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July 2026
VOLUME 48 | NO. 7

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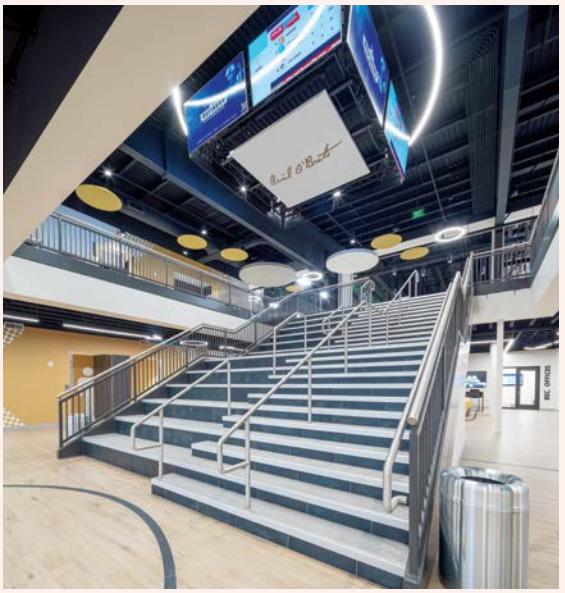

On the Cover

MBCEA's 2026 Building of the Year, The Refinery Sports Complex in Garden City, Kansas, highlights the capabilities of today's metal building industry. At 200,000 sf, the project demonstrates advanced design, coordinated construction, and the ability to deliver large, multifunctional facilities that meet evolving demands for performance, flexibility, and long-term durability.

PHOTO BY JASON RYMAN, COURTESY MBCEA

Great projects begin with great collaboration

Melanie Kowal
EXECUTIVE PUBLISHER
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Happy Fourth of July!

Somehow we're already at the halfway point of the year, and I'm not entirely sure who moved the calendar. That tends to be how it feels in this industry … one minute you're mapping out priorities for the year ahead, and the next you're wondering how it's already July.

One of the things I enjoy most about my role is the opportunity to speak with so many different people across the metal construction industry. Whether they are manufacturers, contractors, suppliers, association leaders, architects, or fabricators, there is one thing I've noticed over the years: nobody ever seems to be standing still.

There is always a new challenge to solve, a process to improve, a product to refine, or an opportunity to pursue.

That mindset is reflected throughout this issue.

We're proud to showcase the winners of the 2026 MBCEA Building of the Year Awards. While the finished projects are certainly impressive, what stands out for me is the amount of collaboration required to bring them to life.

Every award-winning building represents hundreds of decisions made by teams of people working toward a common goal. It's a reminder that great projects don't happen by accident.

You'll see that same focus on continuous improvement in many of this month's features. From advances in rollforming and coil processing to discussions around the correct way to approach roof attachments, door performance, and supply chain management, the common thread is finding better ways to work.

Not necessarily bigger ways or more complicated ways—just smarter ways.

As we move through the second half of the year, many companies are already looking ahead. Planning for new projects, evaluating investments, preparing for upcoming opportunities, and positioning themselves for what's next. The pace of change in our industry doesn't seem to be slowing down, but that is also one of its greatest strengths.

The people in metal construction have always been practical problem-solvers, and that ability to adapt continues to drive the industry forward.

Thank you for continuing to support Metal Construction News. Whether you've been with us for years or recently joined our readership, we appreciate the trust you place in us to deliver information that helps you do your job a little better every day.

Enjoy the issue, enjoy the summer, and *especially* enjoy the celebrations around the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence!

Melanie Kowal

What should be your estimator's *top* priority?

By George Hedley

George Hedley, *CPBC, is a certified professional construction business coach and speaker. He helps contractors build better businesses, grow, profit, improve estimating and field production, and get their companies to work. He is the best-selling author of "Get Your Construction Business to Always Make a Profit!" available on Amazon. Visit Construction Business Coaching to schedule a free introductory coaching session, receive his monthly Hardhat Hedlines Biz-Tips e-newsletter, download his template package, or watch his webinars and online video courses.*

Last week, I visited a commercial contractor and asked the estimator what his primary goal was. "To win work," he replied.

A common response, and not altogether wrong, but there is a more important goal at play.

Contractors often win projects at fair prices only to find themselves facing profit fade. After months of hard work and cultivating client relationships, projects can become unprofitable due to a lack of accuracy in the bid.

It is a contractor's worst nightmare when they discover their estimates don't align with actual project costs. And when that happens, the inevitable round of blame begins. So how do we prevent this?

We make accuracy in estimating the top priority, and this checklist will help:

1. Timecards
Good estimating starts with solid information from the field. Ensure timecards are categorized correctly according to cost codes relevant to your estimates. This allows project managers to track costs weekly against the budget and develop a reliable historical database.

2. Labor burden rate
This should not be a rough guess from the accounting department but a precise figure reflecting actual costs. Review rates for all employees, ensuring they cover taxes, insurance, benefits, and other related expenses to avoid bids that are either inflated or too low.

3. Bid crew rate
Adapt these rates based on crew composition and project complexity. Challenging projects may require experienced workers, while simpler jobs can employ less-qualified teams. Experiment with different crew sizes to determine the most accurate cost for each endeavor.

4. Equipment rates
Calculate ownership costs such as purchase price, maintenance, insurance, and fuel against expected billable hours. This will help formulate a realistic equipment billable rate.

5. Scope of work
Missed items can lead to significant losses. Keep track of omitted tasks or discrepancies between architectural and site plans. After project completion, review any missed items and integrate them into your estimating templates for future accuracy.

6. General conditions costs
Estimators often overlook the actual costs of general conditions. Rather than guess, obtain real-world data regarding startup, mobilization, utilities, temporary facilities, and project management. Accurate schedule reviews can prevent underbudgeting, which can balloon expenses unexpectedly.

