

WINTER 2016

OFF THE WALL WC&C

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

INTEGRATED PROJECT DELIVERY:

A 'New Way Of Thinking'
With Potential To Revamp
The Construction
Industry? – see page 8

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Holiday Party Photos
are on pages 15–19



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CALENDAR THROUGH JUNE 2016

DATE	MEETING	TIME	LOCATION
Mar 16-20	WC&C Convention		St. Regis, Bahia Beach Puerto Rico
Apr 2 (Sat)	WC&C Dinner Dance		Terrace On The Park
Apr 13 (Wed)	Board Mtg.	7:30 am	WC&C Offices
May 17 (Tues)	Board Mtg	4:00 pm	WC&C Offices
May 17 (Tues)	Mbrship Mtg	6:00 pm	TBD
June 20 (Mon)	WC&C Golf Outing		NHCC and Sands Pt.

WC&C 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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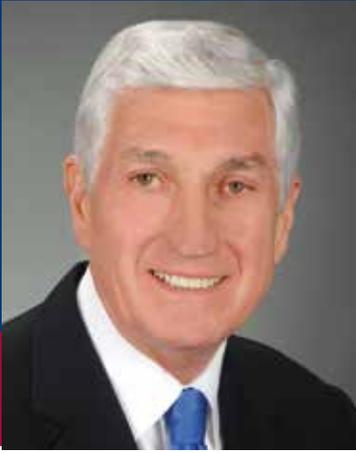
As 2015 came to a close, a development hit the market to make the case for modular construction in New York City: Carmel Place, the city's first all-micro-unit building made up of 55 modular units constructed at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

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*From the
Executive Director
John DeLollis*

Educate Yourself To Cutting Edge Innovation

NEW INNOVATIONS ARE BEING MADE EVERY DAY IN OUR INDUSTRY, making once tedious parts of our profession more manageable and time efficient. The Grabber PanelMax Board Milling Machine is a perfect example of this. Designed to fabricate and accurately cut dry wall and other materials, the PanelMax is easing one of the more laborious parts of the job. With the use of relief cuts, this machine is eliminating the need for additional material by doing the job accurately the first time. Instead of waiting for the framing to be done on a job before making cuts to the sheetrock, the PanelMax is allowing you to prefabricate everything while the framing is still being completed, cutting back dramatically on the time it takes to complete a project. Portable and user friendly, it clearly has a definite future in the construction industry.

Being aware of the latest cutting edge technology on the market is advantageous to everyone, allowing you to be ahead of the game and thus making you more desirable as a contractor. Advances are being made every day in ways to make us better and more efficient in our craft. Equipment like the PanelMax is changing how we approach jobs, for example, architects can now design projects differently because they are able to do things that were once too difficult to achieve.

Make sure you take advantage of these advancements by educating yourself. Take classes offered at places such as the NYC District Council of Carpenters Labor Technical College. Being ahead of the game will only benefit you in the end.

– John DeLollis



Building Congress Releases Its 2016 Policy Agenda

The New York Building Congress has released its 2016 Policy Agenda, which focuses on advancing a few high-priority goals in Albany and City Hall.

At the State level, the Building Congress endorses the extensive program of major public works proposed by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo. The list of projects includes:

- A fully-funded, \$29 billion MTA capital plan.
- A \$22 billion, five-year capital plan for New York's DOT.
- Facilitating the Amtrak Gateway Project, including providing up to \$5 billion in funding.
- Reconstruction of the Penn Station/Moynihan Station Complex.
- Master plans for LaGuardia and JFK Airports, including construction of a new AirTrain connection to LaGuardia Airport.
- Construction of a new, third track along the Long Island Rail Road main line.

The Building Congress will urge the State to advance these projects this year, including ensuring funding is in place for the MTA and DOT capital programs. The State must also capitalize on the significant progress made last year toward organizing and funding the Amtrak Gateway Program, an effort to construct new commuter rail tunnels under the Hudson River and, eventually, to enlarge Penn Station with new train platforms.

The Building Congress, in conjunction with other industry organizations, will continue efforts to pass the New York State Emergency Responder Act, which reduces the risk faced by building industry firms responding to natural and man-made disasters. The bill addresses an industry crisis following the events of 9/11 after billions of dollars of liability lawsuits threatened the existence of several firms involved in the cleanup of the World Trade Center site. The industry's ability to assist during Superstorm Sandy was

subsequently diminished in the face of concerns about similar threats of liability.

At the City level, the Building Congress will undertake a new Capital Budget Campaign, focused on improving the City's capital strategy, as record levels of private development, population growth and employment place unprecedented stress on the City's aging infrastructure.

The Budget Campaign staff will study and make recommendations for ways the City can better maintain and expand its physical assets. The Campaign will focus on three key areas:

- Improve procurement and project delivery;*
- Enhance and dedicate new funding to the capital program; and*
- Create a more transparent budget planning process to help allocate resources more effectively.*

The Building Congress will also advocate legislation expanding application of project delivery methods like design-build construction and public private partnerships at both the State and local levels.

"Both the Governor and the Mayor have shown a firm commitment to infrastructure investment during their tenures," said Building Congress President Richard T. Anderson. "But we have to do still more to ensure the City is able to accommodate the historic growth and investment now taking place. Nor can we forget the new demands presented by climate change."

"For a city the size and age of New York, infrastructure needs will always outpace government's ability to keep up," added Mr. Anderson. "That is why our Agenda is focused on ways the City and State can redouble their efforts, first by following through on the ambitious plans proposed by the Governor, and second, by finding new and creative ways to plan, execute, and pay for public works."

—Source: *The New York Building Congress*



From the President Michael Weber

The Devil is in the Details

Construction is a high risk activity with many personal injuries and property losses or damage arising out of construction work. In construction contracts, the owner normally requires the general contractor to show proof of various types of insurance, including a commercial general liability (“CGL”) policy, and for a general contractor to require its subcontractors to carry a CGL policy to protect against liability for personal injury and property damage.

Insurance requirements that are generally unique to construction contracts include Surety Bonds, CIP (Controlled Insurance Program), Higher Limits and Extended Coverage or Additional Insured. The surety bonds related to public work contracts include: Bid Bond, Performance Bond and Payment Bonds and Completion Bonds. Collectively, they are referred to as Contract Bonds. The CIP concept should provide for cost savings to the owner due to purchasing economies of scale, cash flow advantages from controlling premium payments, potential for dividend returns and potential for savings due to coordinated loss control. The recommended minimum limit for general liability is \$5 million per occurrence. The higher limit is appropriate for general contractors on any new construction or major remodel projects. Subcontractors in areas of higher risk should have limits above the standard minimum of \$1 million. The Payment Bond and the Performance Bond shall be in a sum equal to the contract price. Additional Insured is an endorsement to the Commercial General Liability (CGL) policy will name your entity as an additional insured under the contractor’s policy for covered claims arising from their work or activities on your behalf. This status gives you direct rights under the Contractor’s insurance and greatly increases your chances of recovery, especially for your legal defense.

