



Publisher's Message

On the Right Side of Change

Enjoy a new editorial focus for this issue!

by Libby Maurer

Back in May 2007 when the *SBC* team set our 2008 editorial calendar (and simultaneously groaned about how early things have to be planned at a publication), slating this issue as our very first edition focused on Research & Testing seemed ambitious. At the time, the world class component testing lab known as the SBC Research Institute (SBCRI) was just beginning to take shape, and the construction of the facility was, well, getting tiresome. It was nearly impossible to predict what would happen between then and now.

On page 26, read what is in the works for SBCRI testing in the near future in **The Big Picture**. Kirk Grundahl reports that the SBCRI Steering Committee has outlined a series of testing projects with the goal of discovering how loads flow through the elements of a structure. In addition to this industry testing, the SBCRI facility is available for companies with a need for proprietary testing projects. Grundahl explains how the management company, Qualtim, Inc., will ensure that the results of these tests remain confidential. Whether for proprietary or industry testing, it's certain that SBCRI will house many interesting tests that will tell us a lot about our products.

Long about December, this issue's cover story fell from the sky (as did the trusses that supported a rather large commercial building). The article "SBCRI: A Whole New Bags of Tricks" on page 30 couldn't be a more appropriate example of why SBCRI is essential to our industry's advancement in residential and commercial building construction marketplaces. The story involves buckled long-span trusses, a commercial building with doors wide open to the public, and a building owner not willing to close it. The question to ask while you're reading is what would have been done before SBCRI existed.

For every member who is sick of this green building buzz, there are two wondering what they have to do to be deemed "green" in their customers' eyes. If you've found yourself wondering lately, check out Sean Shields' "So You Want Your Lumber Green?" on page 48—the second article in a series about component manufacturers supplying jobs shooting for one green building certification or another. Bottom line: it should be simple, but it's not. There should be a straightforward protocol to follow, but there's not. We hope this article will help you determine understand what is required of you to meet the standards set forth in your specs!

When consolidation happens as aggressively as it has in our industry lately, it's difficult to keep tabs on the changes. Of course, one of the biggest changes on the supply side occurred in 2006 when Truswal Systems Corporation and Alpine Engineered Products, Inc. were acquired by ITW. While both companies have maintained separate identities, software and customer bases, they now share the parent company known as ITW Building Components Group, with group president Jim James at the helm. We caught up with James to talk about what has changed as a result of these acquisitions, what remains the same, and why the industry is positioned to alter the face of building construction.

Change really is all around us. Will we allow it to energize and motivate us, or will we watch as it leaves us in the dust? Let's plan for the former. With tools like SBCRI on our side, there's no reason our industry can't be on the right side of change for building construction. Enjoy the issue! **SBC**

at a glance

- The stories on pages 26 and 30 illustrate why SBCRI is vital to the advancement of the industry.
- Decide whether you should go green with the article on page 48.
- Turn to page 54 to get the inside scoop on ITW's acquisitions and the new president of its Building Components Group.

Two New PiggyBacks' ...



One is a Giant

New PB80 Precisely Spot Delivers... Up to *Four Tons* at a Time!

Princeton's new 8000 lb. capacity PiggyBack® PB80 is the most powerful truck-mounted, rough-terrain forklift on the market. On site, this sure-footed giant spot-delivers up to four tons at a time... to wherever it is needed...with unmatched power and stability. Ideal for delivering prefabricated lumber, structural beams, pre-cast concrete, brick & stone siding, and other manufactured components.



For complete details...Call Toll Free...or E-mail us at:
(800) 331-5851
sales@piggy-back.com

New Compact, Low-Profile Design... and Exceptional Power!

The highly compact PiggyBack PB45 is a new, multi-purpose, truck-mounted forklift for general, onsite construction deliveries. Its dynamic, new design provides significant advantages in size and weight with all-wheel drive power that rivals larger units. Exceptional field agility and a 4,500 lb capacity, make the PB45 a favorite for onsite building material deliveries...especially where unit weight or site congestion are factors. Optional "Low-Profile" allows deliveries inside garages and other securable structures.



STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS™

THE FUTURE OF FRAMING

www.sbcmag.info

Dear Reader:

Copyright © 2008 by Truss Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. For permission to reprint materials from **SBC Magazine**, call 608/310-6706 or email editor@sbcmag.info.

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 affiliated association (WTCA) .



6300 Enterprise Lane • Suite 200 • Madison, WI 53719
608/310-6706 phone • 608/271-7006 fax
www.sbcmag.info • admgr@sbcmag.info