Profitability lies in precision

The only fluctuations in bids should be overhead and profit markup. Top estimators maintain a small variance (usually 1-2%) between their estimates and actual job costs by continuously refining their understanding of project specifics through regular communication with field teams and by reviewing historical data.

For commercial contractors, the path to profitability lies in precision. Moving beyond mere estimates to accurate predictions can fundamentally change your business's financial trajectory. By refining your estimating practices, you enhance your chances of winning bids and safeguarding your profits.

It is a contractor's worst nightmare when they discover their estimates don't align with actual project costs.

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Rollforming solutions for roll-up door manufacturing

Automation minimizes human error and increases throughput

By Thomas Schwarzer

SOURCE: ASC MACHINE TOOLS INC.

Roll-up door performance begins long before installation. Manufacturing precision plays an important role in how smoothly doors assemble, operate, and withstand years of service in the field.

The production of roll-up doors has evolved significantly over the past decades, driven by manufacturer demands for higher efficiency, consistent quality, and reduced dependence on manual labor.

Modern manufacturing facilities rely on a combination of advanced rollforming systems and integrated automation to produce durable and high-performing door systems.

Primary production lines

Typically, four primary production lines or stations are required to manufacture the key components of a roll-up door:

1. Panel rollforming line
2. Seaming and rewind station
3. Guide track rollforming line
4. Bottom bar rollforming line

1. Panel rollforming line

The panel rollforming line forms the backbone of roll-up door production. This system is designed to process coil material—commonly 24-ga or 26-ga steel—into corrugated panels with an approximate coverage width of 20 inches. The corrugation not only adds strength and rigidity to the panels but also ensures proper interlocking during the seaming process.

Equipped with a post-cut shear, the panel line allows manufacturers to produce panels at precise lengths based on the required door height. The panel line can also be equipped with an integrated C-frame punching station, allowing for inline production of accurate hole patterns required for door latch installation,

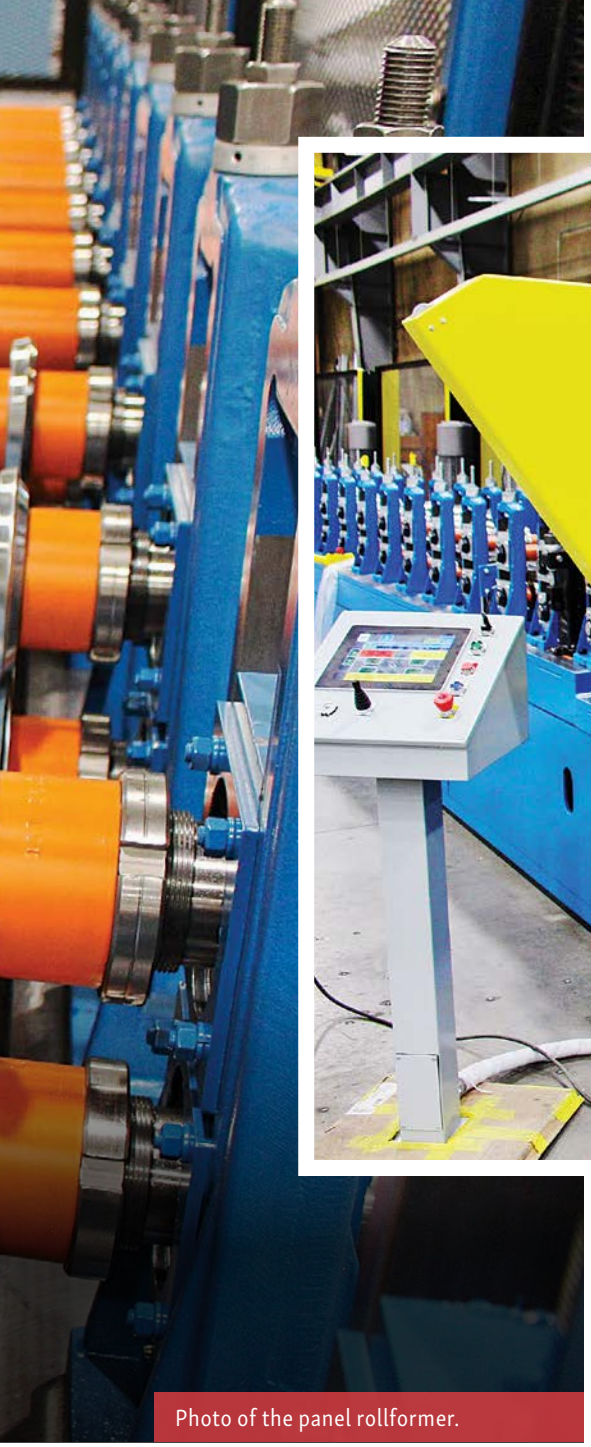

Photo of the panel rollformer.