Subcontractors should insist on insurance requirements that they, and their insurance agents, can understand and comply with. When a subcontractor bids on a project specifying participation in a wrap-up or CIP, it should calculate the

appropriate criteria and include flat-rate numbers in its bid, or state in its bid that it will not participate in the wrap-up. Bidders should focus on the insurance requirements early in bid preparation, and not delay disputes about compliance with the requirements until after it has started work. Subcontractors should make their bids dependent on the suitability of their existing insurance programs and negotiate for reasonable insurance requirements before signing a subcontract. Contractors often argue that insurance requirements “all come down from the owner.” While owners often insist the general contractor require subcontractors provide additional insured coverage, and/or waivers of subrogation, favoring the owner.

Subcontractors should understand, protect and maintain their insurance coverage and premium rates by avoiding liabilities for risks they can’t control. Construction contracts are usually the most complex agreements that an organization will create. The potential for loss in construction related events can be devastating, should your MOD rate be above 1.0 that may compromise your ability to pursue projects due to your safety record. Dealing with insurance requirements can be extremely monotonous. No one enjoys negotiating the terms of a contract or worrying about whether a contractor has provided the correct insurance. Requesting, obtaining, and verifying insurance for contracted services is time consuming, can be very frustrating, and most often doesn’t seem to make a difference, since most contracts are completed without incident. However, when an incident does occur, all of those efforts become worth it. Businesses have saved millions of dollars by effectively presenting claims or suits arising from contracted services. Insurance is an indispensable part of any construction business, and should be treated with the same care as an expensive piece of equipment.

Mark your calendars for the AWCI Convention and Intex Expo from April 15 through April 19th in New Orleans, Louisiana. For more information and to register for this event please go online to www.awci.org/convention. I look forward to see you all there. —Mike

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INTEGRATED PROJECT DELIVERY: A 'NEW WAY OF THINKING' WITH POTENTIAL TO REVAMP THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY?

*By Emily Peiffer | Associate editor of
Industry Dive's Construction Dive publication.*



Construction companies are constantly searching for ways to improve project efficiencies and avoid cost and schedule overruns. Industry experts have offered countless methods to accomplish these goals, from technological advancements to new building materials to better work environments.

One aspect of the building process has recently emerged as one of the most important factors affecting a job's success: project delivery method. The ongoing design-bid-build vs. design-build debate was in the spotlight recently when Santa Clara County, CA, CEO Jeff Smith attributed schedule delays and cost overruns on the Valley Medical Center project largely to the design-bid-build agreement with Turner Construction, which is back on the project after being terminated.

A traditional design-bid-build contract involves the owner hiring an architect to produce a full set of plans and specifications. The owner then solicits bids for the work from general contractors who typically use subcontractor and supplier estimates to assemble their bids to the owner. On the other hand, design-build — the newer method gaining traction in the industry — assigns the contractor the leading role for design and execution on a building project.

Although the delivery method debate has typically been dominated by design-bid-build and design-build, a new method has been creeping into the narrative and demonstrating successful results: integrated project delivery (IPD).

During a session at the International Builders' Show in Las Vegas last week, Magleby Construction Sun Valley Group Manager Layne Thompson discussed his company's success using the IPD method and offered tips for others looking to adopt the new system.

What is integrated project delivery

An IPD arrangement involves the owner, general contractor, architect, and possibly other major subcontractors and suppliers entering into a mutual contract to collectively determine project goals, costs, risk sharing, compensation and general responsibilities, according to CPA and business advisory firm Padgett Stratemann.

Those stakeholders in the IPD can form a limited liability company (LLC) or use an American Institute of Architects' IPD agreement to spell out all of the details of the project, and they typically waive liability claims against each other.

IPD agreements aim to create more collaborative projects where all stakeholders can offer their opinions, especially at the early stages of the project. If done successfully, according to Thompson, they can:

- allow for faster construction timetables
- keep projects within budget
- reduce the number of change orders
- allow companies to secure their preferred trade partner early on in the process

Why is change necessary?

Thompson opened his presentation by asking builders in the audience if they knew which U.S. industry is the only one that has failed to increase labor productivity over the last 50 years. The answer: Construction.

This fact should cause serious concern in the industry, especially during the ongoing labor shortage, Thompson said.

As construction companies continue to struggle finding enough qualified labor, they should work on using their current, smaller staffs as efficiently as possible.

In the traditional design-bid-build delivery method, project owners find an architect and map out the design plans. A few months later, the contractor is hired to come on board. “No matter what the relationship and when we come on board as the contractor, there exists this kind of barrier,” Thompson said. “This exists because we’re not contracting together. Our knowledge set is very different.”

As the architect side and contractor side bring in their own teams of consultants and trade partners, “you’ve got these spider webs of contracts going in all these different directions,” Thompson said.

“There’s an opening for scope gaps and misunderstandings in the process. This

starts a downward spiral where we’re actually complicating the project. This happens on a lot of projects,” he added.

Encouraging a team atmosphere

Finding a way to bring all of the key project participants into the process earlier and in collaboration with each other would create a more efficient work environment and more successful project, according to Thompson. “We need to realign the way these consultants and trade partners work together, rather than being siloed,” Thompson said.

Oftentimes on projects, trade workers will ask their superiors why they are performing a job a certain way. “They’re actually saying that they have ideas,” he said. “We’ve got to set up a way to listen to these guys. No one knows everything.”

IPD allows stakeholders to join a project earlier in the process, rather than waiting

Continued on following page



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after all the designs and documents have been completed. This element of IPD is especially valuable, according to Thompson, as the ability to have an impact on a project is diminished the further along it goes.

Therefore, bringing on different parties to offer their opinions at the early stages allows them to have an actual effect on the project, rather than taking the completed designs and starting construction with no say in the plans. This early input can potentially result in fewer change orders down the line.

“The costs of design changes are low at the start, but it costs a whole lot at the end when construction actually starts,” Thompson said.

How to implement IPD

Thompson noted that the AIA created an IPD guide back in 2007, but he said it is somewhat abstract. To fill in possible gaps, he offered concrete examples of how companies can implement the new delivery method.

The first, and most important step, is clearly defining a core project purpose, according to Thompson. Once that core purpose is determined, stakeholders should identify objectives that can help reach that goal. Those objectives can range from a certain timetable, to trade goals, to a budget range.

“If everyone working on the team is driving toward that objective, you’ll likely experience more success on that project,” he said.

Thompson described a project — Thunder Spring in Sun Valley, ID — as an example of his team successfully using an IPD delivery method. In that case, the developer approached Magleby and said it wanted a different approach to reach the

project goals. Magleby then suggested IPD as an alternative way to build the luxury condos.

Starting with just a schematic design outlining the basic shell of the project, Magleby, the architect, and the owner all brought in teams who agreed to work in this new kind of work environment. In what Thompson called a “charrette,” all stakeholders assembled together to work out detailed plans, resolve conflicts and map out potential solutions.

“How often do your trade contractors get a vision of what the project will look and feel like before working on it? I’d guess not a lot. By using tools and describing the vision, these guys got really excited about the project and bought into it,” he said.

As a result of the charrette, all participants took “a greater ownership in the project,” Thompson said. “It creates an emotional buy-in to meet key objectives.”

Obstacles to widespread Implementation

Despite all of the possible benefits of using IPD, Thompson conceded that several obstacles stand in the way of wider implementation of the delivery method.

