

# STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

January/February 2005

## Publisher's Message

### Right Time for a Change! by SBC Staff

*"Nothing endures but change." —Heraclitus (540 BC - 480 BC)*

Happy New Year! There is no time like the beginning of a new calendar year to consider making a few changes. For SBC Magazine, it means introducing some modifications to our editorial calendar for 2005. The New Year holds some exciting plans for fresh editorial topics, original features and a renewed commitment to bringing you more information on the leading-edge issues affecting the structural building components industry.

Let's start with the issue you hold in your hands: the first issue in SBC's history to focus on Wall Panel Manufacturing! When it comes to considering change, wall panel manufacturing has been the industry's hot topic for the past few years. According to information provided by members, more than 25 percent of the Wood Truss Council of America (WTCA) membership currently manufactures wall panels, and it seems more companies are considering getting into wall panel manufacturing every day. Feedback from attendees of the Building Component Manufacturers Conference (BCMC) has shown that this is a topic of great interest; and suppliers of wall panel manufacturing equipment reported heavy traffic at the 2004 show in Charlotte.

We delve into this topic by looking at wall panel manufacturing from a few different angles. Our [anchor article](#) begins by taking you through what some in the industry have called "the most automated wall panel manufacturing plant in the country," as we explore the operations of Advanced Building & Components in Mead, NE. In addition to exploring the height of automation, we visit a day in the life of one relatively new wall panel manufacturer and outline what to consider for those just breaking into this business line.

This issue is also home to [Part 2 of our series on "Transporting Trusses."](#) Building on the general introduction to navigating regulations and enforcement provided in the December 2004 issue, this installment will take a more specific look at questions of size, weight and reducible load.

As for the columns in this issue, one of your favorites returns under a new name. WTCA Legal Counsel Kent Pagel is an expert at tackling the daily legal issues facing wall, truss and component manufacturers. On this occasion, he discusses truss collapse investigations in [Legal Edge](#).

Finally, SBC staff wants to remind you of our theme for the year: "Your Industry, Your Magazine, Your Ideas." This publication exists to serve your needs and deliver the information you need to help you run a successful business. Don't hesitate to contact a member of our staff with your

comments, questions and article ideas. We look forward to hearing from you and to bringing you another nine quality issues of SBC Magazine in 2005!

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The mission of Structural Building Components Magazine (SBC) is to increase the knowledge of and to promote the common interests of those engaged in manufacturing and distributing of structural building components to ensure growth and continuity, and to be the information conduit by staying abreast of leading-edge issues. SBC will take a leadership role on behalf of the component industry in disseminating technical and marketplace information, and will maintain advisory committees consisting of the most knowledgeable professionals in the industry. The opinions expressed in SBC are those of the authors and those quoted solely, and are not necessarily the opinions of any of the affiliated associations (SBCC, WTCA, SCDA & STCA).