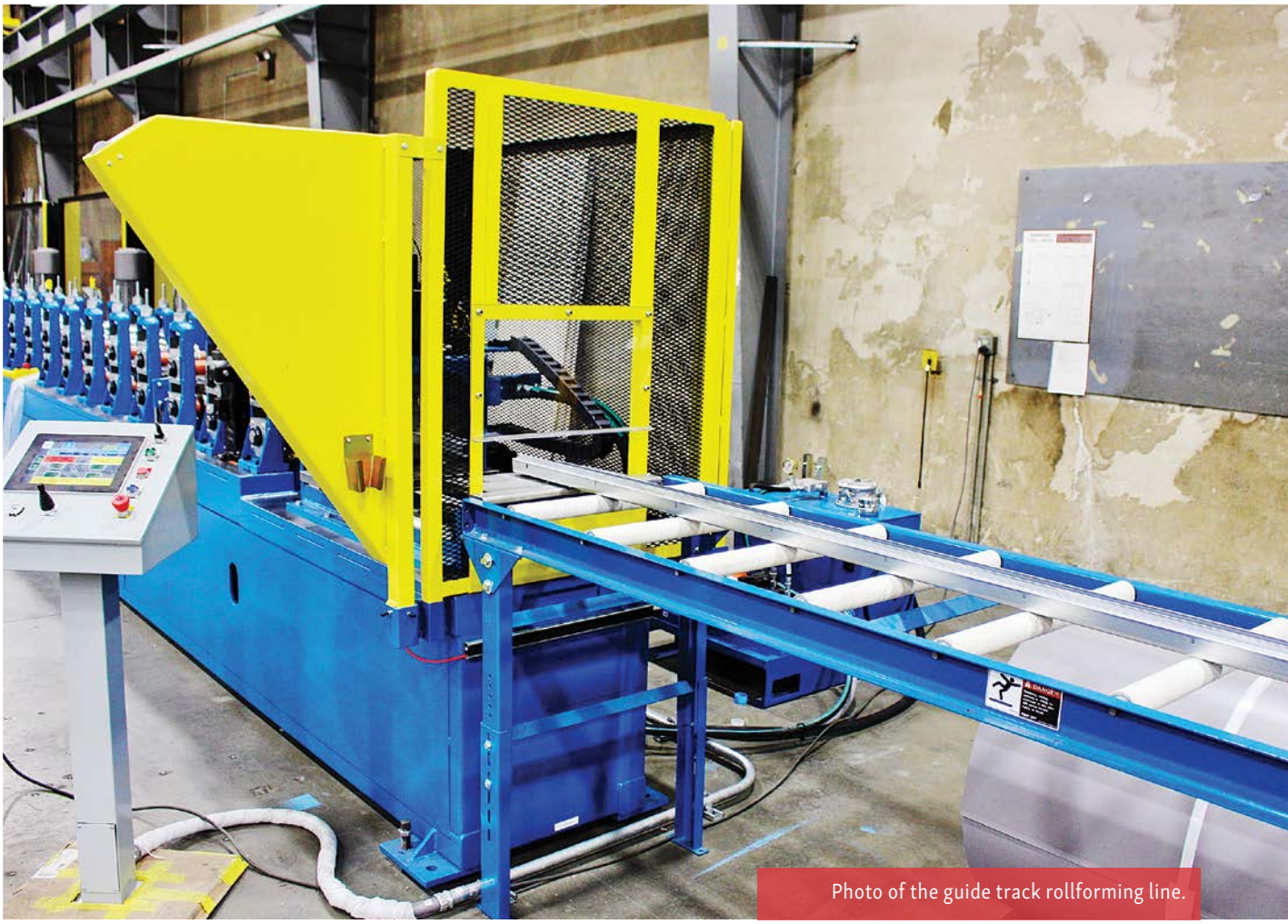

Photo of the guide track rollforming line.

eliminating secondary operations and improving overall efficiency.

Since roll-up doors can range in width from 3 feet to 20 feet, maintaining tight tolerances and consistent panel geometry is essential. Any deviation in panel shape or length can lead to complications during assembly and negatively impact the performance of the finished curtain.

2. Seaming and rewind station

Once panels are formed, they are transferred to the seaming and rewind station, where the door curtain is assembled. This station is typically available in standard lengths of 10 feet and 20 feet, accommodating various production requirements and facility layouts.

At this stage, an operator positions two panels into a seaming channel and mechanically hooks them together. A powered seaming sled then travels along the joint, closing the hooks and forming a secure seam. This process is repeated until the full curtain height is achieved.

After assembly, the completed curtain is conveyed to the winding unit. Here, it is attached to a drum—usually with mechanical fasteners such as screws—and wound into its final rolled configuration. The winding system may be equipped with either a single- or dual-motor drive system, depending on the size and weight of the curtain being handled.

To further enhance product quality, some rewind stations offer optional curtain tensioning systems. They help ensure the curtain is wound tightly and evenly, preventing issues such as telescoping or uneven rolling during installation and operation.

3. Guide track rollforming line

The guide track rollforming line is responsible for producing the track profiles that guide the roll-up door during operation. These profiles are critical components, as they ensure smooth movement and proper alignment of the curtain.

This production line typically includes an inline punching station followed by a rollformer and a flying post-cut shear. The punching station creates all necessary mounting holes, fastening points, and lock openings prior to forming. The flying shear enables continuous production while cutting the profiles to precise lengths without stopping the line.

Both left-hand and right-hand track profiles are produced, requiring precise tooling and alignment to maintain dimensional accuracy. Consistency in track geometry is essential to avoid operational issues such as binding or excessive wear.

To further improve efficiency, some systems include automated insertion units, which feed and install the guide runner

Photo of the bottom bar line.

material—typically a plastic or nylon insert—directly onto the track during the rollforming process. By eliminating manual insertion, manufacturers can reduce labor costs while ensuring consistent placement and quality.

4. Bottom bar rollforming line

The bottom bar serves as the final structural component of the roll-up door curtain, providing reinforcement and acting as the interface between the curtain and the floor. It also typically houses the astragal, a sealing element that helps improve insulation and weather resistance.

Bottom bar profiles can vary significantly in shape and are typically manufacturer-specific in design. Most configurations are engineered to accommodate additional components such as kick plates and door locking mechanisms.

The bottom bar rollforming line includes an integrated punching station to create holes for handles, locks, and other hardware components. Precision in this process is critical to ensure proper fit and functionality during installation.

Some rollforming lines incorporate inline astragal insertion, allowing the sealing strips to be fed directly into the profile as it is being formed. This eliminates the need for secondary manual operations, reducing labor requirements and improving consistency.

Integrated manufacturing advantages

The integration of these four production systems into a cohesive manufacturing workflow provides significant advantages. Automation reduces reliance on manual labor, minimizes human error, and increases throughput. At the same time, inline processing ensures that each component is produced with consistent quality and precision.

Photo of the winding station.

By leveraging modern rollforming technologies, manufacturers can achieve higher production speeds while maintaining strict quality standards. Features such as servo-driven systems, automated material handling, and inline insertion capabilities contribute to an efficient, cost-effective operation.