First, he said, contractors and owners often worry about the legal risks

associated with the project. Thompson suggested creating an LLC with the owner, architect and builder that clearly outlines the project purpose and objectives, shared compensation and rewards, and allocation of risk.

Thompson also cited the construction industry’s aversion to change as a major hurdle to more projects utilizing the method. “There’s a lot of inertia in this industry,” he said. “It’s a new way of thinking. Pushing people to engage early... takes a lot of energy.”

During the Construction Management Association of America’s National Conference & Trade Show in October, experts said that while IPD offers the benefits of increased collaboration and faster timetables, it also has the potential to force working relationships and blur the lines of responsibility.

Thompson added that “IPD isn’t for everyone or every project” and advised construction companies that they shouldn’t “push it too hard.”

However, he said he believes that project stakeholders should “put [their] faith in the individual, in fellow human beings, in designers and trade contractors. Assume they are going to make the right decision given the right opportunity.” •

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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.

NEW EMPLOYMENT LAWS ENACTED FOR NEW YORK CITY AND NEW YORK STATE

Several new laws governing employers in the City and/or State of New York became effective at the end of 2015. Highlights of some of these are as follows:

- In New York City the Stop Credit Discrimination in Employment Act applies to most employers with very limited exceptions. The law makes it illegal for companies to request or obtain the consumer credit history of a job applicant or current employee. Asking an employee or applicant directly or obtaining the information from a consumer reporting agency both violate the law. Just asking about credit history is a violation. The company need not make an adverse hiring determination based on credit history to be found in violation of the law. Violations are punishable by steep fines, back pay, compensatory and punitive damages.

- In New York City the Fair Chance Act went into effect prohibiting nearly all employers from inquiring into a job applicant's arrest or criminal history before extending a conditional job offer. This law is referred to as "ban the box" since it makes it illegal to include questions about criminal history on a written job application form. Under the law, employers may not ask any questions about a candidate's arrest or conviction history during the application stage. Once a conditional offer is extended, employers may ask but can only rescind an offer based on the applicant's criminal history after complying with Article 23-A of the NYS Correction Law. If the employer believes that a sufficient relation exists between the position's job description and the applicant's criminal history, the employer must first present its case and allow the applicant three business days to respond. Meanwhile the job must be kept open.

NEW YORK CITY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES GUIDANCE ON GENDER DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITIONS

The New York City Commission on Human Rights ("Commission") issued enforcement guidance regarding discrimination on the basis of gender identity or expression. The Guidance identifies various examples of discriminatory conduct including the following:

- Failing to use an individual's preferred name or pronoun.
- Requiring individuals to conform to stereotypical norms of masculinity or femininity.
- Employee benefit plans must apply equally to all employees regardless of gender. Health benefit plans must cover transgender care.
- Grooming standards or dress codes cannot differentiate based on gender.

Individuals must be permitted to use single sex facilities and programs consistent with their gender, regardless of sex assigned at birth, medical history, appearance or the sex indicated on their identification. This does not require the construction of additional restrooms or all gender restrooms, but single occupancy restrooms should be available for use by all genders.

Employers in New York City should review their benefit policies, employee handbooks and policies in light of these new laws and the Guidance from the Commission to ensure that they are in compliance. In addition, employers should consider training to ensure that managers and supervisors understand their obligations and responsibilities under these provisions. •

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\$1 Billion Expansion for Javits Center

The City's Jacob K. Javits Center will be getting a \$1 billion shot in the arm. Governor Andrew Cuomo announced plans to significantly expand the convention center as part of his 2016 agenda.

The expansion will create 3,100 construction jobs, according to the governor's office. When complete, the expanded convention center will generate an additional \$393 million a year in new economic activity and 200,000 more hotel room reservations annually.

1.2 million square feet will be added to the facility, which will bring the center's total size to 3.3 million square feet. The addition means five times as much meeting and ballroom space as currently exists at the center, including the largest ballroom in the Northeast.

Another feature of the expansion includes an on-site 480,000-square-foot four-level garage and marshalling yard, which is projected to reduce truck trips by 50 percent. Currently, drivers dropping or picking up at Javits must contend with Manhattan parking and an

off-site yard. The expansion will also elevate Javits' exhibition space to 500,000 square feet of contiguous show floor.

The expansion is projected to cost \$1 billion, but the funding for the project—said to be coming from “existing resources”—is nebulous. A similar expansion for the facility was torpedoed by New York State in 2008 after the price tag ballooned from \$1.8 billion to \$3 billion.

Last year the convention center had an economic impact of \$1.8 billion, and in 2014, Javits hosted 177 events that drew 2 million visitors, which supported 17,500 local jobs and generated nearly half a million hotel room reservations.

The Governor's proposal is designed to build on this success – increasing the Convention Center's size by more than 50 percent, from 2.1 million square feet to 3.3 million square feet, and adding new features to help the facility remain competitive both nationally and internationally. •



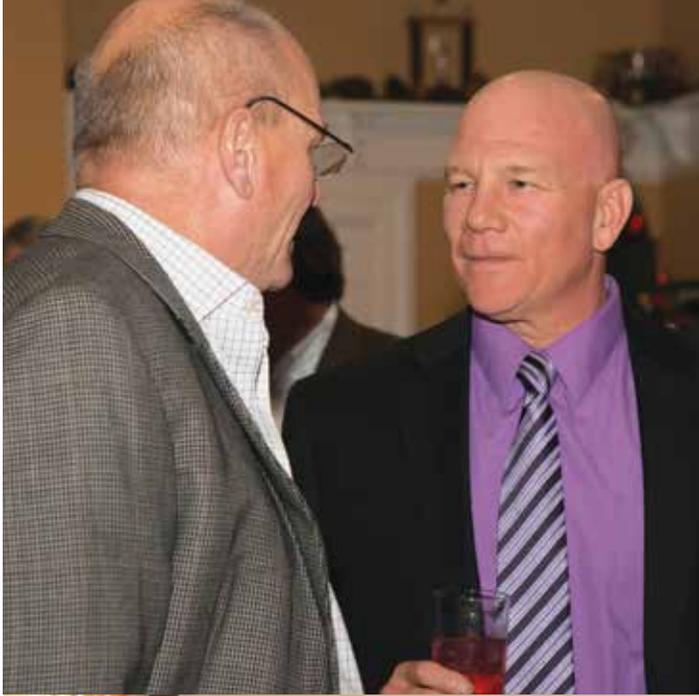
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Managing Your Construction Business Brand

By Ron Roberts For Construction Pros
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IS YOUR BUSINESS BRANDED? What have you done to publicize and reinforce its brand? Is branding something you should even be thinking about?

Branding has an instinctive appeal that all business owners crave. When your business is strongly branded your company's name is the first thing people think of when needing to find someone in your line of work.

To be clear, if your company is more than four or five years old it is branded among those who have experienced your services. In this case, your brand is really your reputation. Your brand (reputation) may be well earned or unfairly earned. Usually, the reputation of a young firm is pretty much in line with the level of service the firm delivers. This is the first impression phenomena that we are all familiar with on a personal level.

A brand is about as flexible as concrete. Once it sets it is very difficult to break.

If your brand's reputation is not what you wish it to be you have got a hard row to hoe if you seek to change it.

You may have to go so far as to completely change your name. This is a common approach in the big business world. Change the name. Change the logo and colors. Suddenly everyone thinks a new player has entered the market.

