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STRUCTURAL BUILDING
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Editor's Message

Material Handling

by Bob Becht

Get a handle on materials
and much more in this issue!

It's the August issue, and that means a spotlight on material handling. I know what some of you are thinking—"we don't have any material to handle!" I've felt the same way a few times this year. But the reality is, as long as we have human beings moving inventory and product around, safe and efficient material handling is very important.

The cover story for this issue presents some interesting handling scenarios due to the use of long-span double-radius trusses. This project, which occurred in my home state of Florida, was uniquely challenging for the folks at Builders FirstSource. Turn to page 32 to read about how individuals from this company combined art and science to supply components for this extravagant custom home.

When was the last time you estimated the cost of a job using price per board foot as a metric? In "The Board Footage Myth Debunked" on page 36, Scott Coffman explains why costing with board footage can be a short-sighted method. With examples as proof, Coffman tells us why we would be wise to consider a more global strategy of costing that includes labor, species, grade and plates.

As long as we have human beings moving inventory and product around, safe and efficient material handling is very important.

In this issue's **Environmental Components** column (see page 24), we take a look at nine ways your company and products are (and have always been) "green." It is proof positive that building green doesn't have to mean paying top dollar for possibly inaccessible certified materials or trying to earn a point here or a point there by complying with one of the many wordy green building programs. The building and design community doesn't necessarily focus on the true environmental benefits of component design and building. So it's our job to spread the word: "Structural Building Components: Green since 1952."

I'd like to remind you that the **BCMC Early Bird Deadline is August 25**. Attendance rates go up about 20 percent after this date, so you take advantage of the deal. On page 16 you'll find a complete list of the educational presentations and roundtables that await this year's BCMC attendees. One of the reasons I'm going to BCMC this year is to fine-tune our business plan for 2009. I'm also looking forward to collecting some new ideas from my peers. The show is one of the things that makes our industry so unique, and I am continually fascinated by this forum we create once a year that makes us stronger, smarter and better business people. Most of us are facing the most challenging business environment of our lives, and BCMC promises to be your business lifeline. There's really nothing else like it. I hope to see you there.

Finally, a special reminder that we have permanently moved the Annual SBC Industry Supplier Listing that formerly ran in the August issue of **SBC** to the Supplier Showcase/Buyer's Guide, which is polybagged with the November issue. In the meantime, to find more information about our loyal **SBC** advertisers, visit www.sbcmag.info/advertisers. **SBC**

at a glance

- ❑ A project featuring long-span radius trusses is on page 32.
- ❑ Environmental Components on page 24 explains nine reasons building components have been green since 1952.
- ❑ Don't miss the BCMC Early Bird deadline on August 25! Check out the main events on page 16.

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