Roll-up door manufacturing relies on a combination of specialized rollforming systems working in harmony to produce high-quality components. From panel production to final assembly, each stage plays a critical role in ensuring the performance and durability of the finished product.

Manufacturers that invest in modern rollforming technology are better positioned to meet growing demand, improve operational efficiency, and deliver superior products to the market.

Thomas Schwarzer *is the Northeast regional sales manager for ASC Machine Tools Inc., which provides manufacturing solutions for C/Z purlin, panel, trim, door, and decking production. The company also serves the agricultural sector with high-production grain bin roof, wall, and stiffener lines.*

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Supply chain resilience in metal construction

AI-powered planning tools can help fabricators and suppliers adapt to disruption

George Ninikas

SOURCE: ID 247575931 © KINEK00 | DREAMSTIME.COM

For decades, metal construction supply chain strategy was defined by one overarching goal: efficiency.

Steel fabricators, metal building manufacturers, and coil processors invested heavily in optimization technologies designed to reduce transportation costs, streamline jobsite delivery networks, and maximize mill and fabrication asset utilization.

The prevailing belief was simple: the more optimized a steel and metal construction supply chain became, the more competitive it would be.

However, the past several years have challenged that assumption.

Today's metal construction supply chains operate in an environment defined by volatility, but also by rigid project erection schedules, coil and plate price volatility, fabrication lead time pressures, and the downstream consequences of a single delayed steel shipment on an entire construction timeline.

For fabricators and metal building suppliers, a disruption in coil sourcing or an unplanned delay in structural steel delivery can cascade into project penalties, idled crews, and strained general contractor relationships.

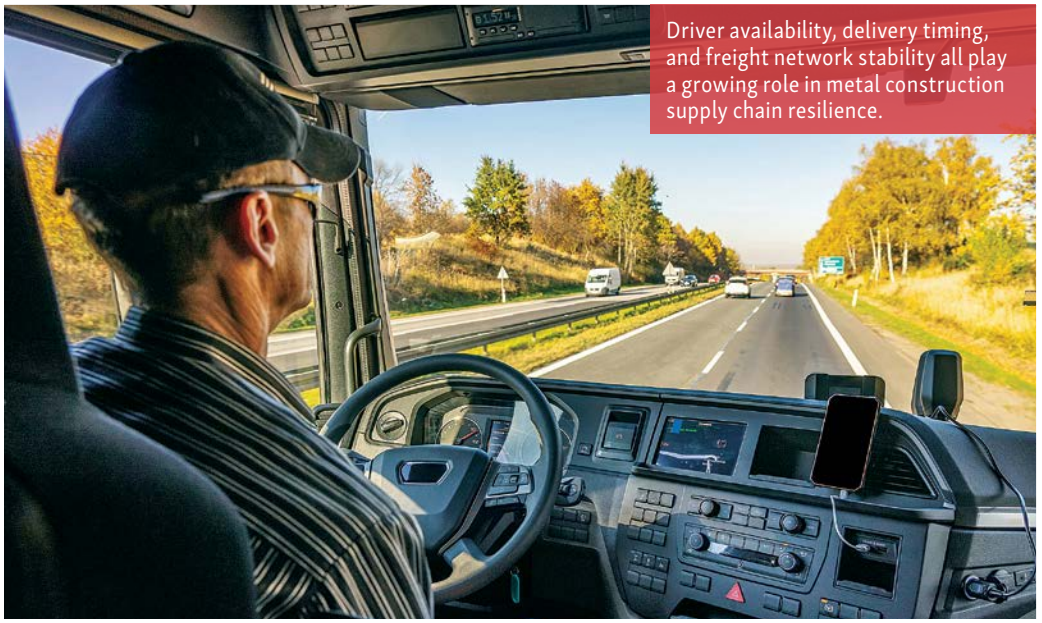
GC and project owner expectations continue to tighten even as volatility rises. Faster fabrication-to-delivery cycles, more precise jobsite sequencing windows, and zero-tolerance erection schedules leave metal construction suppliers with shrinking margins for supply chain disruption.

Resilience, therefore, becomes not only a cost issue, but a project completion, warranty, and customer relationship issue.

On top of this, geopolitical tensions and steel trade policy shifts—including Section 232 tariffs and evolving import duties—extreme weather events affecting mill operations and transportation corridors, coil supply tightness, and fluctuating commercial and industrial construction demand have introduced new levels of uncertainty for metal construction supply chain leaders.

What once appeared to be temporary disruptions are increasingly becoming structural features of the global economy.

Metal coil shipments move through a complex transportation network where delays, routing disruptions, and supply constraints can quickly affect fabrication and project schedules.



Driver availability, delivery timing, and freight network stability all play a growing role in metal construction supply chain resilience.

SOURCE: CHAWRAN / ADOBE STOCK

The scale of supply chain activity itself underscores the stakes involved. According to recent industry data, U.S. business logistics costs reached approximately $2.6 trillion, representing 8.7% of the nation's GDP.[1] With supply chains accounting for such a large portion of economic activity, even small inefficiencies or unexpected disruptions can have significant financial consequences.

Many organizations are realizing that efficiency alone is no longer enough. For metal construction operations, relying solely on minimizing haul miles, reducing transport fleet size, or cutting coil and structural steel buffer inventory can leave fabrication and delivery schedules critically exposed when disruptions inevitably occur.

The most optimized supply chain on paper can quickly become fragile when real-world conditions change.

The limits of efficiency–driven supply chains

Traditional metal construction supply chain optimization models were developed during a period when operating conditions were relatively stable. Demand patterns were easier to forecast, supplier networks were more predictable, and global trade operated with fewer disruptions.

In that environment, optimization delivered impressive results. Companies designed transportation networks that minimized empty miles, consolidated shipments, and balanced warehouse workloads.

