WINTER 2013

OFF THE WALL

WC&C

An Industry Publication by the Wall-Ceiling & Carpentry Industries of New York, Inc.

NYC 2013 Construction Safety Week Begins April 29

Details on page 5

Photos From WC&C's Annual Christmas Party
see pages 14 through 17

CALENDAR
Through June 2013

DATE	TIME	& PLACE	TYPE OF MTG.
March 12 (Tues)	4:00 pm	TBD	Board Meeting
March 12 (Tues)	6:00 pm	TBD	General Membership
April 6 (Sat)	7:00 pm	Terrace on the Park	Dinner Dance
April 16 (Tues)	4:00 pm	TBD	Board Meeting
April 16 (Tues)	6:00 pm	TBD	Membership Meeting
May 8–12		Naples, FL	Association Convention
May 21 (Tues)	4:00 pm	TBD	Board Meeting
May 21 (Tues)	6:00 pm	TBD	Membership Meeting
June 12 (Wed)	7:30 am	Association Office	Board Meeting
June 17 (Mon)	6:30 am	North Hempstead Country Club	Golf Outing

OFF THE WALL

Off The Wall is published through the Promotional Fund by the Association of Wall-Ceiling & Carpentry Industries of New York for the benefit of the membership. It is distributed to members, associate members, union affiliates, and legislators. Editorial contributions, including pictures and story ideas, are welcome and should be forwarded to the WC&C office, 125 Jericho Tpke., Suite 301, Jericho, NY, 11753.

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From the Executive Director John DeLollis

This Could Be The Start of Something Big

In his recent State of the City message, Mayor Bloomberg indicated assuredly that plans to revamp the South Street Seaport, erect a soccer stadium in Queens and create a waterfront park in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, would get done this year. In East Midtown, where zoning regulations around Grand Central have effectively prohibited development of even a few iconic new buildings, plans are underway to rezone the area to allow for new buildings to rise in the decades ahead, while preserving its historic character. This is all good news. Combined with Hudson Yards, Atlantic Yards and a host of other single and multiple projects that appear to be moving forward, 2013 could be a breakout year for New York's Construction Industry.

There is also great speculation that lower Manhattan could become the next hot tech neighborhood. According to Crain's New York Business, there are 497 tech firms downtown and the intention is to increase those numbers. (Watch out Silicon Valley!) We have already seen the expansion plans for tech programs at our local universities. The new campus of the Cornell University graduate school for technology is expected to transform Roosevelt Island from a sleepy bedroom community into a high-technology hothouse.

Many banks, especially local ones, are reported to be loosening credit. Architecture billings growth is positive and indicates construction recovery in 2013. Developers are once again getting serious. Business expansion is really starting to happen. This means more construction of new buildings, renovation of older buildings and new office framing contracts for our union contractors.

Confidence is growing and opportunities are increasing.

And at the same time we are finally looking at the successful completion of our long-going contract negotiations, which will allow our member contractors to breathe more easily and happily concentrate on being competitive on many more building projects.

Spring weather is close at hand. Things look brighter. Hopefully the devastation of the last few months is behind us and there are clear skies ahead for uninterrupted productivity. Make sure you stay competitive to secure a fair share of the market as new projects begin to open up. ***— John DeLollis***

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY WEEK

This year's **Construction Safety Week** begins Monday, April 29 — and you can join us for the kick off at the **2013 Build Safe | Live Safe Conference.** This year's Build Safe | Live Safe Conference will be at the New York Marriott Downtown in Lower Manhattan. Department of Buildings' engineers, architects and construction experts will outline recent industry trends and discuss a vision for the future of construction operations in the City. Plus, we'll lead multiple construction safety courses for professional credit. Last year's conference sold out — so secure your seat now!

From the PRESIDENT Michael Weber

What Doesn't Kill us Makes us Stronger

Enduring the hammering of super storm Sandy this past fall, surviving the doomsday end of the world predictions slated for 12/21/12 and digging out from a three foot blizzard, the past six months have tested the moxie of New Yorker's.

Having the opportunity to help secure homes and provide a habitable environment for the families in Far Rockaway and Breezy Point has been a humbling experience for myself and my company. The devastation of homes and lives that still exists today keeps us grounded and thankful for the things we have. My heart and prayers go out to the thousands of families still rebuilding their lives and homes.

On perhaps a more positive note, we may be concluding our marathon negotiation in regard to the New York City District Council of Carpenters. The pilot program for the shops steward's daily electronic reporting of hours has been concluded and will eliminate the necessity of stewards' having to hand deliver reports during business hours. Should full mobilization to be granted and approved by the courts, the electronic reporting program will be implemented. We have been working closely with the District Council to fine tune the language in this Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) along with the anti-corruption measures being instituted. We want to ensure a level playing field for our members while protecting the sanctity of the wage and benefits of the men and women gainfully employed by our membership.

Once the Collective Bargaining Agreement has been executed, our Association will schedule seminars to update and educate our members on revisions negotiated in the CBA as well as the criteria for the anti-corruption measures being put in place.

In closing, enjoy what is left of this winter to remember. I look forward to a robust turnout for our upcoming spring dinner dance being held at Terrace on the Park on April 6th. ***— Mike Weber***

Construction Management

Manage Renovations, Remodels and Alterations through a Special Projects Division

Terry Kramer, CMC
Construction Executive Magazine

Many construction firms feel that renovation, remodeling and alteration (RRA) projects are a nuisance, eat into profits and hurt cash flow. But views are changing. RRA projects increasingly are being viewed as untapped opportunities waiting to be defined delineated into revenue streams.

Gather Data Before Deciding

Increasingly, construction management firms with concerns about RRA work are pausing to analyze the data before turning projects down. First, they review external market data to determine the potential project opportunities that exist, then they establish their RRA market penetration goals. Larger construction contractors that have done this reviewed 20 cities' worth of data and contrasted those trends over a three-year period to ascertain the typical volume of new construction activity versus RRA construction activity.

According to the analysis, a minimum of 25 percent of all 20 cities' total construction volume included RRA projects. Older cities generated up to 60 percent of their total construction volume in RRA projects. The key conclusion was that older cities, thought to have little construction activity overall, should be viewed as a fresh source of new work in RRA projects.

Next, contractors reviewed internal business data and conducted personnel interviews to see how their companies performed on RRA projects. Their analysis began to tell a story:

- Each company had been producing a higher volume of RRA projects than they had realized.
- The RRA projects produced steadier flows of repeat customers versus irregular new construction opportunities.
- RRA customers had been treated as second class.
- The RRA work produced higher profits and the cash flow turnaround was rapid, thereby minimizing risk.

Project and field management lessons also emerged from the internal review.

- Project managers often dealt with RRA projects in their spare time.
- RRA projects often were mismanaged by project managers who only had large project or new project experience.
- RRA customers often were neglected despite the fact the shorter time frames demanded more intense and frequent customer service.
- RRA projects often were dismissed as a bad strategic fit because the short time frames conflicted with new construction projects' longer time frames.
- Small new construction projects were treated dismissively like RRA projects.
- RRA project personnel often ignored new construction project leads from RRA customers.

Meeting Market Demands

Construction firms that heeded both their analysis of external RRA market data and their internal RRA business assessment of how projects were handled uncovered a rich revenue and profit stream for their companies. To tap that stream, firms instituted a number of changes. They created a volume and profit strategy, along with market segment and geographic penetration goals for a newly established Special Projects Division, and combined small new construction projects into the division because of similar, compressed time frames and customer service needs. Through internal research, they set the ceiling value of small new construction projects for the new SPD and allocated the other new construction projects to the large projects category.

Personnel changes also were required. They created a division manager position to handle all RRA projects and small new construction projects; identified, converted, and transferred many poorly performing project managers and field managers on the new/large projects into service-oriented and customer-oriented managers for RRA projects; and hired or promoted a separate business development director for the SPD. The firms recognized and implemented a different project service delivery system for RRA and small projects, focusing on frequent customer contact. They calculated optimal mark-up pricing for the new SPD to drive higher profits and leveraged the SPD as a marketing tool for new, larger construction projects.

Finally, they tracked the SPD in separate divisional income statements; used the SPD as fertile training ground for personnel to evolve into larger, longer-term projects; and adapted to a matrix organizational structure to provide flexibility of personnel to accommodate the ebb and flow of project workloads among all divisions. For the companies that followed through, these actions were transformational.

In today's market, customers often ask about the value of building new structures. This attitude generates RRA market potential and leads to the creation of SPDs to grab those growing opportunities. Companies should consider establishing a SPD to take advantage of higher profits, a positive impact on overall customer service values, more internal teamwork and organizational flexibility, and a steadier base of revenues, cash flow and profits. In addition, SPDs identify project leads for new construction, enhance the company's image and align the company's culture.

Terry Kramer, CMC, is president of Kramer Management Consulting, specializing in the construction industry for more than 25 years. He can be reached at (480) 824-8194 or tkramer@k-advise.

It's The Law

By Mark A. Rosen

Mark A. Rosen is legal counsel to the Association of Wall-Ceiling & Carpentry Industries of New York, Inc. He is a partner in the firm of McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, LLP. Mark practices in the areas of construction and contract law, public contract law, arbitration, surety, and general commercial litigation. He can be reached at mrosen@mdmc-law.com.

District Of Columbia Circuit Court Holds NLRB Recess Appointments Invalid

In January, the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit held that the President's recess appointments to the National Labor Relations Board ("NLRB") exceeded presidential authority.

The Constitution provides that the President has the power to fill vacancies during a recess of the Senate. Each Congress sits for two "sessions" with a formal recess in between. At issue in this case is whether the Congress was in recess during one of the sessions. Historically, the Executive branch has recognized that a break must last more than three days during a session to constitute a recess that would allow the President to fill vacancies. Congress has adopted the practice of convening for "pro forma" sessions every three days to prevent the exercise of the recess appointment power during sessions.

