

# STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

December 2004

## Publisher's Message Seek "Chi" in Manufacturing by SBC Staff

*"Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony." —Mahatma Gandhi*

Does your manufacturing operation have "chi"? The Chinese expression for maintaining balance and harmony in the body and the universe, the concept of chi is a fitting analogy to achieving success in production. If the various elements of your production operation are in a state of disharmony, it's time to restore equilibrium and re-establish chi. Inside this issue, you'll find helpful tips and ideas for conquering your every production challenge.

More than one person has spoken of the [Houlihan system](#) for production in the last few months. In this issue, we've researched all things Houlihan. As you read, think about how it stacks up to the system you are currently using. Not using anything to measure and track production efficiency? Maybe now is the time.

Are delivery and transportation issues enforced by your local jurisdiction causing you grief? WTCA Chapters have tackled an onslaught of permit and other transport-related issues throughout the year, so it's clear that this issue warrants further work for the benefit of the industry. This issue of SBC holds the first in a series of [transportation articles](#) focused on making component manufacturers aware of the regulations they face in transporting their product safely and efficiently on state highways. Stay tuned for two additional articles in early 2005.

Relive all the events of [BCMC with our post-show review](#), featuring exhibitor photos and contact information, a recap of the educational seminars, results from the CSCI Silent Auction and slot car racing, as well as reviews of the WTCA 2004 Annual Meeting and Hall of Fame Inductees.

On the heels of the annual BCMC show, automation, equipment, production and material flow is still fresh in our minds. Did you come away from Charlotte with new ideas and inspiration to improve your operation? We hope to contribute to your newborn inspiration in this issue and wish you all the best in your quest for manufacturing chi.

Isolate the unbalanced, inspire change, restore equilibrium...seek chi!

---

[SBC HOME PAGE](#)

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).