CONSTRUCTION

Structural Insulation Panels (SIPS) are mostly used for residential or light commercial construction. I chose to use this system in my design because of the fact that they are a high performance system. The panel construction consists of insulating foam core sandwiched between two structural facings, in my case, oriented strand board (OSB). The end result is a strong, energy efficient, and cost effective building system.

They generally cost about the same price as constructing with wood framing when you factor in the labor savings from shorter construction and less waste on the jobsite. Another perk of this system is that small heating and cooling systems can be installed with SIPS construction because of the high energy efficient design.

INDOOR POOL AND SPA

The north building houses the indoor pool and spa. Its concrete walls create a feeling of strength and stability, as in a Mexican cenote. A cenote is a natural, circular sinkhole resulting from the collapse of limestone bedrock that exposes groundwater underneath. Some are available to explore, which tourists flock to. The goal of this building is to mimic the natural phenomena in a place of peace and relaxation while also creating a small piece of exploration and fun that nature.

The Therme Vals spa hotel in Switzerland (pictured below) was a great inspiration building for this idea. The stone walls and focused beams of light are both beautiful architectural elements that now similarly give the character of a cenote.

MEXICAN CENOTE

Inside a man-made or natural pool of water, the walls and floor are typically lined with lagoons, waterfalls, and other natural elements. The central space is elevated above the water level to create an oasis of relaxation and tranquility.

Interviews

Amber Vance

No overhead lights. They become harsh when lying supine on the mat.

Erika Briggs

Outside elements, earth, air, fire, water, ether.

Sail Arne


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