In the present case, in January, 2012, the President declared that Congress was in recess during a session and appointed three individuals to serve as members of the Board. The President argued that the Senate was, in fact, in recess notwithstanding the pro forma sessions and that he was able to exercise his recess appointment authority.

The court's ruling was broad, holding that the President was authorized to fill vacancies only during formal recesses between sessions, not during breaks in the middle of ongoing sessions.

Several other challenges to those appointments are pending in other federal courts. This issue will ultimately be decided by the United States Supreme Court. Depending on the outcome of that determination, Board rulings and actions since January 4, 2012, the date of the recess appointments at issue, may be subject to attack and to be set aside.

"Alter Ego" Found Liable For $2.4 Million Withdrawal Liability

A multi-employer benefit fund was able to recover $2.4 million in withdrawal liability from a non-union employer that acted as a union employer's alter ego.

The non-union company was a family-run business that began operations in the 1950s. Throughout its existence, it operated as a non-union company. In 1994, one of the company's owners established a union company that operated out of the non-union company's facilities. The union company entered into a collective bargaining agreement that required it to make contributions to a pension fund.

In October 2004, the union company ceased contributing to the Fund and was notified that it owed the Fund approximately $2.4 million in withdrawal liability. The company made several quarterly payments to the Fund until it went out of business in April, 2008, after selling its assets to the non-union company.

The Funds trustees sued both the union and non-union company seeking to recover the outstanding withdrawal liability balance.

The court determined that it was undisputed that the union and non-union companies had substantially identical ownership and management and that the non-union company formed the union company to allow the non-union company to bid on union jobs. The court found that the two companies were alter egos.

Court Imposes Joint And Several Liability On Affiliated Companies For Unpaid Multi-Employer Plan Contributions

A contributing employer, its affiliated entity and one of the principals of the company were found jointly and severally liable for unpaid contributions to several multi-employer benefits funds because the court determined they constituted a single employer.

Company "A" was signatory to a collective bargaining agreement and was obligated to make contributions to several multi-employer benefit funds. The Fund attempted to audit an affiliated entity but was refused access to books and records. The Funds then assessed a delinquency against both the signatory and its affiliate and sued to recovery the delinquency.

The court found both the signatory and its affiliate were jointly and severally liable for the unpaid contributions. The court found that the companies constituted one tightly integrated, family-owned enterprise that qualified as a single employer for liability purposes. The companies used the same business address and rental property, coordinated their billing practices, shared substantially the same business purpose and shared equipment, employees and customers. The court found that the companies had centralized their labor practices by making joint hiring and firing decisions. The court found that both companies had been owned by members of the same immediate family and therefore had common management and ownership.

Further, the court found that it was proper to pierce the corporate veil and hold the principals personally liable as well. The court found that the principal had utilized the companies' assets as his personal "piggybank," using funds to pay his home electric bills and that the companies had not observed corporate formalities in that they had no directors or corporate officers.

Employer Not Entitled To Restitution Of $548,000 In Overpaid Benefit Fund Contributions

A court held that an employer was not entitled to the return of or credit for $548,000 it mistakenly overpaid to a multi-employer health and pension fund.

The company had paid the contributions to the Funds mistakenly for work performed by its employees on projects that were outside the geographic jurisdiction of the applicable collective bargaining agreement. After an audit determined the overpayment, the company unilaterally decided to withhold further contributions after the Funds refused to credit it for the overpayments. The Funds then sued the company for contributions due during the period of time during which it stopped making payments. The company attempted to assert as a set-off the amount of its overpayment.

The court found that a refund was not automatic under ERISA even though the company had established that overpayments were made. The court stated that restitution was inequitable if the company obtained a benefit from the overpayments. In the present case, the company's employees received the insurance coverage benefits and pension benefits reflecting the greater overpayments and that the Funds would have to deduct these pension credits from the employees if restitution were ordered. The court also found that the company unduly delayed seeking reimbursement and that restitution would require the Funds to unwind six years of payments. •

$1.2B JFK Expansion Project Moves On To Second Phase

Phase 1 of Delta's expansion at John F. Kennedy International Airport's Terminal 4 is expected to be completed in May. Rendering courtesy Delta Air Lines

By Rich Bockmann/timesledger.com

With Delta set to open the doors on the first phase of its expansion to John F. Kennedy Airport's Terminal 4 in May, the airline announced the Port Authority has authorized a second, $175 million phase, which is scheduled for completion in 2015.

"This additional expansion project at Terminal 4 is another in a long line of substantial investments we are making in New York," said Richard Anderson, Delta's chief executive officer.

The second phase will allow Delta passengers who normally board flights from stair cars at Terminal 2 to use jet bridges when the company shifts those flights to Terminal 4.

In 2010, the Port Authority's board of commissioners authorized the first phase of Delta's $1.2 billion plan to expand at Terminal 4, the airport's only non-airline-owned, privately operated terminal.

When completed in May, the first phase will include nine new international gates at Terminal 4's Concourse B, making way for the Atlanta-based airline to shift its international operations from Terminal 3, which was built in the 1960s.

Delta said that by moving to the modern terminal it would be able to reduce taxi times and improve operational performance. The company plans to demolish the building to make way for aircraft parking.

The first phase of the redevelopment also includes a passenger connector between Terminals 2 and 4 and expanded baggage claim as well as customs areas.

The second phase will see construction of 11 new gates at the end of Terminal 4's Concourse B, making way for Delta to move its regional jet operations out of Terminal 2.

"Delta's expansion of JFK's Terminal 4 underscores the Port Authority's commitment to partnering with the private sector to modernize our aging assets and continue to stimulate economic growth in the region," said Port Authority Chairman David Samson. "This $1.2 billion project will provide a modern, first-class terminal for passengers at JFK, as well as create good-paying jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity."

The Port Authority estimates the second phase will create 770 jobs accounting for $52 million in wages and $259 million in economic activity. Delta said its current operations at the airport generate 49,000 jobs in the region.

"Expanding Terminal 4 will create needed short- and long-term jobs, while further enhancing passengers' travels in a state-of-the art terminal while en route to their destinations," said Pat Foye, the Port Authority's executive director.

In January, Delta announced it had partnered with Architectural Digest to design an outdoor terrace on top of the terminal called The Sky Deck. •

Ground Broken On 26-Acre Development At Hudson Yards

Development of Hudson Yards Will Create Nearly 23,000 Construction Jobs

By Joanna Rose/Related Companies

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and City Council Speaker Christine Quinn in December joined Related Companies Chairman Stephen M. Ross and OMERS Investment Committee Chair Bill Aziz to celebrate the start of construction at the Hudson Yards – a 26-acre site that was the single largest piece of undeveloped property in Manhattan now set to become the centerpiece of the historic expansion of midtown Manhattan's central business district to the west side. Construction commenced on the first tower, the 1.7 million-square-foot, 47-story South Tower – at the northeast corner of 10th Avenue and 30th Street – the future home of Coach Inc.'s world headquarters. The anticipated LEED Gold tower, designed by Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates, will be completed in 2015. The development of the Hudson Yards is expected to create nearly 23,000 construction jobs. Eventually more than 40,000 people will work in, or call Hudson Yards their home. Mayor Bloomberg, Speaker Quinn and the development team were joined by, among others, Gary LaBarbera, President of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York; and union construction workers who will be working at the site. Attendees witnessed the drilling of the first caissons that will anchor the South Tower.

"Developing Manhattan's final frontier is the next major step in our city's ongoing economic revival," said Mayor Bloomberg. "The Hudson Yards project – whose construction will create 23,000 jobs alone and whose existence will support thousands more – is a testament to our city's economic strength. Related and Oxford's massive and bold investment in this project and the commitments from these tenants demonstrate the confidence in the city's future and the future of the West Side."

"The history of our city has been defined by a series of moments where dreamers dug deep into their imagination, challenged the realm of possibility and brought the seemingly unachievable to life. For 21st Century New York, today is our moment as we start the Hudson Yards, one of the most ambitious developments ever undertaken in the country. Hudson Yards will be the new heart of New York City with state-of-the-art commercial space, vibrant retail and restaurants, a unique cultural center, over a dozen acres of public space with iconic plazas and important public art, a school, residences and affordable housing. Mayor Bloomberg and his administration showed bold leadership and with the partnership of the MTA, Speaker Quinn and the City Council and the community, today we see our collective vision come to life and we again establish that when New Yorkers come together, nothing can stop us," said Related Companies Founder and Chairman Stephen M. Ross.

"This is an exciting day for Hudson Yards, for Oxford Properties and our partner Related Companies, and for New York City. The team that has come together on this project is extraordinary and the belief in city building that the Bloomberg Administration and the MTA have demonstrated is inspired. Upon completion, Hudson Yards will dramatically alter the skyline and will provide significant benefit to the citizens of New York City. Everyone involved in the planning and development of Hudson Yards, and those who choose to work, shop, live and play here, are all a part of something truly remarkable," said Blake Hutcheson, President and CEO of Oxford Properties Group.

"We are delighted that the Hudson Yards project is taking such a tangible step forward," said MTA Chairman and CEO Joseph J. Lhota. "This project and the extension of the #7 subway will revolutionize the far west side and spur the creation of a new neighborhood. And once again, the MTA will be there to serve those new residents and to bring many others here--to the parks, restaurants, entertainment and retail development that will follow."

In 2010, Oxford Properties Group, the real estate investment and development arm of the OMERS Worldwide group of companies, partnered with Related as general partners in the development. In May of 2010, Related and Oxford signed a contract with the MTA for the 13 million square feet of development rights at the Hudson Yards.

"The Hudson Yards project speaks volumes about the attractiveness of New York City, and the West Side of Manhattan in particular, to private investment," said City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn. "With today's groundbreaking, we're not just creating thousands of jobs in the midst of a weak national recovery, we're taking an underutilized publicly owned asset and creating a soon to be thriving neighborhood full of residential and commercial properties."

Coach Inc. is purchasing nearly 740,000 square feet of the South Tower which will create a vertical campus with a soaring atrium serving as the visual anchor for the High Line. This central atrium will also be the heart of Coach's space, and is reflective of the company's collective and community-focused environment. The South Tower will be followed by the North Tower of 2.4 million square feet at the southwest corner of 10th Avenue and 33rd Street, and the two towers will be linked by a major retail complex.

