

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

March 2004

Publisher's Message The Role of Engineering by SBC Staff

From design responsibilities and whole house design to fire endurance and the importance of training, this issue is chock full of information to feed the technical side of your business. Hope you're hungry!

It just wouldn't be right to begin an issue devoted to engineering advancements without some corny—albeit true—engineer humor:

“To the optimist, the glass is half full. To the pessimist, the glass is half empty. To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.”

All jokes aside, the fact remains that the structural building components industry depends on the work, expertise and training of many types of engineers in order to make manufacturing operations run smoothly and building designs structurally sound. Industrial engineers implement and oversee quality control in manufacturing facilities, while structural engineers verify that building design and layout, once erected, will prove structurally sound for the inhabitants' safety.

One issue that has repeatedly surfaced among building designers, engineers, contractors and component manufacturers in the industry is the question of the structural engineer's role in design responsibility. This issue is addressed in [an article by Dave Brakeman, P.E. \(of Alpine Engineered Products\) and Kirk Grundahl, P.E. \(of WTCA\)](#), in response to a 2003 forum printed in Structure Magazine.

Another emerging industry topic is the prospect of whole house design. As the whole house design concept spreads through the homebuilding industry as the most efficient, economic and practical means of designing a home, certain questions arise as to how component manufacturers will be impacted by the change. WTCA President Dan Holland addressed this concern in his [Editor's Message](#). Read up on what these changes will mean to you in the future.

We also address topics relating to [fire endurance](#) in this issue. Captain John Vardian of the Phoenix Fire Department, recognizing the urgency of firefighter training in the Phoenix area, has started a training company called Ladder Concepts. John reveals why he and training partner Captain Fred Dimas were compelled to offer advanced training to the fire service.

To end on a more serious note, Herbert Hoover once said, “Engineering is a great profession. There is the fascination of watching a figment of the imagination emerge through the aid of science to a plan on paper. Then it moves to realization in stone or metal or energy [or wood]. Then it brings homes to men or women. Then it elevates the standard of living and adds to the comforts of life. This is the engineer's high privilege.”

We hope you enjoy this issue as we take a look at the issues this “great profession” must examine in the day-to-day operations of the structural building components industry.

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