

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

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Publisher's Message

Exploring Technology from Every Angle by SBC Staff

"The path to our destination is not always a straight one. We go down the wrong road, we get lost, we turn back. Maybe it doesn't matter which road we embark on. Maybe what matters is that we embark." —Barbara Hall, Northern Exposure

When you look up synonyms for "technology" in a thesaurus, words like "skill," "knowledge," "expertise" and "know-how" top the list. These terms are followed by "equipment," "machinery" and "tools." In a world (and an industry) that's become increasingly focused and dependent on computers and automation, it's easy to only think of such tangible terms when technology is mentioned. Considering the thesaurus entry brings us back to the reality that no matter how many computers and machines are involved in the structural building components industry today, technology will always begin with the skill, knowledge and expertise of the individuals who work in it. This issue of SBC Magazine focuses on technology, and the articles you will find within its pages run the gamut of different ways you can interpret technology in the industry.

Obviously, due to the times we live in, computer technology tops the list of themes covered in this issue. In ["The Next Generation of Structural Building Component Design,"](#) we explore the topic of whole building design and the potential it holds as the next generation of component design. ["Cutting Edge QC: How Technology is Making Quality Control Quicker"](#) discusses the benefits of utilizing a pocket PC handheld computer to save time and reduce paperwork for the In-Plant WTCA QC program. And ["Plating Truss Joints for Bending Force Transfer"](#) takes a look at how computer technology has made more complex analysis of load transfer at joints possible, resulting in more accurate and efficient truss designs.

["Credible Technical Information in the Information Age,"](#) investigates the flip side of computer technology, discussing how to use web technology wisely to gather reliable technical information. It highlights the boons and pitfalls of a culture where information of all kinds (credible and otherwise) is available at the click of a button.

In addition to the articles about tangible technology, there are plenty of articles in this issue that deal more with the "knowledge" and "know-how" aspects of technology. This month, we're featuring the [newly rebuilt Best Homes, Inc.,](#) which has emerged from the ashes of last year's devastating fire a stronger, more efficient operation. Take advantage of this rare opportunity to see what can be learned when an operation is given the chance to start with a clean slate.

If building codes are "Greek" to you, check out the piece about [WTCA's latest code success](#)

[story](#). The update includes details about the May 18 International Code Council (ICC) rulings that several industry members rallied for in Kansas.

We also bring you a story about the building component industry's most recent victory on sealed placement plan requirements from Riverside County, CA. The WTCA team, consisting of CalESCA Chapter members and WTCA-National staff, has worked diligently with the Riverside County Plan Review Department since October 2002 to change a policy that required truss placement diagrams to be sealed. The WTCA team's patience and persistence proved advantageous when a resolution was announced on May 1, 2004.

Also new to SBC Magazine this issue is a department designed to give component manufacturers talking points and conversation pieces when interacting with their builder customers. "Builder Banter" will appear in each issue and give readers the inside track to what builders and contractors are facing in construction today.

You asked for it and we delivered! A request from the 2003 Reader Survey suggested a column with "an unusual or unique picture involving trusses" potentially made to be a "permanent fixture." We hope you love our new "Parting Shots," and we look forward to receiving your feedback, ideas and interesting photos! (Submissions can be sent to partingshots@sbcmag.info.)

Last, but certainly not least, this issue includes SBC's annual "Supplier & Professional Directory for the Structural Building Components Industry." This directory gives you access to technology of all kinds as it puts you in touch with those companies that supply products and services to the structural building components industry. Be sure to pay special attention to those suppliers who advertise in the pages of SBC—their support allows this publication to continue growing year after year.

So, sit back and enjoy the knowledge of your industry peers as you explore the more complex technologies at work in the industry today!

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The mission of Structural Building Components Magazine (SBC) is to increase the knowledge of and to promote the common interests of those engaged in manufacturing and distributing of structural building components to ensure growth and continuity, and to be the information conduit by staying abreast of leading-edge issues. SBC will take a leadership role on behalf of the component industry in disseminating technical and marketplace information, and will maintain advisory committees consisting of the most knowledgeable professionals in the industry. The opinions expressed in SBC are those of the authors and those quoted solely, and are not necessarily the opinions of any of the affiliated associations (SBCC, WTCA, SCDA & STCA).