"Our involvement in Hudson Yards reflects both our commitment to New York City and, in particular, the neighborhood that Coach has called home for more than five decades. This project is also a testament to Coach's future. Coach continues to expand both in America and around the world, underscoring the need for a new global headquarters that is as modern and dynamic as the brand itself. The headquarters will reflect Coach's key attributes of innovation, quality and collaboration, enabling Coach to efficiently consolidate its operations under one roof. Perhaps our most important collaboration is with this great city. New York is part of Coach's DNA and we are as bullish on the revitalization of the Hudson Yards neighborhood as we are on the unparalleled vibrancy and future of New York City," said Lew Frankfort, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Coach Inc.

"Mayor Bloomberg has laid out a bold transformative vision for the West Side of Manhattan, and with today's landmark announcement we are one step further to seeing that vision realized," Deputy Mayor Steel said. "Hudson Yards will be an iconic destination for businesses, residents and visitors."

"The groundbreaking of the Hudson Yards today shows the strength of New York City's real estate market," said Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer. "Through partnership and perseverance, the City has taken a literal 'hole in the ground' and turned it into the future home of New York's premiere retail and office space. The project will provide significant new sources of revenue for the MTA, amenities like cultural space and several acreages of open space, and opportunities for a new school and much-needed units of affordable housing. I am proud to have supported this development. It shows that as a City we can expand our economy, generate needed revenue and job growth, while at the same time, protect and preserve local communities."

Gary LaBarbera, President of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York said, "The Building and Construction Trades and our affiliated unions have worked with Related Companies for a quarter century to develop outstanding commercial and residential properties in New York City. Hudson Yards marks the next and most significant chapter in continuing this relationship for many years to come. This project will be the largest private sector creator of union construction jobs for our members. We could not be more pleased to bring the training, skill and quality that comes with union labor in the building and construction trades to this great addition to New York City's skyline."

Related and Oxford's development of the Hudson Yards is the largest private development to be realized in New York City since Rockefeller Center and will help make the Hudson Yards neighborhood a new center of commerce, culture and community. The 26-acre site will accommodate over 13 million square feet, including over 6 million square feet of commercial space. Building on the successful retail and restaurant programming Related developed in The Shops at Columbus Circle, Hudson Yards will be home to 750,000 square feet of destination retail space with 5 floors dedicated to premier shops, cinemas, specialty destination restaurants, markets and bars. Danny Meyer's Union Square Events is expected to program a number of the spaces at Hudson Yards featuring dynamic culinary and hospitality offerings such as private dining spaces for tenants, unique signature events, catered affairs and open-air cafés. •

Photo: NYC Mayor's Office

Unions Throw Weight Behind Queens Soccer Stadium

Groups representing 200,000 workers kick the plan to build a Major League Soccer stadium in Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Queens, one step closer to the goal line

By Annie Karni
Crain's New York Business

Plans for a Major League Soccer stadium in Queens were kicked one step closer to the goal line recently, with three major unions announcing their support for the proposal.

The Hotel Trades Council, Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York and 32BJ SEIU—which together count more than 200,000 workers as members—said they are backing plans to build a soccer stadium in Flushing Meadows Corona Park that would house a new team. The stadium has become a priority project for the Bloomberg administration. It is offering Major League Soccer a 35-year, $1-a-year lease, with no sales taxes on construction materials, no property taxes and no revenue sharing with the city.

But the privately-financed $300-million stadium has also become a hot button issue among community groups worried they will lose a portion of the only large park in the neighborhood.

The union leaders said they were throwing their political weight behind the large project because it would create about 2,100 construction-related jobs, 160 full-time jobs and 750 part-time jobs.

The union endorsements were hardly a shock. Major League Soccer has indicated it would use union labor to build the 25,000-seat venue. The soccer league has also struck an agreement with Local 100 to make it easier for stadium food service workers to organize, sources said.

Major League Soccer is in talks with the city to build a $300 million, 25,000-seat stadium on up to 13 acres in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park.

But some community leaders remain opposed to the project. "We represent thousands of families in the community who depend on the park and are concerned about the proposals to replace it," said Joseph McKellar, leader of the Fairness Coalition of Queens, which includes half a dozen community groups opposed to the stadium plan. "We support big construction jobs but the question is long term jobs, and how will it affect small businesses in Corona East."

Defenders of the project claim the stadium will also enhance a park many claim is run down and not well-maintained. Major League Soccer would also be required to replace any official park land where it builds.

The soccer league hailed the union endorsement as another step ahead.

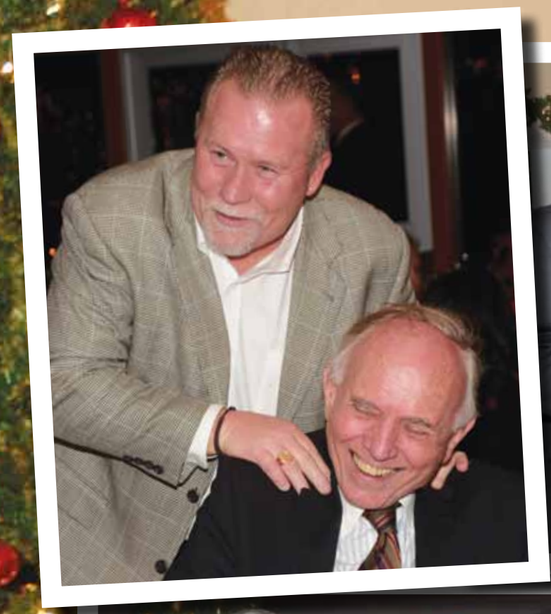
"We are thrilled to have the support of the unions who represent hundreds of thousands of working men and women," a Major League Soccer spokeswoman said. "They understand, as we do, what an important economic engine this stadium will be." And the Bloomberg Administration agrees. "This major private investment in Queens would create thousands of quality jobs in an area of the city where economic activity is badly needed," said a City Hall spokesman. •

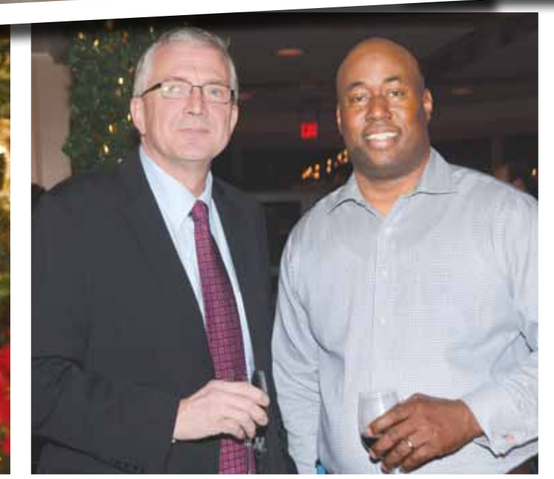
Photo: Works/Shutterstock.com

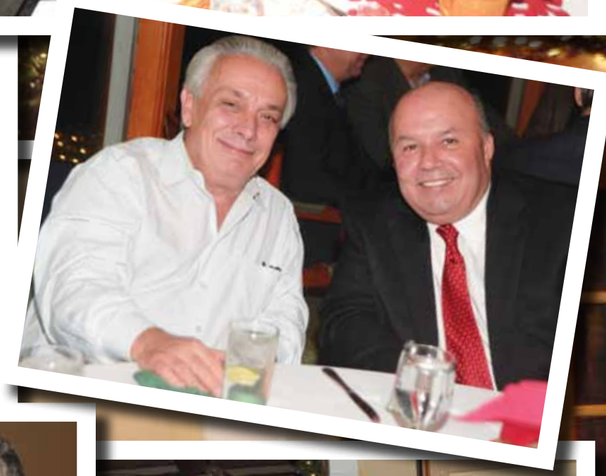
WC&C Annual Christmas Party

December 11, 2012

North Hempstead Country Club







World's Largest 'Modular' Tower Breaks Ground At Atlantic Yards Site

By Rich Calder/NY Post

Brooklyn's Atlantic Yards project is now being built one "Lego" at a time.

Officials held a ceremonial groundbreaking for a 32-story, 363-apartment tower going up next to Barclays Center – one that will be manufactured piece by piece two miles away at a Brooklyn Navy Yard factory and, when stacked together, will become the world's largest prefabricated "modular" building.

The project -- which will include 181 apartments for families of low to moderate incomes and 182 priced at market rate -- is also the first of 16 long-stalled towers planned for the embattled $5 billion Atlantic Yards project that the Nets' arena is the centerpiece of.

"It will be beautiful," crowed developer Bruce Ratner about the honeycomb-looking glass-and-steel behemoth rising at the corner of Dean Street and Flatbush Avenue. "You do not have to compromise on design when you build modular, and this building will prove that."

The new building was designed by SHoP Architects, which also designed Barclay Center. The building will just be eight feet away from the Dean Street side of the arena and is expected to be complete by Summer 2014.

Unlike most project groundbreakings, Ratner and other officials didn't carry shovels and dig dirt. Instead, they posed for photographs inside the first of 930 steel-framed boxes – or "chassis" – that will form the tower's structure.

Photo courtesy SHoP Architects

Each will be produced at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, trucked to the project site, then lifted in place and bolted together.

"The modular construction that will be used for … Atlantic Yards really has the potential to change the way cities are build," Mayor Bloomberg said. "It makes construction cheaper, faster and less destructive than ever." •

Union Reps, Contractors, Accuse DOB Of Bending Rules For Forest City Ratner's Atlantic Yards Project

Hiten Samtani/The Real Deal

Union representatives and contractors accused the city's Department of Buildings of bending the rules on modular housing for Forest City Ratner's Atlantic Yards megaproject at a city council hearing Tuesday, according to the watchdog blog Atlantic Yards Report.