Under the new name a new brand can be built. This is an extreme approach but one that works more often than not — assuming the business has corrected the errors that legitimately created the negative brand image in the first place.

To be clear, branding is a proven marketing technique for a certain set of contractors. Anyone performing residential service needs to have a strong brand identity to keep a steady flow of leads coming in. The reason is that most home owners are only going to need a given service once every few years. When that is all the more frequent your customers are going to consume your service,

and each individual customer represents a fairly small life-time value, you will need to create an influx of leads from new customers.

In that situation you can't afford to build your marketing strategy around high touch to a select group of prospects.

That last condition is what makes branding for commercial contractors a much different story. The buyers in the commercial market are much fewer in number and readily identifiable. Each offers the potential of large lifetime value if you can successfully

lock them down as your customer. Once locked down you don't need to invest money advertising to them. They already know and trust you.

So what is your brand? What are you known for? What is in the minds of your customers when your company's name is brought up? What do they tell their network when someone asks for the name of a reliable provider in your line of work?

You need to know the answers. They will help you with your sales and marketing message.

They will help you with your business improvement efforts. They will help you identify employee problems that need to be addressed.

You may need to hire a market research firm to contact old clients, current clients and buyers who have never hired you. The calls are not to be used as sales calls.

So what reputation should you hope to find? What should you hope your brand stands for?

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Professional | |
| Reliable | Well managed |
| Trustworthy | Good quality |
| Fair | Good value |

Note that I didn't list low price. You really don't want the reputation for being the low price provider as that reputation inevitably leads to low margins. You want to be selected for the reasons list above. The last one, good value, covers the price angle.



Photo credit: FreeDigitalPhotos.net

If you consistently deliver a higher level of professionalism than you once did eventually the truth will show up in your branded image. However, screw up a handful of times with the wrong customers and your brand can be trashed in a matter of months.

You want to work with people who understand value. You don't want to work with people who only understand price.

One word on visual image. Construction is a little different than most industries when it comes to image. If you are a residential service contractor then by all means you need your field technicians driving clean trucks with a uniform paint job and wearing a standard uniform that doesn't look like it just walked out of an auto repair shop.

If you provide commercial service work, the truck doesn't matter much but the uniform does. If you perform commercial construction neither the truck nor the uniform matter much. There is nothing wrong with over-doing it; however, it does cost money.

In summary, find out what the market has decided your brand is and be careful in throwing a lot of money towards advertising in an effort to change it. If you consistently deliver a higher level of

professionalism than you once did eventually the truth will show up in your branded image. It will just take a heck of a lot longer than you will be happy with.

Of course, the exact opposite is also true. Screw up a handful of times with the wrong customers and your brand can be trashed in six months.

About the Author

Ron Roberts, The Contractor's Business Coach, provides business guidance to contractors. To receive a free copy of Ron's report, "The 10 Biggest Mistakes Contractors Make" visit www.FilthyRichContractor.com or contact him at Ron@filthyrichcontractor.com. •

PORT AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES OPENING OF WORLD TRADE TRANSPORTATION HUB

The Port Authority has announced that the World Trade Center Transportation Hub Oculus – the iconic centerpiece of the sprawling transit facility – will open in the first week of March. The opening will provide a greatly enhanced



commute for the 100,000 weekday PATH riders who travel through the station, with quicker, climate-controlled access to the Wall Street area and other destinations to the north and south of the site.

The Oculus – with its soaring wings designed by Santiago Calatrava – will enable travelers to have a seamless connection with 11 New York City subway lines and the East River ferries in addition to access to PATH trains.

When the Oculus opens, PATH commuters will take new underground passageways to One World Trade Center, 4 World Trade Center, the corner of Liberty and Church streets a few blocks from Wall Street and to Vesey Street on the northern edge of the site. The new facility contains

state-of-the-art escalators and elevators for convenient vertical circulation between the trains and street level.

The Westfield mall shops located throughout the Oculus and in the adjoining passageways are anticipated to open in phases starting in the spring.

"The Port Authority has a rich tradition in pushing the envelope and being the premier master builder in the region. The rebirth of the World Trade Center and the construction of the Transportation Hub touched not only Lower Manhattan, but the rest of the country and the world as well. We can all stand in awe with what has been accomplished here," said Port Authority Vice Chairman Scott Rechler.

"This project is a testament to the spirit of New York City, and our commitment to rebuilding and providing improved public transportation connections for everyone who lives, works or visits Lower Manhattan," said Federal Transit Administration Acting Administrator Therese McMillan. The Federal Transit Administration has agreed to fund approximately \$2.872 billion of the World Trade Center Transportation Hub, more than half of the total cost of the project.

The transportation hub will serve as a 21st century state of the art transit center in the heart of Lower Manhattan, now a thriving 24-hour business and residential community. The World Trade Center Transportation Hub will conveniently connect visitors to 11 subway lines, PATH, Battery Park City Ferry Terminal, the World Trade Center Memorial site, One World Trade Center, Towers 3 and 4 and a future Tower 2, and Brookfield Place. It will represent the most integrated network of underground pedestrian connections in New York City.

When completed, the World Trade Center Transportation Hub will be the third largest transportation center in New York City, with ultimately upwards of 250,000 daily commuters and millions of annual visitors from around the world. •

Modular Construction In New York City...Once the Future, Is Fading

By Emily Nonko
First published in Curbed



Pod Hotel rendering via Garrison Architects

As 2015 came to a close, a development hit the market to make the case for modular construction in New York City: Carmel Place, the city's first all-micro-unit building made up of 55 modular units constructed at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Construction at the Kips Bay site began in 2014 and apartments were ready to be "stacked" by the next spring. Stacking the micro units only took about four weeks and the finished product, by Monadnock Development and nArchitects, was deemed impressive upon its launch this November. And in a city that's pushing an aggressive affordable housing policy, being able to quickly stack apartment units seems like one viable way to quickly build. But this March, the company that designed said modular units, Capsys Corp., will shutter its Brooklyn Navy Yard warehouse due to rising rents, after finishing a modular development in East New York. That leaves one modular manufacturer in the city, Forest City Modular, which announced potential layoffs for this year.

Robby Kullman, manager of Capsys Corp., is not about to lament the decline of modular construction in New York, even though Capsys is about to sell its

intellectual property to a Pennsylvania company, discontinue the business, and close up shop in the Brooklyn Navy Yard after 20 years. "The demand is really high," he says. In the past four weeks, notes Kullman, 12 different companies approached him to inquire about modular construction. And it makes sense, considering that if done correctly, factory-built housing promises more environmental efficiency in construction, affordability, and shorter building times.

"The biggest challenge is that New York City is an expensive place to do business," says Kullman. It's become impossible for Capsys to stay in New York because of drastically rising rents, plus the large amount of space required for a modular factory—ideally 180,000 to 200,000 square feet, according to Kullman. Capsys was renting 100,000 square feet for around \$4 per square foot, which is reportedly well under market value for the industrial park. The Navy Yard decided not to renew its lease to give the space to another tenant, Steiner Studios.