Today, industry research shows that supply chain disruptions have become both more frequent and more costly. In fact, many organizations report that disruptions now occur twice as often as they did just a few years ago, and companies can lose 5% to 10% of annual revenue due to supply chain interruptions.[2]

When disruptions occur, companies often respond by making rapid operational adjustments, rerouting deliveries, expediting transportation, or reallocating inventory across distribution centers. While these actions may resolve short-term challenges, they often erode the efficiency gains that were originally modeled during strategic planning.

Over time, the savings projected during network design will gradually disappear during day-to-day operations.

The strategic–operational gap

One of the most common challenges organizations face today is the disconnect between strategic supply chain design and operational execution.

At the strategic level, companies make long-term decisions about distribution center locations, supplier networks, and transportation structures. These decisions are often supported by advanced modeling tools that identify the most cost-effective network configuration.

When based on stable demand assumptions, such optimal distribution networks may appear efficient. However, when customer order patterns shift, driver and labor availability tightens, or

delivery windows change, planners often compensate manually by adding routes, changing schedules, and reallocating capacity. The network continues to function, but the original savings model defined during strategic planning quietly erodes over time.

Bridging this gap requires a broader perspective, what many leaders now describe as taking a "helicopter view" of the supply chain. Because the real challenge is not optimizing individual functions, but managing the interaction between strategic design, tactical planning, and daily execution.

The value of a helicopter view

A helicopter view means understanding the supply chain as an ecosystem rather than a collection of isolated decisions.

Network design, transportation planning, inventory management, and real-time execution are all interconnected. Decisions made in one area can significantly influence performance in another.

For example, modifying delivery zones might improve route efficiency but increase complexity within distribution centers. Similarly, diversifying suppliers to reduce risk may alter transportation flows or change inventory positioning across the network.

Organizations that evaluate these decisions may optimize individual components yet overlook losses across the broader system.

By contrast, a holistic perspective allows companies to connect long-term strategy with operational reality and ensure supply chain decisions remain adaptable over time. This is where a resilient supply chain begins—with intelligent design supported by technology that can model uncertainty, validate real-world feasibility, and continuously adapt as conditions evolve.

Designing supply chains for a volatile world

Adaptability has emerged as a mission-critical requirement for every organization across the metal construction sector—from steel mills and coil service centers to roll formers, fabricators, building system manufacturers, and specialty erectors.

The industry's exposure to mill lead time variability, price volatility in hot-rolled coil and plate, and the project-driven nature of demand makes supply chain resilience a defining competitive differentiator.

Metal construction supply chains increasingly rely on strategic inventory positioning, flexible distribution networks, and AI-assisted planning tools to reduce disruption risk.

Qualifying backup coil suppliers, pre-positioning strategic inventory, and building flexibility into fabrication scheduling are no longer optional risk management measures—they are baseline operational requirements.

Global supply chains are increasingly described as operating in a "permanent state of disruption," with trade tensions, climate events, and regulatory shifts continuously reshaping logistics networks.[3]

In response, many metal construction companies are redesigning supply chains with flexibility built in—qualifying multiple coil and plate suppliers across domestic and allied-nation sources, reevaluating warehousing and staging strategies near key markets, and investing in technology that enables faster decision-making from mill order to jobsite delivery.

Resilient supply chains are enabled by technology that spans the full lifecycle of operations. At the strategic level, scenario modeling and territory design tools allow fabricators and metal building manufacturers to test whether their sourcing and delivery network can withstand coil price shocks, mill allocation constraints, or structural shifts in the commercial construction pipeline.

At the tactical and operational levels, advanced routing solutions validate heavy-haul load feasibility, permitting and oversize load constraints, driver requirements, and jobsite delivery sequencing windows while still enabling rapid re-planning when mill delays, fabrication schedule changes, or weather events disrupt the plan.

Equally significant is real-time visibility. Driver applications, proof-of-delivery systems, and control tower dashboards provide immediate insight into execution performance, allowing organizations to respond proactively rather than reactively when conditions deviate from plan.

Importantly, resilience does not necessarily mean sacrificing efficiency. The most advanced supply chains are learning how to balance both.

A new supply chain imperative

If the past several decades emphasized efficiency above all else, the coming decade will likely prioritize adaptability and resilience.

The frequency and scale of supply chain disruptions suggest that volatility will remain a defining feature of global commerce. Organizations that succeed in this environment will be those capable of


SOURCE: KOSAL / ADOBE STOCK

aligning long-term network design with daily operational decision-making.

Resilience also depends on continuous improvement. AI-powered supply chain software is increasingly enabling metal construction organizations to move beyond reactive firefighting toward predictive intervention, identifying where network assumptions repeatedly fail, surfacing structural inefficiencies, and recommending adjustments before performance deteriorates.

These platforms work by continuously ingesting execution data: actual delivery times versus planned windows, mill lead time variances, driver utilization rates, jobsite sequencing outcomes. Over time, the software learns where the plan diverges from reality ... and why.

Consider a hypothetical mid-size steel fabricator supplying structural components to a regional metal building manufacturer. The fabricator's planning team had modeled delivery routes and mill order cycles based on average lead times from its primary coil service center—8 to 10 business days. That assumption held for years.

But when a period of sustained mill allocation tightness pushed lead times to 14 or 16 days, planners did not detect the shift until jobsite delivery windows were already at risk.

An AI-enabled supply chain platform, continuously analyzing order-to-delivery cycle data, would have flagged the lead time drift weeks earlier and triggered a review of safety stock levels, prompting outreach to qualified backup suppliers before the disruption became a project delay.

A second scenario illustrates the value of AI-assisted scenario modeling at the network level. Imagine a metal building systems manufacturer evaluating whether to open a new regional staging warehouse to serve a growing cluster of projects in the Southeast.

Traditionally, that decision would be made using static spreadsheet models—point-in-time cost comparisons based on today's freight rates, project pipeline, and labor costs. AI-powered network design tools allow planners to stress-test that decision against dozens of scenarios simultaneously.

What happens to the business case if hot-rolled coil prices spike 20%? If a hurricane disrupts Gulf Coast freight lanes for three weeks? If the project pipeline in that region contracts by 30% in year two?