The DOB allowed the developer to prefabricate housing off-site without the supervision of licensed plumbers, electricians and steamfitters, the union representatives said, in a clear violation of city regulations. Some said that the developer actively sought the relaxed permissions.

In response to a question from Council Member Letitia James, Stewart O'Brien, executive director of the Plumbing Foundation, said he believed that the project's safety had been compromised by the prospect of greater profits.

Committee Chair Erik Martin Dilan, who noted that the hearing was conducted in an unusually low-key manner, said that "what I do see occur is clear noncompliance with the code. We will ask the Buildings Department and the Mayor's Office why they think this has occurred, because I think it should be corrected." Dilan declined to speak to the representatives claims' that Forest City had influenced the DOB.

Representatives from the DOB and Forest City were not present at the hearing, having testified previously. The developer had previously emphasized to the council the perks of high-rise modular construction, the Report said. The 32-story tower with 363 units is expected to be the world's tallest modular taller upon completion in 2014. Forest City had promised during the approval process that half of the units would be affordable, as The Real Deal previou*sly reported.* [Atlantic Yards Report]

U.S. Green Building Council Announces Grant from Google to Catalyze Transformation of Building Materials Industry and Indoor Health

Focus is on healthy building materials to promote indoor environmental quality and human health

By Ashley Katz/USGBC

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) announced on the main stage at its annual Greenbuild International Conference and Expo in November, a $3 million grant from Google that will catalyze the transformation of the building materials industry and accelerate the creation of healthier indoor environments.

"Healthy, non-toxic building materials are a critical component in green building," said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO & Founding Chair, U.S. Green Building Council. "Fostering awareness of the materials we put into our buildings is of paramount importance, since many materials can link to a host of environmental and health issues. Working with Google enables us to broaden our efforts in the materials industry as we prepare for the next version of the LEED green building program, LEED v4. This updated rating system will paint a more complete picture of materials and products, enabling project teams to make more informed decisions."

"The idea for this project emerged from our own work at Google, where we're committed to creating the healthiest work environments possible that help employees perform at their best," said Anthony Ravitz, Google's Green Team Lead. "USGBC has a deep background in spearheading research, developing a rating system spanning the globe and engaging with the many stakeholders in the building industry, making them the perfect partner to help spur real change on the healthy materials front."

The grant will focus on three areas that will spur the creation of healthier indoor environments and encourage market transformation in the building materials industry: supporting research on building materials and health, developing new transparency tools and engaging stakeholders from across the industry.

"Improving the indoor environment, increasing materials transparency and advancing the understanding of materials' impact on health are critical targets for the LEED program as it continues to evolve," said Scot Horst, Senior Vice President, LEED, USGBC. "Ultimately, we are looking to create overall benefit for the environment and for human health."

The new initiatives will be developed over the next two years.•

Big Condo Tower Gets $350M Funding

Financial package assembled by Bank of America, M&T Bank and others is one of the biggest since the market for condominiums began to revive last year.

By Daniel Geiger/crainsnewyork.com

Bank of America and a group of other lenders, including M&T Bank, have closed on a $350 million package of financing for a planned 60-story residential condominium at 56 Leonard St. in TriBeCa, sources familiar with the deal say.

It is one of the largest construction loans to be awarded since the condo industry began to stir to life last year after several years of dormancy following the Great Recession.

Bank of America has been an active lender to a growing pipeline of office, retail and residential development projects.

The North Carolina-based bank is in talks to provide part of a $200 million loan to the Related Companies to build a second phase to its Gateway retail center in Brooklyn's East New York section. The new wing of that project will be anchored by a Shop Rite grocery store.

At 56 Leonard Street the Texas-based development firm Hines is overseeing the project, which was designed by the Swiss architecture firm Herzog & de Meuron, which famously designed the so-called birds nest stadium for the Beijing Olympics, as well as the condo at 40 Bond St. in lower Manhattan, with its distinctive green-glass facade.

Executives involved in the deal could not be reached for comment.

With $80, UCSD grad fixes blueprint headache

UCSD grad's invention upturns industry

By Roger Showley/San Diego Union Tribune

Terriann Nohilly, left, shows Component West carpenters Jamie Wedmore, center, and Joseph Laurent, right the Turner "Linked" web-based navigation dashboard she created for the Lindbergh Field expansion project. Photo by Howard Lipin

The Linked dashboard begins a user on the journey to finding drawings and documents for a construction project. Photo by Howard Lipin

Terriann Nohilly, 24, only three years out of college at UC San Diego, has upturned the construction industry with a new software invention with only an $80 investment.

Developed for her employer Turner Construction, "Linked" ties together mountains of blueprints, memos and other data into a web-based, visually oriented file box that helps field superintendents and subcontractors manage construction sites with a minimum of confusion.

"The construction process is far from perfect," said Nohilly, a native of Riverside who majored in chemical engineering. "As we move the construction industry into the 20th, let alone the 21st century, what has been really tremendous is getting people the correct information with obviously relative ease ... in a timely way."

Nohilly, who originally wanted to be environmental engineer, interned with Turner during college and became a fulltime employee in 2010 as a procurement engineer at the billion-dollar Lindbergh Field expansion project.

Along the way, she won Irish dancing contests, ran half-marathons, helped build Habitat for Humanity houses and lately joined Toastmasters to hone her public speaking skills.

On the job, Nohilly soon realized that the construction document software for staff and contractors was so difficult to navigate that most couldn't use it. They were trying to make sense of Microsoft's SharePoint document sharing program and Bluebeam Revu's system of posting PDFs of construction drawings.

"It was very underutilized," Nohilly said.

And when the iPad came out in 2010, she advised her bosses that tablets were the wave of the future and could she help prepare the company for using mobile devices. They gave her $1,000 for an Asus tablet (she's a PC, not an Apple aficionado).

So she and an intern from Germany, Daniel Kettler, used an $80 PowerPoint program to convert document links to HTML, the computer code language for the web.

They created a dashboard with icons that lead users to drawings, documents, videos and other information, after using white boards to sketch out path a user might follow to track down a key item.

In a six-week period last year, they beta-tested their workaround with a half-dozen Turner employees and contractors and on Aug. 28, 2011, they went live with the program.

A followup survey indicated that users saved 5.5 hours a week in document navigation.

Now, 200-300 people at the Lindbergh project site, including at the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, are using Linked on their tablets, laptops and desktops -- all without a manual or the need for an intensive training session.

Then Nohilly spoke to a Turner audience in San Francisco and two Bluebeam user conferences in Los Angeles and Seattle, all culminating in a $10,000 Turner innovation award, announced at the end of September.

The program is detailed on a website, *turnerlinked.com*, created specifically for the innovation award entry form, where employees and contractors extoll Linked's virtues.

"I think it's a necessity for Turner just to incorporate this into their standard program around the country," Dan McGuck, Turner's project executive at Lindbergh, says on the video.

As to why a newbie in the construction trades succeeded in overturning centuries of habit, Nohilly said she's not sure if it's because she's young, a woman or a UCSD grad.

But in an industry once the exclusive domain of burly men in hardhats and armed with tool belts around their middles, a woman's viewpoint may have been instrumental in breaking the mold.

"Men are very linear and they can't multitask," she said. "You have to open up and see past this linear idea."

Her success might also be thanks to Turner's entrepreneurial culture that she says allowed her to try out new things.

"I think I'm a little weird," she said. "I'm not a typical engineer. I think I look at things differently. And once I dialed in, I really had this desire to bring this creative fusion, this combination of the artistic and technology, and this new way of thinking about it – this idea of digitally looking at it differently." •

Architect-Billing Index in U.S. Increases to Five-Year High

By Jeff Kearns/Bloomberg

Billings by U.S. architecture firms increased in November at the fastest pace in five years, a sign construction will pick up next year as businesses invest in commercial projects.

The American Institute of Architects Billings Index climbed to 53.2 last month, the highest level since November 2007, from 52.8 in October, the Washington-based group said today. Readings above 50 signal an increase in activity. The gauge has advanced for six consecutive months, the longest winning streak in its 17-year history.

Billings tend to lead construction by nine to 12 months, according to AIA chief economist Kermit Baker. The value of all U.S. construction projects climbed in October to an $872.1 billion annual rate, the fastest since September 2009, Commerce Department data show.

"There appears to be some new life generated in the construction sector of the economy, which has been pretty much dormant since the recession," Bernard Baumohl, chief global economist at Economic Outlook Group LLC, a Princeton New Jersey- based forecasting firm, said before the report.

AIA researchers produce the report by surveying about 700 U.S.-based firms, including Skidmore Owings & Merrill LLP and HOK Architects Corp., on whether billings rose, fell, or remained the same in the past month. Firms reporting inquiries about designing new projects also rose for a sixth straight month, climbing to a nine-month high of 59.6 from 59.4 in October.

"It's indicative of confidence," Rodd Merchant, a senior vice president at JE Dunn Co., a Kansas City, Missouri-based building contractor, said before the report. "A lot of that work on the private side is driven by corporations investing in their operations, whether office or industrial." •

Business Value of BIM Report Tracks Adoption Patterns

By Tom Sawyer/enr.construction.com

The flow of young practitioners acquiring skills in building information modeling is shrinking, which may affect the industry for years to come. That decrease is one of the trends that is identified in a recently released survey report tracking the adoption of BIM in North America from 2007 through the fall of 2012.

The data is reported by McGraw-Hill Construction Research & Analytics, a sister business unit of ENR.

The latest report, "The Business Value of BIM in North America," analyzes survey data—which was collected in August and September from 582 respondents—against data gathered from a similar, 2009 sample set, baselined against data from 2007. The 70-page report is available at www.analyticsstore.construction.com for free download.

The data shows BIM taking hold, with 71% of architects, engineers, contractors and owners reporting engagement with BIM on projects, up from 28% in 2007. It also shows a surge of uptake by contractors but a leveling off of adoption by architects. Contractors, whose 49% engagement in 2009 trailed architects by 9%, now lead all firm types, at 74%, with architects 4% behind. Engineers, with BIM engagement in 2009 at about 25%, now clock in at 69%.