But, as Kullman points out, the modules don't have to be constructed in New York; part of the appeal of modular construction is its portability. The Stack, a Washington Heights development, was built entirely in Pennsylvania by Deluxe Building Systems. Fifty-six modules, constructed and outfitted in a controlled environment, were shipped to the construction site after the foundation and first-floor supports were built, and hoisted into place in a mere 19 days. Currently under construction in Poland are modules for the Pod Hotel, set

to be shipped to Red Hook, trucked to Williamsburg, and then stacked on Driggs Avenue this year. “A few years ago, I never thought a project like that would happen,” says Kullman.

Of course, just because modules can be shipped from around the world doesn’t necessarily mean developers and architects want to go that route. The European company building the Pod Hotel modules, Polcom Modular, was chosen for its familiarity in modular hotel construction. But Jim Garrison, principal at Garrison Architects, who previously worked with modular for New York’s post-disaster housing prototype, says working overseas “has not been easy.” It’s a big benefit if architects can check in as modules are assembled; regular check-ins can’t happen if the process takes place far away. In one instance, Garrison Architects found Polcom’s structural frames on the modules to be inflexible and inefficient, and Garrison’s design team needed to develop frames that were much stronger and lighter.

Shipping or trucking in modules from far distances can also add extra time or costs to the project, and then there’s a matter of storing them once in New York. “The more demanding thing [than transporting them] is how the modules are stored and choreographed at the building site,” says Garrison. “They have to be in a regular queue so they can be lifted into place on a predictable schedule.”

Architects face other learning curves when building modular. At Carmel Place, the city had to waive zoning and density rules to allow for prefab construction—zoning called for a setback at the fifth floor, but “modular construction is continuous and goes against that,” says Ammr Vandal, of nArchitects. “Construction was very difficult when doing it for the first time,” she says. Also, because modular units are stacked on top of each other, the floors are significantly thicker than conventional

floors, meaning that modular projects end up being taller than normal, despite having no additional square footage. However, Mayor de Blasio’s proposal to amend zoning for affordable housing aims to increase building heights, an incentive designed to make modular construction more attractive to developers.

With Capsys closing, the spotlight is now shifting to Forest City’s modular team, which is currently at work on B2, the 32-story modular tower in the Pacific Park mega-development. When the project was announced in 2011 it was said to be the tallest modular high-rise in the world; since then, a 57-story office and residential modular tower opened in China. “I would love for Forest City Modular to become wildly successful,” says Garrison. “It would make things much easier for us.” The division emerged in 2014 after a legal battle between Forest City Ratner and Skanska, the massive construction company that was tapped to work on B2; after several lawsuits, Forest City assumed control of Skanska’s modular division, which also operates out of the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

FC Modular faced a monumental learning curve in designing a modular high-rise. Unlike lower-rise modular buildings, the tower requires an internal steel bracing frame to support all the modules stacked on top of one another, allowing the structure to meet seismic codes, wind-load and lateral-bracing requirements. Simply put, the construction process is a lot more complicated than the fast-paced “stacking” that’s come to define other modular projects. FC Modular’s inexperience with the type of construction, not to mention the conflicts with Skanska, have caused construction hold-ups. As Garrison says of the delays: “They picked a very difficult project without ever doing modular.” (Garrison Architects is not part of the B2 design team.)

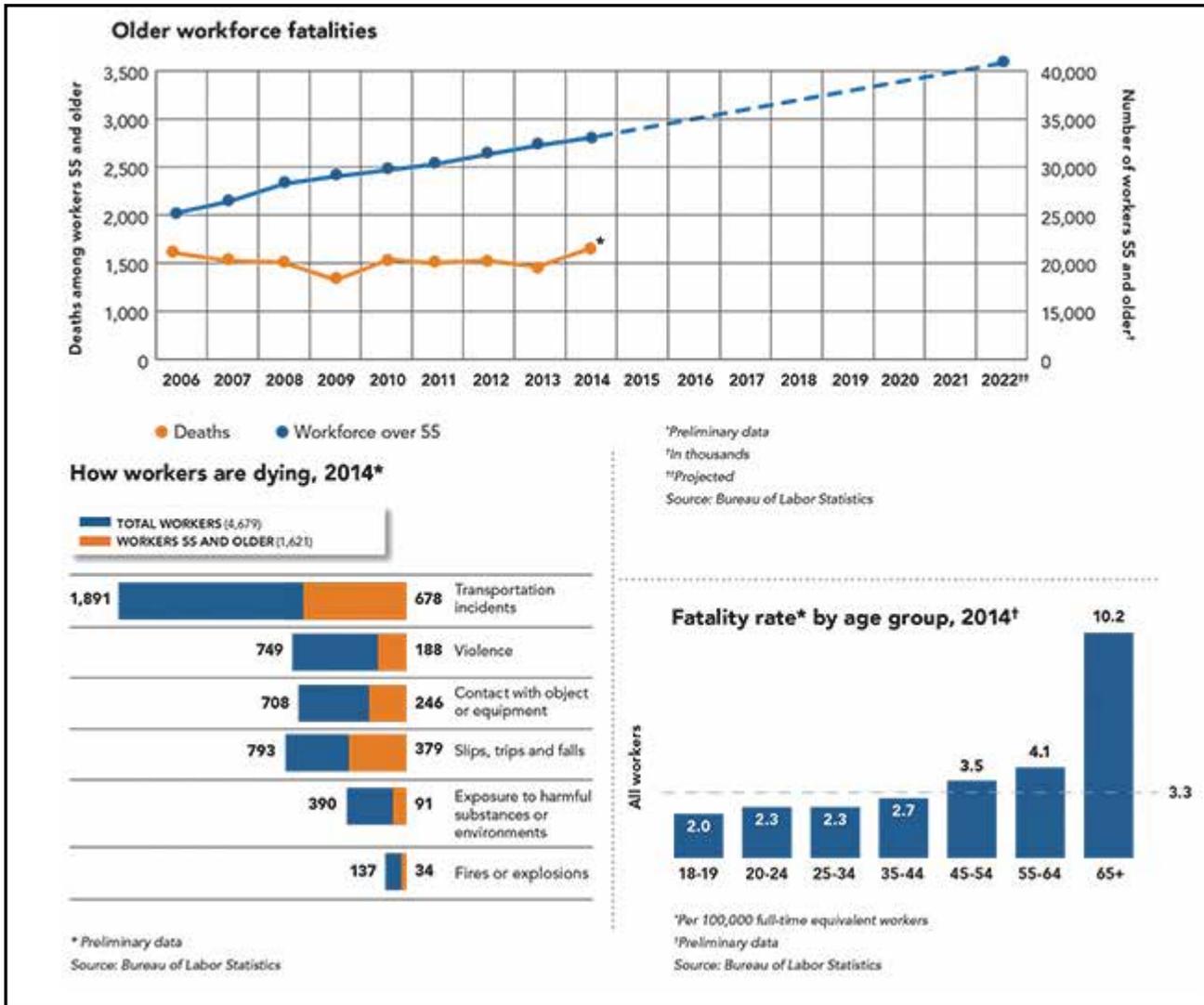
Susan Hayes, the president of FC Modular,

is hoping that B2 will become “the most powerful advertisement for modular” upon its completion. “Today, we have a number of potential [modular] projects in the pipeline that we hope to announce in the near future,” she said in an email. But the company is facing hurdles of its own: In December, it announced potential layoffs for more than 200 people if more work didn’t materialize for the modular division. According to Hayes, “These potential layoffs are a reflection of a cyclical industry. However, it is our ultimate goal to create a pipeline of work at the factory that can support the workforce on an ongoing basis.” The biggest hurdle she sees in the growth of modular in New York? “A dearth of available, affordable space, which is necessary for a modular construction factory.”