The result is not a single recommended network configuration, but a resilience-weighted decision that accounts for the range of conditions the company is likely to face.

At the day-to-day operational level, these tools also help dispatchers and logistics coordinators make better decisions under pressure.

When an oversize structural steel load is flagged for a permit delay, AI-driven routing software can immediately recalculate the optimal delivery sequence across the remaining fleet, identify which jobsite deliveries can be rescheduled without triggering erection delays, and surface the downstream schedule impact—in minutes rather than hours of manual replanning.

By analyzing historical execution data alongside forward-looking scenarios, today's AI supply chain platforms help metal construction organizations stress-test networks, uncover planning blind spots, and simulate future conditions. This allows them to proactively refine both strategy and operations rather than react after the damage is done.

The result is a synchronized decision ecosystem where strategic design, tactical planning, and operational execution continuously inform and reinforce one another. In this model, resilience is not a reactive capability but a built-in advantage.

The critical question for metal construction supply chain leaders is no longer whether their fabrication and delivery network is optimized for today's project backlog and coil pricing environment. It is whether it remains optimized—with backup sourcing activated and inventory positioned—when mill lead times extend, tariff policy shifts, or a major project accelerates its erection schedule without warning. MCN

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Nine projects, eight states, one dynamic industry

MBCEA celebrates top member projects

By Anthony Capkun

There is no end to the range of inspirational projects that comprise the Winners Circle in MBCEA's 2026 Building of the Year Awards.

From a 9,300-sf golf clubhouse to a multipurpose sports complex measuring 200,000 sf, these projects truly "showcase the innovation, craftsmanship, and commitment to quality that define our industry," according to Sasha Demyan, executive director of the Metal Building Contractors and Erectors Association.

Located across eight U.S. states, the winning projects also include an automotive dealership, heavy equipment service, collision repair, industrial manufacturing, municipal administration and maintenance, and worship facilities.

These projects involved at least 10 different metal building system manufacturers/suppliers, and several were executed adjacent to active operations or occupied facilities.

The 2026 competition included 36 entries evaluated against five criteria: aesthetics, interesting features, quality and safety, complexity, and green building elements.

This year's judges were Ronald Henri Albert, AIA, RHA Architects (Haverhill, Mass.); Matthew B. Jarmel, AIA, MBA, Jarmel Kizel Architects and Engineers (Livingston, N.J.); and Jerry Gorski, P.E., Gorski Engineering (Collegeville, Pa.).

The project with the highest overall score was named Building of the Year.

"From complex project execution to decades of leadership and service, this year's honorees represent the very best of MBCEA and the metal building community," said Demyan.

METAL BUILDING CONTRACTORS & ERECTORS ASSOCIATION
2026

2026 BUILDING OF THE YEAR

THE REFINERY SPORTS COMPLEX

Garden City, Kansas

PHOTOS BY JASON RYMAN, COURTESY MBCEA

According to project nominators, Cecil O'Brate wished to provide a state-of-the-art facility for hosting a myriad of events in Garden City, where he and his wife spent much of their lives.

O'Brate was the owner, developer, and operator of multiple businesses, but remains best known for his venture into oil & gas.

This year's MBCEA Building of the Year—The Refinery Sports Complex—reflects Cecil's legacy.

The main building is a large, clear-span structure that was assembled on the ground then lifted up to the columns. Building 2 at the front of the main building consists of several varying single-slope structures and a mezzanine in the center on the second floor.

Fully realizing the late Cecil O'Brate's wishes, the facility houses fields for soccer and baseball, courts for basketball, volleyball, and pickleball, a restaurant, bar, retail store, and convention center, and is expected to draw sports teams and organizations from near and far.

Its construction was enabled by the Cecil O'Brate family and the State of Kansas' Sales Tax and Revenue (STAR) program.

Award category: Community
CM/GC/Building dealer: GBS Enterprises
Erector: FC Construction
Architect: GMCN Architects
Building manufacturer/supplier: Behlen Building Systems
Square footage (metal portion): 200,000

METAL BUILDING CONTRACTORS & ERECTORS ASSOCIATION
2026

2026 AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

MITCHELL SUBARU

Canton, Connecticut

PHOTOS BY DAN JODICE, COURTESY MBCEA

Mitchell Subaru had outgrown its existing facility, and the owners envisioned a new dealership that would be situated on property they owned and feature the latest automobile industry technologies.

The new 32,000-sf dealership sports 14 service bays, service lounge, two-story vaulted showroom, new vehicle delivery bay, indoor vehicle drop-off bay, elevator, recycled water carwash, and a 9,200-sf service department.

The energy-saving measures incorporated into the new facility on the Albany Turnpike earned Mitchell certification as a Subaru Eco-Friendly Dealer.

Although the main construction is a PEMB, the exterior is made up of a number of materials and systems, including cement siding, masonry veneer, glass curtain wall, aluminum sunshades, standing seam metal roof and solar panels.

Award category: Commercial (over 30,000 sf)
CM/GC/Building dealer: PDS Engineering & Construction Inc.
Erector: First Choice Builders LLC
Architect: PDS Engineering & Construction Inc.
Building manufacturer/supplier: Metallic Building Systems
Square footage (metal portion): 32,000

METAL BUILDING CONTRACTORS & ERECTORS ASSOCIATION
2026

2026 AWARD OF MERIT

RING POWER FACILITY

Leesburg, Florida

PHOTOS BY BRIAN MILES, COURTESY MBCEA

Full-line Caterpillar heavy equipment dealer Ring Power opened a 77,000-sf facility that boasts 20 service bays, 12,500-sf wash bay, stocked parts department, and equipment—everything from excavators to air compressors—to serve the central Florida market.

Built on 18.6 acres, the PEMB project included site excavation and building erection, and took about one year to complete. Buildings in the state must comply with rigorous building codes, particularly when it comes to metal roofing systems, which must have product approval and meet strict standards for hurricanes, rain, and intense heat.