The report parses these numbers by discipline, skill level and degree of implementation, and then weighs users' engagement against their perceived return on investment (ROI). Overall, 67% of firms reporting "very high" BIM engagement claim "very positive" ROI, 37% claim "moderately positive," and 6% claim "negative or break-even." By contrast, 67% of firms with "low engagement" reported low ROI, but 20% still termed their ROI "very positive."

Users with five or more years of experience rose to 36% from 18% between 2009 to 2012, but the percentage of users with one or two years of experience dropped precipitously—9% from 22% and 13% from 26%, respectively. Analysts suggest the spread reflects accumulating experience of existing users; but the recent slowdown in design and construction activity means fewer new practitioners. •

CertainTeed Ceilings Leverages ecoScorecard™, SmartBIM® Tools to Streamline Green Building Projects

Significantly streamlining green building specification and documentation, CertainTeed Corporation has integrated its ceilings product line into ecoScorecard™ and SmartBIM® online tools. Both platforms help architects and building professionals leverage the benefits of CertainTeed's high-performance ceilings products, while eliminating the time-intensive manual research and analysis of green building projects.

"CertainTeed offers an unrivaled array of ceilings solutions with remarkable sustainable appeal," said Dawn Chittick, marketing manager for CertainTeed Ceilings. "Through the ecoScorecard and SmartBIM tools, architects and designers can quickly evaluate and understand the environmental impact of our products. By providing readily-available product information in the format they need, we're ultimately supporting a more sustainable built environment."

ecoScorecard provides architects and designers with the ability to search and evaluate products based on environmental characteristics, including 1,200 unique attributes across 20 green building rating systems. The free online system automatically updates as rating systems change and offers easy access to the documentation required for project submittals.

Allowing architects and designers the ability to gauge environmental performance throughout the design process, the SmartBIM Tool featuring ecoScorecard is a plug-in for use with Autodesk Revit® and Trimble SketchUp®. The tool embeds all of the environmental data included in ecoScorecard into the product's BIM object.

"The SmartBIM Tool featuring ecoScorecard enables architects and designers to perform evaluations that until recently took hundreds of hours and cost owners thousands of dollars to complete," says Mike Collins, executive vice president of sales & marketing at SmartBIM. "Additionally, sustainability evaluations can be done at any stage of a project's design and development, which keeps environmental evaluation at the heart of the design process. We commend CertainTeed Ceilings on including this valuable tool as part of their overarching commitment to the green building industry."

To access ecoScorecard and SmartBIM objects for CertainTeed Ceilings products, visit http://certainteedceilings.ecoscorecard.com.

As experts in the science of sound, CertainTeed Ceilings serves as a single source for high-quality ceilings that create acoustically friendly, aesthetically captivating environments. Encompassing the Performa, Ecophon and Gyptone brands along with Decoustics — a leader in high-precision, custom-engineered solutions — the company offers the perfect balance of innovation, budget and beauty with products that range from basic high-performance panels to premium, customizable systems. Through its emphasis on Environmental Acoustics™, CertainTeed Ceilings provides solutions that promote healthier interiors, while having a smaller impact on the environment, which includes ceiling products with one of the highest concentrations of recycled content in the industry as well as a recycling program for used ceiling panels. The company is the first ceilings manufacturer to issue Environmental Product Declarations through UL Environment and The Green Standard. For more information, visit www.certainteed.com.•

Seismic Fabric Coming on the Market

New material helps strengthen older buildings against quakes

Walls are "papered" with long lengths of seismic fabric and then plastered. In case of emergency, the seismic fabric holds the debris and keeps escape routes free from obstruction. (Photo: M. Urban/ KIT)

A Glass Fiber Plastic Composite Material Stabilizing Building Walls and Reducing the Consequences of Earth Quakes – Industry Launching Innovative Product Developed at a German technology institute

In the case of earthquakes, only seconds may remain for a safe escape from buildings. Debris falling down and obstructing the escape routes may even aggravate the situation. A product developed at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) extends the time for saving lives by reinforcing walls and keeping off the debris. An innovative building material manufacturer now has launched the mature innovation on the market.

"The market launch has turned our lab idea into a concrete innovation," rejoice the developers of the new reinforcing earthquake fabric. For several years, Lothar Stempniewski and Moritz Urban have investigated possibilities of low-cost retroactive securing and reinforcement of earthquake-prone walls of older buildings. They invented a glass fiber plastic fabric with four fiber directions. By means of an appropriate plaster, this special seismic fabric is applied onto the respective facings. Together with Dr. Günther Kast GmbH & Co. KG, a manufacturer of technical tissues, the high-tech tissue was developed to maturity. Under the brand name "Sisma Calce", the Italian building material manufacturer Röfix, a subsidiary company of the German Fixit Group, now has included seismic fabric and a proper plaster in its product range.

"Thanks to the reinforcement, collapsing of walls due to earthquakes can be delayed and, in the ideal case, be avoided completely. "Particularly in the case of short and moderate earthquakes, mostly not much more additional tensile strength is needed to avoid a collapse of the building," explains Urban. The simplicity of that "prophylactic dressing" allows to apply it easily during renovation together with insulation. "In the case of a catastrophe," Stempniewski adds, "much can be achieved if only we succeed in reinforcing and protecting critical infrastructures such as hospitals, schools, or rest homes."

The high stiffness and considerable tensile strength of the glass fibers in the quasi plaster-integrated fabric allow walls to better reduce higher tensile stresses during earthquakes and avoid that punctual damage occurs and develops into cracks. Should the fibers rupture in spite of their strength during a heavy earthquake, the elastic polypropylene fibers will hold the broken wall segments together and keep them off the escape routes. The two developers are sure that "the reinforcing earthquake fabric gives occupants more time to escape buildings." Under advantageous conditions, the walls may even stay intact and houses could be repaired after the earthquake." The stabilizing deformation behavior contributes to a better reduction of the energy introduced into the walls through the horizontal forces of the earthquake's acceleration forces.

In cooperation with Bayer MaterialScience AG, MAPEI S.p.A., and Dr. Günther Kast GmbH & Co. KG, the introduction of an adhesive seismic fabric for indoor use is currently being prepared. Besides researching into systems for masoned walls, the team around Stempniewski intends to investigate into reasonable solutions for concrete buildings. "The challenge in the case of concrete is the higher force that must be absorbed. We thus test new materials such as carbon fibers. In doing so, we at the same time lay the foundations for future innovations to be developed by KIT." In total, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology already holds approximately 2000 patents in numerous research areas.

For further information on research by Prof. Lothar Stempniewski, visit http://www.imb.kit.edu/mb/1299.php . •

CertainTeed's New Linear Wood Ceiling Panels and Grilles Bring the Warmth of Natural Wood to Interior Spaces

Decoustics, a CertainTeed Ceilings company specializing in high-precision, custom-engineered solutions, is expanding its line of wood ceiling options with its new Linear Wood Ceiling Panels and Grilles. Linear Wood brings added warmth and depth to interior spaces and provides enhanced design flexibility to architects and designers.

Linear Wood panels and grilles feature solid medium-density fiberboards (MDF) with a natural wood veneer finish. The panels and grilles are available in cherry, beech, maple and ash finishes, as well as custom veneers and are available in wood which is Forest Stewardship Council® certified by the Rainforest Alliance (FSC® C020536). Linear Wood panels and grilles are available in standard lengths with a range of options for module and plank widths as well as panel thickness.

"Architects and designers are incorporating wood ceilings into their designs to create warm, inviting spaces," said Dawn Chittick, director of marketing for CertainTeed Ceilings. "With a number of available finishes, sizes and configurations, Linear Wood is a versatile option that complements Decoustics' comprehensive portfolio of high-performance ceilings products."

Linear Wood is available in Panelized, Lay-in and Continuous design configurations, and Linear Wood grille options include Dowel, Cross Piece and Lay-in configurations.

For over 35 years, Decoustics has served as a leader in interior architectural products through the design and manufacture of innovative acoustical ceiling panels, wall panels and systems. A CertainTeed Ceilings company, Decoustics specializes in custom-engineered, high-precision solutions backed by world-class expertise and technical support.

New Flat Strap Fire Rated Backer From BlazeFrame Industries

BlazeFrame Industries has recently added the Flat Strap Backer (FSB) to its selection of fire rated steel framing solutions. This new product provides up to 2 hour Drywall Reveal Moulding Protection and Framing Solutions.

The Flat Strap Backer (FSB) is a flat strap steel profile with affixed intumescent. It is designed to attach to existing wall framing as a fire rated backing to various wall reveal trims. BlazeFrame FSB has been certified to ASTM E-119 standards for up to 2 hour Fire Rated protection. It is installed behind drywall reveal mouldings, zinc or vinyl, to eliminate the need for an extra layer of wallboard. BlazeFrame FSB has been tested in horizontal and vertical applications.

For more information on this or other BlazeFrame products, contact Brad Hamilton at (425) 869-2811, by email at brad@blazeframe.com, or on the website at www.blazeframe.com.

Chicago Metallic's Panels For Exterior Soffits Withstand +/- Wind Loads

Exterior soffits perform essential functions for ventilating, shading and directing water away from a building. Regardless of geography or climate, exterior soffits are subjected to positive and negative wind loads.

Meeting these challenging conditions, Chicago Metallic® Corporation's Planostile™ and Planar™ metal ceiling systems are engineered to withstand positive and negative pressures.

The Planostile™ snap-in system for exterior soffits is designed to withstand positive and negative pressure and is listed with Underwriters Laboratories as a UL30 system per UL construction Number 630.

Metal ceiling systems accommodate lighting, air diffusers and audio accessories and structural items that must pass through the soffit assembly. Once installed, the plenum remains accessible for future care and cleaning.

With proper closures, exterior metal soffits are not hospitable environments for pests compared with organic materials that can attract ants, termites, wasps and other insects. Aluminum is impermeable to air, water, light and microorganisms. Metal ceiling systems will not accumulate moisture nor do they contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs), or any substance that would support mold or microbial growth.