Another thing to remember: the modular market is about much more than housing units. “The volumetric boxes—housing modules—are flashier and show up in the big stories,” said Amy Marks, president of XSite Modular, a New Jersey-based company that consults for prefabrication projects around the world. “There are an infinite numbers of prefab construction elements possible”—anything from pre-fabricated electrical wiring to stairs to bathrooms. The industry, she says, is on the upswing, but “there’s still a gap in the skill set.” Marks brought up the Pod Hotel modules, being constructed in Poland before the shipment to Brooklyn. “Other countries are innovating faster, and bringing it to us,” she says. “The demand for pre-fabrication is there, and eventually U.S. consumers will start looking for it elsewhere.”

To Vandal, there’s the lingering question of, “Can construction and design teams make this leap [to build modular]?” Garrison echoes the sentiment: “We need one or two projects that can establish a good modular system and approach...a building needs to first demonstrate the advantages of modular.”

AGING U.S. WORKFORCE CARRIES BOTH BENEFITS AND LIABILITIES FOR CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES



By Jill Odom

Many factors have caused older workers to remain on the job longer and the trend is only expected to increase. This change in demographics has several different effects on workplace safety trends.

About one-quarter of all workers are expected to be 55 or older by 2022, according to Mitra Toossi, an economist with the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Office of Occupational Statistics and Employment Projections.

Those born between 1946 and 1964 have been staying at their jobs longer, while members of previous generations

typically stopped working at 55. Part of the demographic change is owing to a change in employee benefits. Previously, those who worked 30 years would qualify for a pension or defined retirement sum, while now workers have 401(k) plans that are susceptible to market changes.

Economic factors, a desire to retain health insurance through their jobs, and the higher age for Social Security eligibility all play a part, but some workers simply enjoy their jobs and want to keep working.

"People live longer lives," Toossi said. "They live healthier lives, so those who have jobs just cling onto the job and they don't want to give it up."

One of the good things that come from having older employees in the workforce is that they are less likely to be injured on the job than any other age group, with one important exception: Those 65 and older have a higher rate of slips, trips and falls. At 49.5 injuries from slips, trips, or falls per 10,000 workers, the rate of such injuries among workers 65 and older is double the rate of employees younger than 45.

And as you'd expect, when injuries do happen, there's a significant difference in recuperation time between younger and older workers. While it generally takes 16- to 19-year-old workers only four days to recover from an injury, workers 65 and older normally require a total of 17 days away from work.

While it's natural for people's bodies to decline as they age, Bill Spiers, a risk control services manager with consulting firm Lockton, says the aging of the workforce will translate to higher workers' compensation costs.

"The wave is coming," Spiers said. "As those people stay, it's my opinion that the cost of those injuries is going to be higher."

Older workers also have the highest risk of work-related death. In 2008, 580 workers 65 and older died on the job for reasons other than natural causes; in 2014, the number was 656. Between 2013 and 2014 alone, the number of work-related fatalities in the 65-and-older age group rose 17 percent.

Safety and Health Magazine cautions that the Bureau of Labor Statistics' figures for 2014 are preliminary; but, if the 17 percent increase holds true, researchers will be trying to determine why the pronounced increase in work-related fatalities is affecting only the 65 and older demographic.

Meanwhile, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has begun researching "aging-friendly" workplaces.

Ken Kolosh, manager of statistics for the National Safety Council, points out that when safety improvements are made to protect older workers, workers of all ages typically benefit.

NIOSH health communication fellow Juliann Scholl says U.S. employers should try to instill an appreciation of safety practices in their young workers from day one.

"The sooner you can instill these habits and practices, the longer it stays with them as they move into an older age," Scholl said. •

Jill Odom is Associate Editor at Random Reilly.

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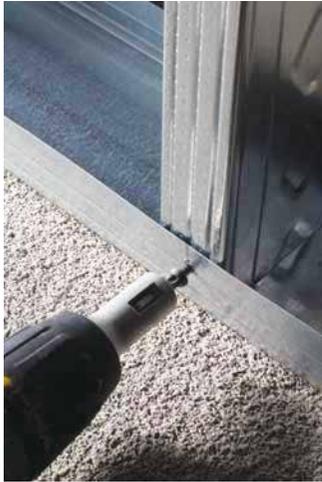
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Product News

ProSTUD® DRYWALL FRAMING SYSTEM STEEL DRYWALL STUDS

ProSTUD Drywall Framing System (ProSTUD® and ProTRAK®) is the innovative steel drywall stud that sets a new industry benchmark for high performance.



Its patent pending design combines high-strength steel with additional stiffening enhancements for a drywall framing stud previously unimagined.

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ARMSTRONG® ADDS NEW DEPTHS AND SHAPES TO SOUNDSCAPES® BLADES™ LINE OF LINEAR ACOUSTICAL PANELS



New 5", 16", and 28" panel depths and wave designs are now available

The SoundScapes® Blades™ line of linear acoustical panels from Armstrong® now includes new depths and shapes, adding hundreds

of design combinations that reduce noise and define spaces with an upscale linear visual.

Available in both rectangular and new curved bottom wave designs, these unique vertical panels combine excellent acoustical absorption with sleek, linear design to reduce reverberation time and add visual interest to a space.

ARMSTRONG

www.armstrong.com/soundscapesblades

NEW OPTIMA® CONCEALED CEILING PANELS CREATE A MONOLITHIC VISUAL WITH A FULLY CONCEALED SUSPENSION SYSTEM

Large format acoustical panels are downward accessible for minimal plenum height

New Optima® Concealed ceiling panels from Armstrong offer a monolithic visual in large format panels that fully



Optima Concealed Ceiling Panels installed in an open office plan

conceal the suspension system. The fine textured ceiling panels combine the smooth look of drywall with downward accessibility for projects with minimal plenum heights.

With both an Articulation Class (AC) of 190 and a Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC) of 0.90, Optima Concealed ceiling panels provide outstanding acoustical performance in open plan areas.

Optima Concealed ceiling panels are available in standard 48" x 48", 30" x 30", 24" x 48", 24" x 72", and 24" x 96" panel sizes. The fiberglass panels install easily on a new

or existing Prelude® 15/16" XL® suspension system. The panels have an energy-efficient, high light-reflective white finish. They have a smooth, clean, durable surface that is washable, scratch-resistant, and soil-resistant. The panels have a 30-year guarantee against visible sag, mold, and mildew. The panels are made with up to 71 percent recycled content. They can be ordered along with matching Blizzard White fixture trim kits for a clean, finished look around lights and diffusers. Optima Concealed ceiling panels are recommended for use in open plan office areas, auditoriums, areas with limited plenum depth, and/or indirect lighting systems.

