



Publisher's Message

Design & Engineering:
The Pulse of the Industry

"The greatest challenge to any thinker is stating the problem in a way that will allow a solution."

—Bertrand Russell

by Libby Maurer

One theme is consistent when it comes to design and engineering in this industry: year after year, advances in technology have enabled manufacturers to up the ante on truss design. Increased design capabilities mean more options for customers, and more options mean happier customers. In this issue, we salute the advances in design and engineering that have allowed building components to become the future of framing.

When Chris Lenauer contacted **SBC** staff in August 2005 with pictures from his company's recent design feat, we couldn't believe our eyes. Always looking for challenging jobs to showcase its design creativity, Pioneer Truss enthusiastically took on a job to design and manufacture trusses for a mausoleum commissioned by the Mid-America Buddhist Association. Though the structure was small, the effort it took to design and build the trusses with ultimate precision was not. In fact, Pioneer assembled a small army of strategists to tackle the project. Turn to page 34 to find out how technology played a major role in the company's success.

In **Human Faces**, we examine the advantages of building relationships with industry groups. In the case of the Southern Nevada Component Manufacturers Association (a chapter of WTCA), issues surrounding design responsibilities have been effectively worked through thanks to the chapter's relationship with a structural engineering group. It's a perfect example of how every chapter should facilitate the lines of communication with industry professionals and reap the benefits of an open forum debate on critical issues.

In the same vein, this issue's **WTCA Update** explains what the new edition of BCSI 1-03 will contain. Updates to the booklet's temporary and permanent bracing information contained in sections B2 and B3 are scheduled to undergo significant changes. Don't miss out on this sneak preview of what to expect when the new version of BCSI is released later this year.

Several months ago, select members of the fire service embarked on a component manufacturing facility plant tour. Headed up by the Western Component Manufacturers Association (a chapter of WTCA), member manufacturer BMC West of the Portland area graciously welcomed the group to its facility. The fire service seemed most impressed with the truss design software and the overall level of professionalism displayed during the tour. When the day was done, relationships had formed and the walls between the two groups were beginning to crumble. While it was agreed that one firefighter death that occurs as a result of building collapse is one too many, it was also agreed that the solution lies in increased training about building structures. We wait enthusiastically for the fire service's call to help with curriculum development. See page 56 for a recap of the tour.

Finally, a few months ago Molly Butz caught up with John Meeks, the "grandfather of bracing." Still conducting forensic engineering work in South Florida, Meeks shows no signs of slowing down as he prepares to celebrate a big birthday. What turned this engineer on to assume the role of bracing crusader for the wood truss industry? Turn to page 44 to find out! **SBC**

at a glance

- ❑ This issue of **SBC Magazine** is devoted to design and engineering advancements.
- ❑ The cover story highlights a design challenge that Pioneer Truss couldn't pass up. Though the structure was small, the effort it took to design and build the trusses with ultimate precision for it was not.
- ❑ In February, BMC West graciously welcomed members of the fire service to its facility in the Portland area. Attendees seemed most impressed with the truss design software and the overall level of professionalism displayed during the tour.

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