Chicago Metallic provides architects and engineers with performance information to assist them in meeting their projects' specific needs. Performance data and charts are available on the website at www.chicagometallic.com and from the company's technical service department.

Graco Introduces SD Series Cord and Light Reels Organize Your Work Space For A Safer, More Productive Work Environment

Graco, a leader in lubrication equipment solutions, introduced its new SD Series™ Cord and Light Reels. This new addition to the Graco reel line is designed to deliver a durable solution to managing work lights and extension cords while maintaining a safe work environment and gives customers one source shopping for the entire reel bank.

The innovative SD Series is engineered with a narrower footprint than competitive reels by tucking the spring cassette inside the spool to maximize space. Compare other reels to Graco's slim 4.7 inch profile–it's great for fitting into enclosures for a professional look or the back of a lube truck where space is limited. All Graco cord and light reels feature an exclusive slip ring design that promotes long life and durability, plus the spring is completely enclosed for protection and is easier and safer to repair with access on the open side of the reel. The durable, heavy gauge steel frame won't flex or bend and meets UL355 (rated for light outdoor use), CSA22.2 No. 21 and IP44 standards for general, commercial and industrial grade use.

"The SD Series Cord and Light Reels are for customers that require quality and value," said Laura Evanson, global product marketing manager for Graco's Lubrication Equipment Division. "These reels can take a beating and still perform for professionals who value quality-built products with smooth operation and excellent performance."

For more information on the Graco SD Series family of cord and light reels visit www.graco.com or call 800-533-9655.

ZipWall® Introduces ZipRail™ Dual Seal Accessory

The ZipRail™ Dual Seal is a great new product that lets you create a dust-tight seal along the entire floor and ceiling without tape. Used with your existing ZipWall® barrier system, the new ZipRail accessory uses our patented twist-locking spring loaded pole

and two 4' Foam Rail crossbars mounted top and bottom to push the plastic sheeting tight to the ceiling and the floor. The ZipRail Dual Seal is the fast and easy way to get the best performance from your ZipWall dust barrier system.

The ZipRail™ Dual Seal is ideal for hospital construction, where infection control is a concern. It's perfect for demolition, drywall work and concrete restoration where fine dust can creep over and under the plastic sheeting. It can be used in abatement as well as mold remediation. And it is also ideal for flood and fire restoration where quick containment setup maximizes profitability.

The product is available in single packs and triple packs through ZipWall dealers nationwide.

USG Introduces High-Performance, Moisture Resistant Glass-Mat Panels For Pre Dry-in Construction

USG a leading wallboard and building products manufacturer, introduced SHEETROCK Brand Glass-Mat Panels Mold Tough FIRECODE X, a high-performance interior wall panel with moisture and mold resistance. Ideal for new construction or renovation projects, SHEETROCK Glass-Mat Panels are optimal in the pre dry-in (aka "pre-rock") application of wallboard before the building envelope is enclosed and can be used in protected exterior soffit applications.

"As a leader in wallboard innovation, we are continuously looking to deliver upon our customers' changing needs and desires, and this product is a result," says Scott Feste, director, wallboard products – marketing. "With warranted weather performance, these innovative panels deliver exceptional moisture and mold resistance when weather exposure is anticipated. Plus, they're backed by the service and support only USG can provide."

SHEETROCK Glass-Mat Panels feature a non-combustible moisture and mold resistant gypsum core encased in an inorganic fiberglass mat that sheds water and has tapered edges for easy finishing. They are UL classified as to fire resistance and easily score and snap, allowing a quick and easy installation with no sawing or special tools required. The facer mat is colored to match traditional drywall and is engineered to accept the application of USG finishing systems.

Scoring a 10 out of 10 on ASTM D3273 test for mold resistance, these panels provide the highest level of mold and moisture resistance available, and are guaranteed for three years against manufacturing defects and 12 months of weather exposure.

For more information about SHEETROCK Brand Glass-Mat Panels, please visit www.USG.com.

VertiTrack® VT Introduced by The Steel

Slots of Ingenuity
Flawless Screw Placement With Friction Free Movement

Introducing VertiTrack® VT, a slotted deflection track improvement allowing for vertical movement in interior walls. This unique, patent-pending assembly enables a positive

attachment between the track and stud flanges to prevent the transfer of forces into the drywall, which could cause damage and violate the fire rated assemblies.

Integral bushing provides for quick and accurate placement without the need to back out screws.

Standard #8 Modified Truss-Head screws (minimum 11mm or 0.426" wide screw head) can be fully tightened. Load rated, positive mechanical attachment. Connection allows up to 1 ½" total vertical deflection. Slots are spaced at 1" centers, allowing for virtually any stud spacing. Staggered guide holes in VertiTrack's web provide for structural attachment using PAF's or screws. Manufactured from certified ASTM A653/A653M grade 50, 50 ksi minimum yield, G60 minimum coating galvanized material. Exceeds cycling standards found in ASTM E 1966 and UL2079. Rated for movement types I, II, and III.

For more information go to www.steelnetwork.com/.

New Heavy-Duty Performance Wheel From Metabo Cuts And Grinds

Combined cutting and grinding wheels save time and money and enhances safety

Metabo Corporation, a leading international manufacturer of professional grade portable electric power tools and abrasives for industrial, construction and welding applications, now offers a combined cutting and grinding wheel. The Combinator, designed for performance and safety, eliminates the need to change abrasive wheels during cutting and grinding applications. With the Combinator wheel, one grinder can be used for two applications.

The Combinator is ideal for cutting, deburring and light grinding. At 5/64" thick, it cuts quickly and with three full layers of fiberglass, safety is designed into the wheel for grinding applications.

The Combinator makes quick, clean and straight cuts in stainless steel, steel, alloy steels, hardened steels, pipe, tube and solids. This specially formulated wheel is contaminant-free, making these perfect for stainless steel grinding and cutting applications.

Available in 4-1/2", 5" and 6" type 27 versions, the Combinator employs an improved abrasive/resin formulation for fast cutting with increased wheel life, as well as strength and rigidity for grinding / metal removal applications.

The Combinator wheels simplify abrasive choice, increase productivity and decrease overall cost of grinder operation.

For more information, please visit http://www.metabo.us/NEW-Combinator-Cutting-Grinding-Wheel.45233.0.html or contact Terry Tuerk, Metabo Corporation, 1231 Wilson Drive, West Chester, Pa. 19380. Tel: 800/ 638-2264; Fax: 800/ 638-2261; Email: ttuerk@metabousa.com; Web: www.metabousa.com

Stanley Launches New Virtual Level App for the iPad and iPhone

Stanley® announced the introduction of its redesigned level app, now for iPad® and new iPhone® models. This free app is available online at the Apple App Store and brings users the accuracy and reliability they are accustomed to with traditional Stanley® levels in virtual form. "With over five million iPhone 5s sold in its first weekend alone, we are excited to offer our customers a revamped app compatible with features like Retina™ display," said Todd Langston, Director of Brand Marketing. Two virtual levels are included in the app which emulate existing Stanley® levels; choose from our classic cherry wood or popular yellow FatMax.

The Stanley® level app is ideal for simple jobs like hanging pictures, mounting shelves and more when you don't have a conventional level available. "Convenient and portable, it's a must have app for everyone from the professional contractor to the novice DIY-er," says Langston. This app combines more than a century's worth of hand tool manufacturing experience with today's latest digital technology. It harnesses the technology of an accelerometer and a digital gyroscope located in select iPhone and iPad models, to generate an understanding of where the device is in space. After an initial calibration, the bubble will read an angle up to 90 degrees and will indicate 0 degrees when you are level, with crisp, easy to read numbers.

The Stanley® Level App is available for free at the Apple App Store and is compatible with iPhone 3GS, iPhone 4, iPhone 4S, iPhone 5, iPod touch (3rd generation), iPod touch (4th generation), iPod touch (5th generation) and iPad. Requires iOS 5.0 or later.

Stanley®, a brand of Stanley Black & Decker, Inc., is a diversified worldwide supplier of tools and engineered solutions for professional, industrial, woodworking, construction and do-it-yourself use. For over 165 years, the trusted Stanley® brand has been synonymous with quality, value and reliability. Its well-known hand tool and storage brands include Stanley®, FatMax® and FatMax Xtreme®. Headquartered in New Britain, Conn., Stanley Black & Decker, Inc. operates multiple manufacturing facilities and sales offices throughout the globe. For more information, visit www.stanleytools.com or follow Stanley on Facebook and Twitter.

Milwaukee® Introduces Most Compact Caulk and Adhesive Gun on the Market

Milwaukee Electric Tool continues to expand the industry's largest sub-compact battery system with the introduction of the new M12™ Cordless Caulk and Adhesive Gun. With 40% less weight than competitive cordless caulk guns, the new tool is the most compact and lightest weight professional battery powered caulk gun on the market, bridging the gap between heavier high force cordless options and laborious hand tools.

"For years the only professional battery powered caulking guns available have been high force units designed to dispense high viscosity materials in specialty applications. Users that do not commonly dispense these high viscosity materials such as construction, manufacturing, and trade professionals, have continued to use manual tools because the cordless options were too heavy and expensive." says David Lincoln, Product Manager for Milwaukee Tool Corporation. "The M12™ Caulk and Adhesive gun is a

lightweight, compact, and affordable solution that allows users to eliminate the excessive fatigue they experience by using repetitive manual tools all day. This new tool is optimized for use with common construction sealants and adhesives."

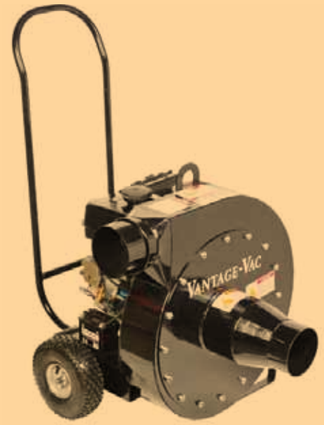
The M12™ Cordless Caulk and Adhesive gun also features Constant Flow Technology for steady dispensing, and a 360º rotating collar design for easy use around turns. A variable speed trigger and six-setting maximum speed dial also optimize the tool's 0-28 IPM (inches per minute) flow rate for best-in-class control providing cleaner, faster installations. With 400 lbs. of pushing force the M12™ Cordless Caulk and Adhesive gun easily dispenses common construction sealants and hot-applied glazing urethanes.