ARMSTRONG

www.armstrong.com/optima

BASF LAUNCHES PLATINUM CI WALL SYSTEMS FEATURING NEOPOR® RIGID INSULATION BOARD

BASF Corporation Wall Systems business has announced the launch of Platinum CI and Platinum CI Stucco wall



systems featuring Neopor Rigid Insulation Board. BASF's Wall Systems is a leading manufacturer of exterior insulation and finish systems (EIFS), stucco and air/water-resistive barriers. Platinum

Continuous Insulation (CI) systems are exterior wall claddings featuring platinum Neopor advanced insulation technology - the latest innovation in insulation from BASF. Neopor is a patented rigid insulation board with graphite

embedded into the polymer matrix. Graphite reflects infrared energy, thus decreasing the material's thermal conductivity and increasing its R-value. It also exceeds many ASTM C578 Type II requirements including density, flexural and compressive strength.

Platinum CI and Platinum CI Stucco wall systems provide an innovative alternative to meeting the new energy standards," said Peter Daechsel, National Marketing Manager, BASF's Wall Systems business. "They incorporate remarkably effective continuous insulation to produce superior R-value prescribed for high performing exterior cladding systems."

Platinum CI and Platinum CI Stucco wall systems utilize a specially selected, high density (1.45 pcf) Neopor board to optimize thermal performance and improve impact resistance. The boards are available in R-5, R-7.5 and R-10 thermal resistance for ease of design and to ensure energy code compliance. Neopor Rigid Insulation Board is also available in custom thicknesses and shapes.

BASF

www.wallsystems.basf.com

BOSH'S WOOD ROUTER: ABOUT THAT COMFORT

The reviewer at the About website's woodworking area, Chris Baylor, said that the Colt was "one of the most comfortable palm routers we've ever used." He was



impressed by the complete kit. "This palm router didn't disappoint; I had an absolute

ball working with this router. The motor, while small at 1.0 HP & 5.7 amps, more than held its own for the basic

Continued on following page

Product News

routing tasks I put it through. The height adjustments, whether major or minor (using the Microfine Depth Adjustment) were accurate and the depth scales (in both Standard and Metric increments) printed right on the unit were a nice touch.

“Upon opening the case of the Bosch Colt PR20EVSNK Variable Speed Palm Router Kit, we were a bit overwhelmed by the choices of attachments included with the router. After a closer inspection, we couldn’t quit thinking of uses for all of the attachments on a number of different woodworking projects.”

The Colt wood router is a great and handy power tool for custom carpentry, trimming laminate flooring or deck planks, mortising hinges, dovetailing and more. And with Bosch’s “Constant Response” circuitry, you always have a stable speed so you can always keep control of the router for clean, burn-free cuts. Learn more about this palm router and other Bosch routers.

BOSCH

www.boschtools.com

NEW MAKITA CORDLESS MITER SAW MEETS AND EXCEEDS CORDED DEMANDS

Makita® has released another 18 volt cordless solution that meets and exceeds corded demands with the new 18V X2 LXT® Lithium-Ion (36V) Brushless Cordless 7-1/2" Dual Slide Compound Miter Saw, model XSL02Z.

The XSL02Z is the first in the cordless miter saw category to be powered by two 18V lithium-ion batteries. With Makita’s exclusive 18V X2 technology users get 36V power and run-time – without leaving the 18V battery platform. It features an efficient brushless motor that delivers 5,700 RPM, the fastest blade speed in the category, for true corded performance.

This new cordless solution is part of Makita’s expanding 18V Lithium-Ion series, which will exceed 125 tools in 2016, and is the world’s largest cordless tool line-up powered by 18V Lithium-Ion slide-style batteries. Makita 18V Lithium-Ion batteries have the fastest

charge times in their categories, so they spend more time working and less time sitting on the charger.

The XSL02 is powered by an efficient Makita BL™ Brushless Motor with direct-drive gearbox and electric brake that delivers a full 5,700 RPM: over twice the speed of the previous model and the highest RPM in the category. The higher blade speed combined with Automatic Speed Change™ Technology, which adjusts cutting speed and torque during the cut, gives users faster, more efficient cutting.

The XSL02Z delivers large dimensional lumber cutting capacity, with 2" x 12" at 90 degrees and 2" x 8" at 45 degrees.



18V X2 LXT Lithium-Ion (36V) Brushless Cordless 7-1/2" Dual Slide Compound Miter Saw (model XSL02Z, tool only).

The saw has a four steel rail sliding system that increases rigidity and four linear ball bearings to produce smooth, dead-on

accurate cuts right out of the box. Similar to other models in Makita’s miter saw line-up, the XSL02Z has a direct-drive gearbox for increased cutting efficiency and less maintenance than a belt-drive model. It weighs only 28.2 lbs. (with batteries, sold separately) for increased jobsite portability.

For improved tool performance and extended battery life, the XSL02Z features Star Protection Computer Controls™. Star Protection is communication technology that allows the Star Protection-equipped tool and battery to exchange data in real time and monitor conditions during use to protect against overloading, over-discharging and overheating. For increased versatility, the XSL02Z can be powered by Makita 18V LXT® and Compact Lithium-Ion batteries with the star symbol on the battery indicating Star Protection inside, including 18V Lithium-Ion 2.0Ah, 3.0Ah, 4.0Ah, and 5.0Ah batteries.

MAKITA

www.makitatools.com

GRACO INTRODUCES NEW HIGH PRESSURE DIAPHRAGM PUMPS

Graco has just released the Endura-Flo Series of high pressure double diaphragm pumps.

The Endura-Flo 4D150 and Endura-Flo 4D350 pneumatic paint circulation and supply pumps have an



industry-leading pressure ratio of 4:1. They're designed for long-lasting durability and can withstand runaway conditions better than other

diaphragm pumps. The Endura-Flo has also been designed for easy installation and fast online maintenance, thus minimizing downtime.

"We wanted to have the best high-pressure diaphragm pump in the industry, so we focused our efforts on developing a superior diaphragm that lasts longer than the competition, and built a pump around it," said Bill Heuer, Worldwide Product Marketing Manager, Industrial Products Division. "This makes it an ideal choice for multiple applications and industries."

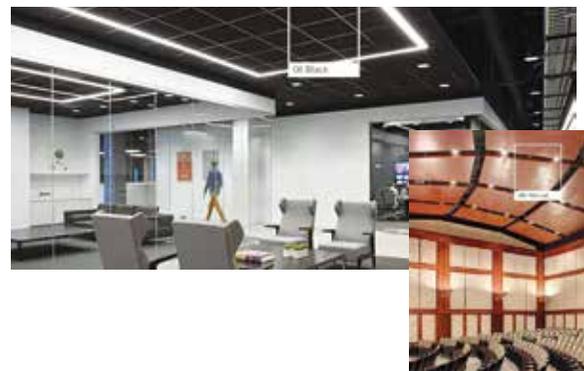
The pumps need minimal solvent to flush and they have a consistent startup pressure, making them an excellent choice for multiple color change and piggable systems. Other features include easy access to critical components for fast online maintenance and simple configurations for custom installations.

The Endura-Flo 4D150 and 4D350 are available with DataTrak, Graco's electronic fluid monitoring system, which prevents runaway and tracks material usage.

