

Residential Application of LP® SolidStart® Engineered Wood Products

RenGroup PTY LTD

RenGroup

The use of LP® SolidStart® Engineered Wood Products in single-family residential construction

SUMMARY

Melbourne's Renovation Group (RenGroup), which was established in 2002, focuses on single-family residential construction. According to RenGroup's owner, Simon How, their emphasis is on quality and they have a single-minded determination to never cut any corners. To that end, they focus on hiring quality craftsmen and use only quality products. With particular experience in one-off nonstandard construction, they are often involved beginning with the design stage. In its projects, Mr. How explains, the company focuses on products that enhance efficiency on the job site while also offering durability and sustainability.

OBJECTIVES

RenGroup seeks to build unique homes that balance their goals of sustainability and reduced environmental impact with the need to meet the public's expectations of quality. Building codes designed to promote energy efficiency and durability must be complied with. Additionally, RenGroup seeks to save time and money on the job site by using engineered wood products that increase efficiency and reduce waste.

IMPLEMENTATION

The current project for RenGroup is an 8,000-square-foot home in which RenGroup owner Mr. How and his family will live. For his own home, the builder turned to LP® SolidStart® LVL, I-Joists and Rim Board for the framing in the home.

"Using LP® SolidStart® Engineered Wood Products was my personal choice, and it makes my life easier. That's a good thing."

Simon How, Owner
RenGroup

In Brief

LOCATION

Melbourne, Australia

PROJECT SUMMARY

In constructing single-family residential homes, RenGroup, short for Renovation Group, in Melbourne, Australia, seeks to use products that minimize the impact on the environment while also building homes of exceptional quality.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Build homes of exceptional quality
- Adhere to energy efficiency standards
- Use materials that are sustainable

SOLUTION

By using LP® SolidStart® LVL, I-Joists and Rim Board, RenGroup is able to frame a home with an engineered wood product that is durable, sustainable and superior to the options currently available in Australia.



Mr. How said the key factors in choosing LP SolidStart Engineered Wood Products were the quality of product and the time it saves. He added that there are two significant issues currently in construction in Australia—the difficulty in obtaining timber in longer lengths and the poor quality of pine framing.

“The quality of pine is abysmal at the moment,” Mr. How said, adding that using pine is just “one step back.”

He said the home has a lot of load bearing walls, so the durability and stability offered by LP SolidStart Engineered Wood Products appealed to him. He added that LP SolidStart LVL is superior to other timber products, which are hard to find at longer lengths.

“With LP’s LVL we can order the exact length and just put it on,” Mr. How said, pointing out that this saves considerable time by not having to cut and manipulate LP SolidStart LVL after it arrives at the job site.

LP’s distributor in Victoria, EWP Australia, is equally impressed with LP SolidStart LVL, which has allowed them to provide their customers with a product that has “better consistency values.”

“Working with LP ensures I have peace of mind supplying high quality LVL. I can rest easy knowing there won’t be callbacks to the jobs I deliver to,” said

Managing Director Alan Nicholls with EWP Australia. “The wider flange on LP SolidStart I-Joists makes the carpenter’s job a lot easier and reduces the chance of nails missing the flange, which is the common cause of squeaky floors.”

Mr. How also said the sustainability of LP SolidStart Engineered Wood Products is an important selling point. LP’s wood procurement targets small, fast-growing trees. They use Sustainable Forestry Initiative® certified forest management and procurement systems, which help ensure wood comes from well-managed forests.

They are also engineered to eliminate the imperfections found in plywood and other timber products, and do not have core voids and knots, which reduces waste.

“It’s an environmentally sound product,” Mr. How said. “You aren’t out chopping down millions of old growth trees.”

OUTCOME

The current project is the first for RenGroup using all three LP SolidStart Engineered Wood Products, though they have used LP SolidStart LVL many times in the past. One of the key concerns—savings—has been answered on the back end.

“The price pretty much compares to hardwood timber here in Australia,” Mr. How said. “But we save time later on, and that saves money.” An added bonus, he explained, has been the experience of dealing with LP Building Products and its representatives. “Everyone involved has been good to work with.”



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