In addition, a Reversing Anti-Drip feature automatically backs up the plunger to relieve pressure from the tube. A durable hook made of impact modified nylon allows the user to hang the tool for storage while preventing breakage in rugged jobsite conditions.

The M12™ Cordless Caulk and Adhesive Gun will be sold as a 10oz bare tool and in kits with the options of 10oz, Sausage, and Quart style material containers. With an interchangeable Quick-Change carriage design, carriage accessories will be sold separately to allow the user to quickly change the tool to accommodate different material styles.

Powered by revolutionary M12™ RED LITHIUM™ Battery technology*, the new tool will dispense up to 150 10oz tubes of building sealant on just one charge. The new caulk guns are also compatible with the entire M12™ System, now offering over 40 cordless Lithium-Ion products. The M12™ platform is the largest sub-compact system in the industry, offering innovative solutions in power, productivity, and portability.

New Vantage-Vac...Price/Performance Breakthrough From Meyer Insulation



Meyer Insulation's new Vantage-Vac is a highly portable, yet powerful gas powered removal vacuum. Whether the insulation is wet, fire damaged or smoke damaged, the Vantage-Vac has power to spare to handle even the most difficult insulation removal jobs.

Its compact, two wheeled design allows for close placement to the removal area, resulting in shorter hoses and reserving the power of the Vantage-Vac to efficiently move hard-to-handle material. The outlet can be configured to discharge directly into a reusable or disposable collection bag, or a dumpster or roll-off.

Vantage-Vac Features include: 14 HP Robin Subaru Engine; cellulose processing capacity of 6042 lbs./hr.; fiberglass processing capacity of 4199 lbs./hr.; and more. Contact www.meyerinsulation.com

PAREX USA Offers New Expanded Color Chart And Color Fan Deck

Increased Color Variety Offers More Flexibility and Choice in Design for Any Project

Parex USA, Inc., the parent company of leading building material brands; Parex, Teifs, LaHabra, El Rey, and Merkrete, introduces a brand new Color Collection, equipped with 75 standard colors for use on all acrylic finishes, elastomeric finishes, coatings and primers.

The enhanced Color Chart represents the top selling colors from the company's Parex, Teifs and El Rey brands plus 43 new colors including soft, warm beiges and cool greens, to brilliant blues and robust reds.

"We spent a significant amount of time researching color trends and the most sought after colors in the architectural community," said Heidi Larsen, Parex USA product manager. "Our expanded Color Collection

offers a broader variety of hues and tones that are sure to impress and encourage designers to envision the limitless color options that are possible with Parex USA EIFS & Stucco solutions."

To compliment the new Color Chart, Parex USA also unveiled a new Color Fan Deck designed for facade finishes, coatings and primers. The Parex USA Color Fan Deck presents a complete palette of 940 colors in six groups: off-white colors, pastel colors,

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clear hues, midtones, shaded colors and accent colors.

PAREXUSA The two new color tools were created in an effort to support Parex USA's recently launched Envision Campaign to allow for nearly unlimited color possibilities.

Both the Parex USA Color Collection and Color Fan Deck can be used with ColorFast pigments to provide added fade resistance and durability.

Parex USA's corporate marketing efforts to support the Envision Campaign include a signature 20-page brochure, a 5 minute promotional video, redesigned websites and more. For more information, visit www.parex.com.

Icynene Classic Max™ Approved For Use Without An Ignition Barrier

Leading spray foam manufacturer, Icynene Corp., is pleased to announce a major innovation in open cell spray foam insulation with the launch of its new Icynene Classic Max (LD-C-50v2™), which has been approved by ICC-ES for use without an ignition barrier in residential projects. This innovative product also provides superior spray performance (up to 50% greater yield than competitive sucrose-based formulas), superior adhesion (to substrates and to itself), drip-free application, and advanced air pocket control.

"ICC-ES's approval of Icynene Classic Max is the result of our substantial investment in research and testing," said CEO Howard Deck.

ICC-ES approval (ESR 1826) confirms that Icynene Classic Max can be sprayed throughout the entire residential structure without an ignition barrier, including unvented attics.

"As the spray foam industry leader, Icynene has a duty to be diligent in the products it offers. Icynene completed comprehensive testing of Icynene Classic Max on actual end use conditions with small- and large-scale testing as well as computer modelling under a wide variety of scenarios. The result helps advance the science and understanding of how spray foams perform in real life situations," said VP Engineering, Paul Duffy.

The ESR Report, ESR #1826, can be downloaded from the ICC-ES website www.icc-es.org or from the Icynene website www.icynene.com.

SAFTI FIRST'S 2-Hour Fire Rated Curtain Wall Passes Rigorous Dynamic Tests Fire As Prescribed By CDC

CDC (Curtain Wall Design and Consulting) is a leading independent firm providing a wide range of building envelope design, engineering, and consulting services to design professionals nationwide.

SAFTI FIRST, leading USA-manufacturer of fire rated glass and framing systems, is pleased to announce that in addition to meeting ASTM E-119/NFPA 251/UL263 with hose stream for up to 2 hours, the SAF*TIfi*re CW Framing System meets or exceeds the performance specifications of other leading U.S. manufacturers of either fire rated or non-fire rated curtain wall systems by successfully passing the following tests:

- Air Infiltration, ASTM E 283-04, Rate of Air Leakage Through Exterior Windows, Curtain Walls and Doors.
- Static Pressure Water Resistance, ASTM E 331-00, Standard Test Method for Metal Curtain Walls and Doors by Uniform Static Air Pressure Difference.
- Dynamic Water Pressure Resistance, AAMA 501.1-05, Standard Test Method for Metal Curtain Walls and Doors by Uniform Dynamic Pressure.
- Structural Performance, ASTM E 330-2, Structural Performance of Exterior Windows, Curtain Walls, and Doors by Uniform Static Air Pressure Difference.
- Seismic Movement, AAMA 501.4-09, Recommended Static Test Method for Evaluating Curtain Wall and Storefront Systems Subjects to Seismic and Wind Induced Interstory Drifts.
- Thermal Cycling and Condensation Evaluation.
- Interstory Vertical Displacement Tests.

"The SAFTIfire CW Framing Sy*stem* is unique because it performs as a fire barrier while still being part of the building's exterior skin. It provides protection in the event of a fire while enhancing the building's overall aesthetics and performance," says Tim Nass, VP of National Sales at SAFTI FIRST. "Our recen*t tes*ting based on the CDC prescribed project performance requirements provided empirical data that demonstrates the SAFTIfire CW Framing Sy*stem*'s ability to prevent air and water infiltration under non-static conditions, such as wind load or moving live loads that meets or exceeds the performance of curtain wall systems offered by other leading U.S. manufacturers."

"The dynamic testing performed on our mock up was designed to mimic real world installations," adds Tim. "Our system's documented performance ensures that architects have a proven option for clear, unobstructed views when faced with property line requirements or other scenarios where the threat of fire comes from the outside."

Meeting property line requirements was exactly the case for The Kensington, a 27-story, 488,000 square foot, mixed-use, residential building in Boston, MA. The west-facing elevation had to meet ASTM E-119/NFPA 251/UL263 for 60 minutes, so SAFTI FIRST supplied S*uperL*ite II-XL 60 insulated with Solarban 70XL in SAFTIfire CW Framing. *CDC* was hired to make sure that the building was air and water tight. They were present during the dynamic testing performed by ATI (Architectural Testing, Inc.), an independent testing laboratory, where the mock-up of the system provided by SAFTI FIRST passed all *requi*red testing.

The aluminum covers used in the SAFTIfire CW Framing *Syst*em mimics the appearance of an aluminum pressure wall, making it easy to match the non-rated exterior glazing systems seamlessly. The ability to incorporate Solarban 70XL to the fire resistive system also contributed to meeting an average U-value not more than 0.40 and a solar heat gain coefficient no greater than 0.25 as required in the specifications. Since the SAFTIfire CW Framing *sy*stem is thermally broken, it is a natural selection for exterior fire resistive applications in places that experience extreme weather like the Northeast.

For more information on the SAFTIfire CW Framing *Sy*stem and all of SAFTI FIRST's fire r*ated* glass and framing products, please visit www.safti.com or call 888.653.3333. •

PRODUCT NEWS

Sauder Woodworking Fabricates the Future

By Julie Knudson/gb&d magazine

A lustrous wood ceiling that's environmentally friendly and inexpensive? Unlikely. But despite skepticism, there is some evidence: Sauder Woodworking's attempts to bringing that pipe dream to life, through its new WoodTrac ceiling products. Available in oak and alder, WoodTrac is designed to offer warmth and richness without the expensive bite.

After producing furniture for years, Dan Sauder, vice president of engineering and new markets, says the company wanted to branch out. "We did a brainstorming event," he says, "and out of that came the idea for a wood-look replacement for suspended ceilings." Sauder partnered on an "ideation" event with the consulting team at MAGNET, an organization that works with Ohio-area businesses to identify and implement productivity improvements and product innovations. The WoodTrac concept "really fits one of our core capabilities," Sauder says.

Most ceilings already on the market "were plywood or solid wood," Sauder says. His team didn't see anyone doing laminate in a suspended ceiling, and Sauder says they realized they could produce a truly beautiful product at a much better price point than the nearest competitor. The detailing and realism of WoodTrac's look is helped by high-fidelity paper laminates from Toppan Interamerica, which works on producing sharper and more pleasing grains and colors for Sauder Woodworking to glue on to its medium-density fiberboard (MDF).

