

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

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From Our Readers

Reader response to a series of articles in the August and September/October issues of SBC, "The Next Generation of Structural Building Component Design," has hit an all-time high. Following is some feedback we received from our loyal readers.

"In regards to your article in S/O issue, I do believe our industry is headed to a whole house design. I have seen the software and it has improved over the last few years. I personally think that the software companies have not found a good niche for it yet other than CMs. The lumber dealers/builders are not going to want to design their projects; they are going to look to someone that can provide the design and the product at the same time. I believe that they will be willing to pay for products that provide them one-stop shopping and the security that all the components have been looked at together, not wondering if the truss manufacturer has been communicating with the I-joist supplier or the wall panel supplier and so on. This is a great opportunity for the companies that sell service and added-value products. The companies that believe customers buy on price only, this will more then likely not be a match for them. However this may put them in a position down the road that they are not happy with. We are at this point supplying roof truss, floor truss, I-joist floor systems and wall panel packages. We are also looking at adding other products. Our next step is to add the whole house design of these products."

—Glenn Dobbs, Letherer Wall Systems Manager (a division of Letherer Truss), Clare, MI

[John Meeks, P.E. called in to jog our memories a bit. He commended the article in the August issue, noting that its message is very timely and that everyone in the industry ought to be considering the positives and negatives of this issue as it evolves. Meeks called SBC staff's attention to an article he submitted in June/July 2000 that predicted that whole building design could possibly enter the picture at some point in the future:]

"As long as wood truss design continues to be done in the shops of the truss component manufacturers and plate manufacturers, can their already three dimensional computer program technology be used to include 'system' design of the entire roof or floor system? Building designers seem to be anxious to turn over the technical aspects of their design responsibility to others and perhaps it is time for the industry to add value to the structural system design and offer this service, for a fee, of course."

To submit a letter to "From Our Readers," email editor@sbcmag.info.

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