As such, a great amount of detailing went into the design of the roof curbs, which are required for commercial metal buildings when creating penetrations in the roof or installing equipment. The final design meets code and facilitates expansion and contraction.

Award category: Commercial (over 30,000 sf)
CM/GC/Building dealer: Steel Worx Solutions
Erector: Steel Worx Solutions
Architect: Powell Studio Architecture
Building manufacturer/supplier: Kirby Building Systems
Square footage (metal portion): 89,500

METAL BUILDING CONTRACTORS & ERECTORS ASSOCIATION
2026

2026 AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

JERSEY MEADOW GOLF CLUBHOUSE

Jersey Village, Texas

PHOTOS BY GEOFFREY LYON, COURTESY MBCEA

At just under 10,000 sf, this clubhouse maximizes every inch of usable space in its compact footprint. The layout integrates multiple functions, including golf simulator, cafe-style refreshment area, and pro shop.

One of the project's defining features is the outdoor seating area, which is oriented to face the greens and capture the best views of the course.

A key sustainability feature is the high-performance roof insulation system, which exceeds typical industry standards. It increases the roof's thermal resistance, thereby lowering mechanical loads, reducing energy consumption, and improving occupant comfort.

The Jersey Meadow clubhouse also earned second place in Golf Inc. Magazine's 2025 Clubhouse of the Year.

Award category: Commercial (under 30,000 sf)
CM/GC/Building dealer: Brookstone Construction
Erector: Red Dot Buildings
Architect: FG Architects
Building manufacturer/supplier: Red Dot Buildings
Square footage (metal portion): 9,300

2026 AWARD OF MERIT

PREMIER CUSTOM PAINT AND COLLISION

Zelienople, Pennsylvania

PHOTOS BY BRIAN RIEDEL, COURTESY MBCEA

Positioned prominently along the sidewalk on Main Street, Premier transformed empty adjacent lots into a major expansion.

The nearly 8,900-sf body shop anchors the addition, which is complemented by a 2,100-sf detailing shop, 1,200-sf showroom with reception and waiting area, wash bay, paint booth, and two-story office buildout.

Balancing visual impact with cost efficiency was a central challenge for the design and construction teams. The solution was a metal building system with rigid frames and a standing seam roof—delivering durability and economy without sacrificing style.

Insulated metal panels create a clean, contemporary facade, while brick and storefront glazing at the building's corners ground the design within the existing streetscape.

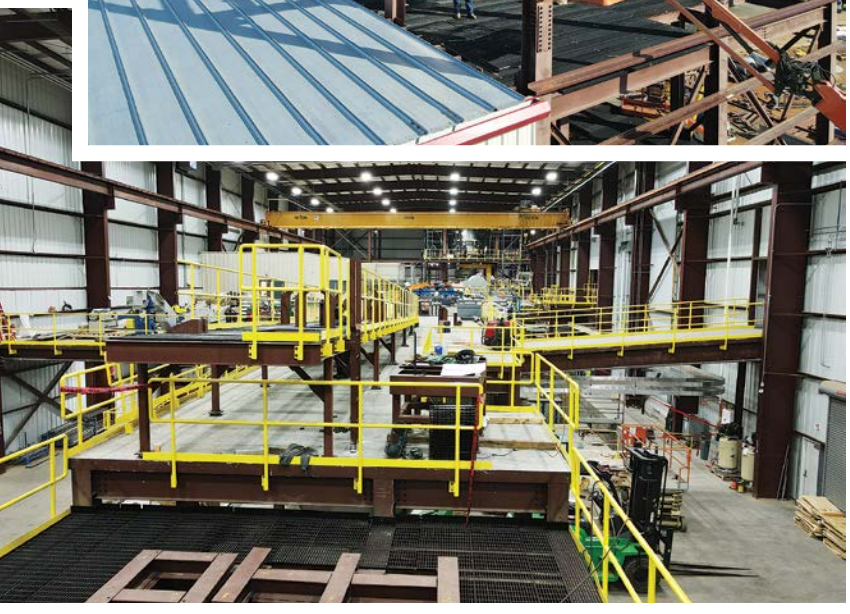
Award category: Commercial (under 30,000 sf)
CM/GC/Building dealer: C. Tucker Cope & Associates Inc.
Architect: NEXT Architecture, Engineering Direct
Building manufacturer/supplier: Chief Buildings
Square footage (metal portion): 13,500

2026 AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

IMC METALS AMERICA UPCAST

Shelby, North Carolina

PHOTOS BY BILLY COSTELLO, COURTESY MBCEA



This facility serves as a copper smelting and processing plant for IMC, playing a vital role in the domestic metals supply chain that supports industries from electrical infrastructure to renewable energy systems.

This design-build project features a hybrid structural system combining conventional structural steel with a PEMB, crowned by a standing seam metal roof system.

The project included two 84-ft-span crane beams running 500 feet through the Upcast building with a tolerance of ± 3/8-in. for span, straightness, elevation, rail-to-rail elevation, adjacent beams, and rail-to-runway girder centerline.

Through clever construction planning, a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy was secured to allow the client to begin production in portions of the new facility while other portions were being completed.