Installation is a breeze, Sauder says, with moldings that snap into clips. Assuming there's already a suspended ceiling place, WoodTrac can be installed without a single screw. Sauder believes the low cost and ease of installation add up to a win for customers. "You end up with a great-looking three-dimensional wood ceiling that looks a lot richer than the white ceilings, for a lot lower cost than any other wood ceiling."

But is it good for the environment? Actually yes. Obtained largely from Clarion Industries in nearby Pennsylvania, 95 percent of the MDF used in WoodTrac comes from pre-consumer recycled wood waste, so no trees were cut down to make the boards. And Clarion's proximity to Sauder's manufacturing operations helps minimize the environmental impact of shipping. "They're the closest supplier to us for MDF," Sauder says, "and that's very appealing to us."

Sustainability is nothing new to this nearly 80-year-old company. "We have our own power plant," Sauder says, "and we make electricity out of our waste. We haven't had to landfill any wood waste for almost 10 years." That power plant meets about a third of the company's electrical needs, while other efforts—the recent installation of an Ecogate dust-collection system and the replacement of more than 6,000 lights throughout the factory and warehouse—also contribute to lower energy costs.

Recycling and the more efficient use of materials are also priorities, and the total result is astounding. "We end up recycling 96 percent of solid waste in one way or another," Sauder says, noting that over the past several years, the company also has been monitoring its carbon footprint. "In 2008–2010, we reduced our carbon footprint by 32 percent. That's through more recycling, our dust-collection improvements, the lighting project, and our other efforts."

Sauder also is committed to reducing waste in the manufacturing process itself. "We're doing another million-dollar project to change how we cut our boards," Sauder says. By using raw materials more efficiently and improving the yield by just several percent, the investment pays for itself. "Those are the kind of things you can do to be environmentally friendly and almost always get a return at the same time," he says.

The furniture industry has become much more conscious of the environment in the time his family's company has been around, Sauder explains. Processes and materials have evolved, and Sauder points to reduced use of formaldehyde as an example. "It's a dramatic change from 20 years ago," he says; the stink that used to permeate the warehouse—and homes, as new materials off-gassed—is gone.

"It's taken time to get there, because taking the formaldehyde out makes it harder to produce the MDF while still getting the material to hold its physical properties," Sauder says. Through innovation and determination, however, Sauder says the industry has made tremendous strides. "We're down very close to ambient formaldehyde levels," he adds. What's possible in the future as companies like Sauder Woodworking continue to innovate is hard to say. But it's sure to be better for the environment, just like **WoodTrac.** •

OSHA Head Says Wide Range of Tools Needed to Enforce Rules on Worker Safety

By Stephen Lee/BNA

Increasing numbers of U.S. employers are embracing the notion that protecting worker safety is good for business, David Michaels, head of the Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration, said Jan. 4.

"It's hard for me to judge overall changes," Michaels told BNA, "but I certainly have seen many employers recognize that managing for safety is useful not only to prevent injuries and fatalities, but in fact leads to a more profitable company. And I believe that's being embraced much more widely."

For example, at a recent meeting of oil and gas companies, an executive of Netherlands-based chemical giant LyondellBasell, said, according to Michaels (who was paraphrasing), "The message from the top here is, you manage for safety, everything else follows."

He cited Paul O'Neill, former chief executive of aluminum producer Alcoa who also served as President George W. Bush's Treasury secretary, as someone who embraced this philosophy.

"It's what ExxonMobil does," Michaels added. "We see that that's effective, and I think it's putting to rest the canard that employers save money by exposing workers to hazards. In fact, well-managed, profitable companies manage for safety."

4,609 Workers Died On The Job In 2011

Preliminary Bureau of Labor Statistics Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

"With every one of these fatalities, the lives of a worker's family members were shattered and forever changed. We can't forget that fact."

- Hilda Solis, Secretary of Labor

Wide Range of Interventions

At the same time, however, Michaels said he recognizes that a large segment of American businesses have not accepted that doctrine.

"There are many, many other employers who are unaware of our standards, or have some idea that they might be making a mistake, or that there might be a violation, but for whatever reason don't feel like they need to abate that hazard immediately," he said.

For that reason, the agency deploys "different tools for different types of employers, but many of those tools all focus on the same thing: saying not just, 'Abate hazards,' but really, 'Change what you're doing in the workplace in a way that makes a big difference and that will really reduce injury and illness,'" Michaels said.

Among the tools he cited is the press release, which OSHA uses to publicize citations as a way of deterring other employers from violating the law.

Some employer groups have complained about OSHA's press releases, arguing that they defame companies before the allegations are proven. But Michaels defended OSHA's use of the press release, calling it "a common law enforcement technique to discourage others from getting in that same situation. And I think it's been effective. We have to look at the effectiveness of all our tools, and it's one of the arrows in our quiver."

Michaels confirmed that OSHA will use NIOSH's diacetyl risk assessment in its own rulemaking, a step that is expected to shorten the lengthy rulemaking process. Diacetyl is a food flavoring that has been linked to lung disease in workers who inhale it.

Even though diacetyl is no longer a high-priority risk, because its use is largely contained, Michaels said more such collaborations with NIOSH will be forthcoming.

On the topic of rulemaking, Michaels said OSHA's relationship with the White House Office of Management and Budget has been fruitful.

I think we work very closely together. I think we learn from each other. I think certainly with Cass Sunstein, we worked together very closely," Michaels said, referring to the former chief of OMB's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

"We look forward to [Sunstein's] replacement," he said. "Many of the things we're working on were influenced by Cass, in terms of the approach of behavioral economics: recognizing that it's better to encourage and incentivize action, rather than prescribe it."

Hard to Reach Some Employers

When asked about his top frustrations on the job, Michaels pointed to the challenge of getting his message through to hard-to-reach employers.

"I spend a lot of time speaking to the converted, preaching to the choir," he said. "I'm invited to many different groups of employers and trade associations, but the ones who invite me are the ones generally who already recognize that I'm there to help them get to the place they already know they want to get to. It's much harder to reach employers who aren't plugged into those associations and who don't understand the fact that they could be more profitable by being more safe." •

OSHA Reminds Employers To Protect Workers From Dangers Of Carbon Monoxide Exposure

With the arrival of cold weather, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration is reminding employers to take necessary precautions to protect workers from the serious, and sometimes fatal, effects of carbon monoxide exposure.

Recently, a worker in a New England warehouse was found unconscious and seizing, suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning. Several other workers at the site also became sick. All of the windows and doors were closed to conserve heat, there was no exhaust ventilation in the facility, and very high levels of carbon monoxide were measured at the site.

Every year, workers die from carbon monoxide poisoning, usually while using fuel-burning equipment and tools in buildings or semi-enclosed spaces without adequate ventilation. This can be especially true during the winter months when employees use this type of equipment in indoor spaces that have been sealed tightly to block out cold temperatures and wind. Symptoms of carbon monoxide exposure can include everything from headaches, dizziness and drowsiness to nausea, vomiting or tightness across the chest. Severe carbon monoxide poisoning can cause neurological damage, coma and death.

Sources of carbon monoxide can include anything that uses combustion to operate, such as gas generators, power tools, compressors, pumps, welding equipment, space heaters and furnaces.

To reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning in the workplace, employers should install an effective ventilation system, avoid the use of fuel-burning equipment in enclosed or partially-enclosed spaces, use carbon monoxide detectors in areas where the hazard is a concern and take other precautions outlined in OSHA's Carbon Monoxide Fact Sheet. For additional information on carbon monoxide poisoning and preventing exposure in the workplace, see OSHA's Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Quick Cards (in English and Spanish).

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to ensure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit www.osha.gov. •

US Department Of Labor Announces Winners Of Worker Safety And Health App Challenge

New Electronic Tools To Help Inform Young Workers About Hazards And Rights

The U.S. Department of Labor today announced the winners of its Worker Safety and Health App Challenge. Prizes totaling $30,000 are being awarded to four entrants who submitted tools that best demonstrate the importance of recognizing and preventing workplace safety and health hazards, and help young people understand their rights in the workplace. Submissions were designed for Internet browsers, smartphones, feature phones and social media platforms, or as native Windows or Macintosh applications.

"With so many outstanding submissions, it was difficult to choose the winners," said Dr. David Michaels, assistant secretary of labor for occupational safety and health. "The winning entries place new technologies in the hands of young workers and their employers, making safety and health resources even more accessible."

The panel of judges, including co-hosts of the popular Discovery Channel show "Myth Busters," Adam Savage and Jamie Hyneman, selected winners of the "Safety in the Workplace Innovator Award," the "Safety and Health Data Award," and the "Workers' Rights Award" from 20 finalists. A "People's Choice Award" was given to the entry that received the most public votes on the challenge website.

Safety in the Workplace Innovator Award: This $15,000 grand prize went to Working Safely Is No Accident, a website developed by the University of Tennessee Construction Industry Research and Policy Center and the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering. The website is designed to offer workers, primarily those ages 13-24, conveniently accessible information on common workplace hazards and workers' rights to a safe workplace.

Safety and Health Data Award: The United Steelworkers union won this $6,000 prize for its USW Chemical Safety application that allows users to search a Material Safety Data Sheets database for information on workplace exposure limits, health hazards, workplace controls, personal protective equipment, handling and storage, and emergency procedures related to hazardous substances in the workplace.

Workers' Rights Award: This $6,000 prize went to the No Jack – Young Workers' Safety Campaign website developed by the Montana State Fund (the state's largest workers' compensation insurer). This edgy, youth-focused website expands the reach of MSF's safety and health message to a target audience of workers ages 16-24 by educating them and their employers about workers' rights to a safe and healthful workplace.

People's Choice Award: This $3,000 prize went to Sidharth Garg for his Ergonomics iOS Application. This complete mobile workplace health solution offers ergonomic equipment setup advice, a variety of workplace-specific stretching exercises and programmable reminders to help time breaks and prevent musculoskeletal injuries.

The winning submissions can be viewed at http://www.dol.gov/dol/apps/2013AppWinners.htm. All of the finalists' submissions can be viewed at http://workersafetyhealth.challenge.gov. The Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration also will post links to the winning submission on its website. •

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