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Excitement builds around Calgary's first laneway shipping-container home



Calgary-based Modern Huts is constructing the city's first laneway container home in a Killarney backyard.

Modern Huts

The Killarney project is easing regulations to allow for off-site prefabrication, and the builder believes it will be the first of many homes like it

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Courtesy Adina Currie

Oct. 04, 2018 | Natalie Noble

Killarney shipping-container home could be first of many for Calgary

If you think shipping container homes lack style and function, Modern Huts, creator of customized shipping container structures, intends to change your mind. Thanks to the successful construction of Calgary's first shipping-container residential project in the community of Killarney, these durable and energy-efficient homes might be popping up in your neighbourhood soon.

Completed in March, Modern Huts' Killarney build is a 480-square-foot, garage-top suite built from three shipping containers. While the owners will reside in the space as they renovate their home of 19 years, it might eventually be used as a rental space, or perhaps a residence for a caregiver.

The benefits of building a shipping container home are numerous. For one, they are quicker to construct than traditional stick-frame homes. "We can really cut build time down, it's at least a third faster," said Modern Huts founder Jeremy Johnson.

**"We can really cut build time down, it's at least a third faster." -
Jeremy Johnson, Modern Huts founder**

Because the containers are steel, they are entirely spray-foamed on the inside. This decreases thermal transfer, a must considering Calgary's hot summers and cold winters. "The homes are more airtight and better sealed in the end," said Johnson. Leaving that steel semi-exposed also means a more durable home, and less maintenance.

Environmentally, shipping-container homes just make sense. They generate less building material waste, and Modern Huts is also committed to reusing, re-purposing and recycling as much as possible.

While changing the public's entrenched views about shipping containers in residential spaces has been a

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