GRACO INC.
www.graco.com

ROCKFON® PRESENTS A BROAD PALETTE OF COLORFUL CEILING SOLUTIONS TO INSPIRE CREATIVITY IN COMMERCIAL INTERIOR DESIGN

A full spectrum of hues now is offered for stone wool acoustic ceiling panels, specialty metal ceiling panels and ceiling suspension systems. The variety of colors and finishes are showcased in "Ceiling Solutions that bring color to life," a new brochure available free for download. ROCKFON's 34 exclusive Color-All™ colors have been harmonized across its stone wool acoustic panels, specialty metal panels and suspension systems. "Color plays a vital role in influencing our experiences inside buildings and enhancing the architectural form. It is an international, visual language understood by all," says Chris Marshall, ROCKFON's vice president of



marketing and business development in North America. ROCKFON's specialty metal ceiling panels are available in metallic color finishes, Woodscenes™ painted finishes and Metalwood™ woodgrain finishes. "Using metal ceiling panels finished in wood tones, you can capture the beauty of wood without the headaches of real wood, such as the adverse impacts caused by exposure to humidity and sunlight. With metal, there is less maintenance and performance specifications can be easily met," explains Marshall. "Our metal wood finishes can be used for high-end interior and exterior applications."

ROCKFON
www.rockfon.com

Product News

TITAN LAUNCHES NEW FINE FINISH AIRLESS SPRAYERS

Titan is expanding its line of professional fine finishing sprayers with the introduction of the AirCoat Series. These new air powered, air-assisted airless sprayers provide



a consistent, superior finish for virtually all fine finishing applications like cabinets, furniture, doors, trim and small metal finishing.

Working in conjunction with an air compressor, AirCoat Series sprayer systems provide greater control of spray due to lower fluid pressure, enabling the finest atomization, cloudless

operation and smooth bubble-free finishes. They will spray solvent and water-based paints, primers, varnishes, polyurethanes, stains and lacquers, slow-setting 2K coatings and UV hardening paints. AirCoat Series sprayers are designed primarily for small- to medium-sized wood and metal finishing shops.

To ensure a flawless finish, Titan includes premium features standard on each AirCoat Series sprayer. This includes stainless steel fluid sections that enable usage of all fine finishing coatings, pulsation dampers that minimize pressure fluctuations, convenient mufflers for lower operating noise levels, and manifold filters. Additional standard features include an air filter, dual regulator, air lubricator, fluid pressure gauge, and two air pressure gauges.

“We understand the importance of a super-fine finish, so we’ve integrated premium upgrades into each AirCoat Series sprayer,” said Chris Noto, director of professional products for Titan. “We’re serious about perfection, and we know that professionals are too.”

The Titan AirCoat Series includes two models:

AirCoat 423 – 4-inch air motor; .50 GPM delivery; 2,670 PSI

AirCoat 620 – 6-inch air motor, 1.25 GPM delivery, 2,320 PSI

Titan also offers flexible configurations for the AirCoat

Series. Customers have the choice of a cart or a spider mount, and can order the sprayer “Bare,” or “Complete,” which includes a Titan 3600 AA gun, flat tip, and 50-foot air and fluid hose.

TITAN TOOLS

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CERTAINTEED INTRODUCES HABITOU: THE WORLD’S STRONGEST 1/2-INCH WALLBOARD

Introducing Habito (hab-i-toh), a revolutionary new drywall product from CertainTeed. Habito is the strongest and hardest 1/2-inch wallboard material available today and features technical benefits previously unseen in the drywall category.

“Finally, a wallboard product that helps eliminate the frustration many of us have when hanging heavy objects—the need for anchors or finding wall studs,” says Dave Engelhardt, president of CertainTeed Gypsum. “Habito continues our emphasis on providing innovative products that offer practical solutions to builders and homeowners.”

Habito is an industry-first, featuring a new level of flexibility and unmatched performance, including:

Fastening Capability Fixing capabilities that eliminate the need for threaded drywall anchors or nailing to wall studs for fixtures under 30 pounds.

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Solution Specific The perfect alternative for high traffic areas interiors that tend to see use and abuse, as well as areas where homeowners will often redecorate and mount shelves, media, décor and other fixtures.

Habito will be available to the North American market this Spring. For media enquiries visit us here.

CERTAINTEED

www.certainteed.com/gypsum

OSHA to Introduce More Durable and Secure Outreach Trainer, Student Cards

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration is introducing more durable and secure completion cards for its Outreach Training Program, including 10-hour and 30-hour voluntary safety classes. The new cards are intended to reduce fraud and improve efficiency.

After Feb. 29, completion cards will be made of a more durable card stock – like a credit card – with authorizing logos, a watermark when copied and a QR code for authentication.

Trainer cards will include trainer name, trainer ID number, expiration date and OTI Education Center where the trainer was authorized. Student cards will have student name, trainer name, date of issue and the OTI Education Center which produced the card.

The OTI Education Centers will maintain an electronic database of authorized trainers and students who have completed the 10- and 30-hour classes. This will allow employers and workers to authenticate their card with the

use of a QR code on each card. OTI Education Centers will charge \$8 each for the new cards, compared to \$5 for the current paper cards.

Workers who already have 10-hour and 30-hour cards do not need to change over to the new cards. They may choose to purchase a new card by contacting the trainer who conducted the class, but only if the course was taken within the past three years. The new cards will be issued for in-person training sessions only. Online courses will continue to be offered by authorized providers, but students who complete online training will continue to receive paper cards at this time.

The cards are expected to reduce fraud because their more durable stock will be more difficult to copy. Also each worker card will have verifiable information, including ways to contact the trainer who conducted the course. They are expected to increase efficiency because the new process will reduce the number of days it takes to request and process cards.

For more information on OSHA's voluntary Outreach Training Programs, visit <https://www.osha.gov/dte/outreach/index.html>. •

OSHA Seeks Nominations For Membership On The National Advisory Committee On Occupational Safety And Health

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration today announced that the agency is accepting nominations for six positions on the 12-member National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health.

NACOSH was established under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to advise, consult with and make recommendations to the Secretaries of Labor and Health and Human Services on matters relating to the administration of the Act, including regulatory, research, compliance assistance and enforcement issues.

OSHA is seeking nominations for two public representatives and one representative from each of the following categories: management, labor, occupational safety, and occupational health. Members serve a two-year term and may be appointed to successive terms.

Nominations may be submitted electronically at www.regulations.gov, the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Nominations may also be sent by mail or facsimile; see the Federal Register notice for submission details. The deadline for nominations is March 22, 2016. •



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Now that Chicago Metallic® is a part of ROCKFON®, the only limit to your next ceiling is your imagination. From tiles to islands, baffles to metal panels, our integrated solutions are ideal for any interior, thanks to the design, acoustics and fire protection of ROCKFON stone wool tiles, the versatility of our ROCKFON specialty metal panels and the precision engineering of Chicago Metallic suspension systems. ROCKFON acoustic ceilings are available in a variety of colors, surfaces, edges and module sizes. Whether it's the highly-demanding acoustics and light reflection in an open plan office, controlling the potentially-damaging decibels of a production factory, creating an elegant echo-free hotel lobby or ensuring speech intelligibility in a classroom,

ROCKFON develops products for any indoor environment:

- Office
- Education
- Commercial
- Leisure & Sport
- Healthcare
- Industry

ROCKFON stone wool acoustical ceiling tiles are GREENGUARD Gold certified.



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