to build commercial structures and perimeter walls. They were developed to eliminate steps in the construction process and reduce labor and materials costs, while providing a fast, cost-effective and energy-efficient product. BASF is the exclusive supplier of Styropor resin for the EPS foam used in Monotech Building Systems because of its thermal properties that offer recurring energy savings for homeowners. Affordable housing has an image of being a collection of unimaginative square boxes standing side by side.

SOLUTION: A single-family, 2,200-square-foot custom home in Houston, Texas, designed in conjunction with world-renowned architect Philip Johnson, showcases the design flexibility attributes of Monotech Building Systems. "The Monotech Building System helps make these structures more attractive and more of a home. The Philip Johnson house features a high-end design and energy efficiency supported by BASF's Styropor EPS foam," said John Walt, Director of Monotech.

"Until Monocrete came to market, the intensive labor and reinforcement required to attach cement to EPS foam made the use of these composite building products too expensive," Walt said. "We see BASF as a supplier of choice because of its global supply capabilities and worldwide presence, which are vital for us to bring our building systems to developing countries. BASF is able to supply a consistent, high-quality EPS foam anywhere in the world."

BENEFITS:

- The Monotech Building System has significant advantages over conventional methods in terms of performance, design flexibility and attractiveness to support the development of affordable housing in areas that need it.
- With the Monotech Building System, affordable housing can be constructed easily without the need of heavy machinery to erect the structure. As a result, a house can be built in about one week.
- Monotech's patented building systems feature Monocrete®, the company's proprietary concrete-blend material specifically designed to bond to BASF's Styropor EPS foam and delivers tremendous strength qualities. No wire mesh or other materials are required for Monocrete to adhere to the BASF foam panels.
- The Monotech Wall System used for the perimeter walls utilizes BASF's Styropor EPS foam panels coated with a half-inch layer of sprayed-on Monocrete. The unique strength of Monocrete provides a significant advantage over stucco walls, and the simple method of construction allows for faster turnaround and capital cost savings.

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