Award category: Manufacturing
General contractor: Hoke Enterprises Inc.
Building dealer: Schulte Building Systems
Erector: Brenton Grey Company
Architect: Joe Hiller
Building manufacturer/supplier: Schulte Building Systems
Square footage (metal portion): 120,000

2026 AWARD OF MERIT

NUCOR TOWERS AND STRUCTURES

West Hazleton, Pennsylvania

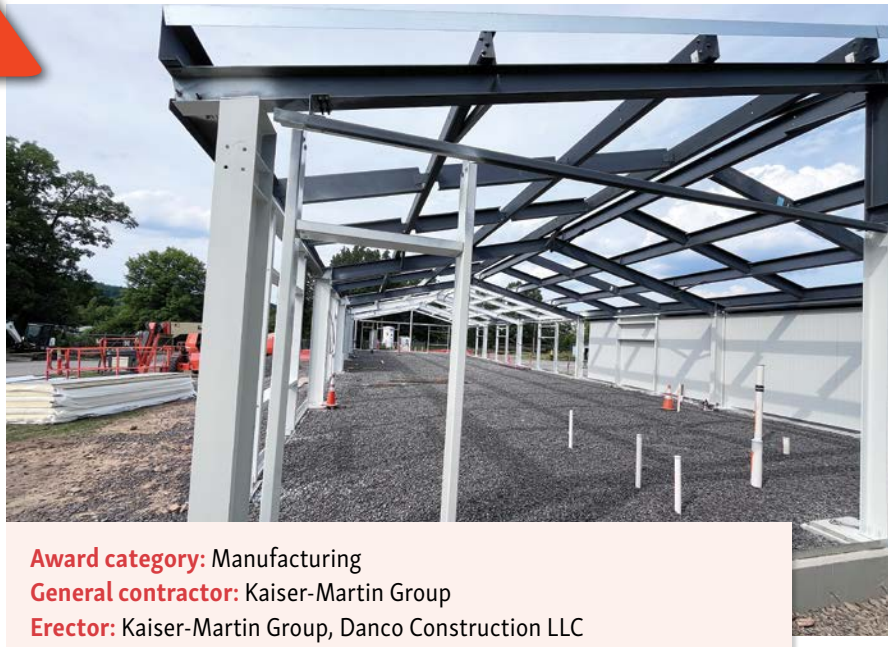
PHOTOS BY JEFF ROMIG, COURTESY MBCEA

This project included three separate buildings—manufacturing, receiving, and office—that were designed and constructed to meet specific performance requirements and applicable building codes while ongoing manufacturing operations continued at the site.

The Receiving building was constructed over an existing crane, necessitating precise clearance allowances, specialized erection methods, enhanced safety protocols, and careful protection of existing equipment while maintaining continuous operations.

Besides coordinating all major trades and disciplines, the scope of work also included the supply and erection of primary and secondary structural steel components.

Exterior enclosure systems consisted of IMPs and a standing seam metal roofing system with a double layer of insulation for enhanced thermal performance, durability, and long-term weather resistance.



Award category: Manufacturing
General contractor: Kaiser-Martin Group
Erector: Kaiser-Martin Group, Danco Construction LLC
Architect: Schillaci Architects Ltd.
Building manufacturer/supplier: Nucor Building Systems, Metl-Span
Square footage (metal portion): 60,857

METAL BUILDING CONTRACTORS & ERECTORS ASSOCIATION
2026

2026 AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

ST. VRAIN SANITATION DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION & MAINTENANCE BUILDINGS

Frederick, Colorado

PHOTOS BY BRANDON VAN BECELAERE, COURTESY MBCEA

Having outgrown its previous office, the district developed a three-building complex in Frederick to unify administrative and maintenance functions within a cohesive campus.

Several distinctive architectural elements were integrated into the project, each requiring careful detailing and coordinated execution.

Office #1 features a skewed overhang spanning the full 72-ft width of the building. The projection varies dramatically from 5.5 ft to 15 ft, requiring precise structural coordination and soffit alignment.

Measuring 5,040 sf, Office #2 connects to Office #1 through a false rafter detail that reinforces architectural continuity. This structure features parapet walls on two elevations and a 5-ft projecting mansard.

The Vehicle Storage includes six 14 x 14-ft insulated overhead doors to support fleet operations. The roof system matches Office #1 for consistency across the campus.

Award category: Community
CM/GC/Building dealer: Mark Young Construction, Baker Steel Erectors
Erector: Baker Steel Erectors
Architect: D2C
Building manufacturer/supplier: Alliance Steel Buildings, Baker Steel Erectors
Square footage (metal portion): 17,880

2026 AWARD OF MERIT

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Owasso, Oklahoma

PHOTOS BY JON PETERSON, COURTESY MBCEA

As with many worship projects, the community began with a big vision but limited funding, so the project was planned in multiple phases and with several value-engineering alternates to get it off the ground.

The engineering and design of the PEMB system at the heart of the project had to account for possible—though not guaranteed—future phases, which included things like full-stone exterior, significant interior woodwork, a grand fireplace, and more.

Roughly 12 months into the project, after the Phase 1 structure was fully erected, an anonymous donor wrote an 8-digit check with the words: Build it all!

The project was paused for roughly four months as conceptual drawings were made ready for construction.

The church that followed is a true legacy for the people of this community in northeastern Oklahoma: full stone exteriors, hand-carved wood interiors, and a litany of small but meaningful architectural elements.

Award category: Community
CM/GC/Building dealer: Miller-Tippens Construction
Erector: Metal Building Industries
Architect: Rudiment Architecture
Building manufacturer/supplier: Metal Building Industries
Square footage (metal portion): 11,904

In any facility with sectional doors in frequent use, performance advantages can be achieved through tighter specification around thermal breaks, air infiltration, and cycle speed.

Three specs that *really* matter

Specifying rolling and sectional doors for energy efficiency and IEQ

By Heather Bender

IMAGES: CLOPAY CORP.

Metal rolling and sectional doors are ubiquitous in commercial design. However, they are too often treated as functional placeholders rather than hardworking components of the building envelope. This "commodity" approach misses out on several opportunities for doors to enhance building performance, particularly in the areas of energy efficiency and indoor environmental quality (IEQ).

To fully harness the latest advances in rolling and sectional doors, it helps to view these components not just as aesthetic elements that provide building access, but also as precision-engineered assemblies that can advance other building performance goals.

Big opening, big impact

In any facility where large metal doors are in frequent use, including manufacturing plants, industrial buildings, warehouses, and distribution centers, rolling and sectional doors exert the same influence on energy efficiency and IEQ as they do in highly technical applications, such as cold storage and food processing.

That means the performance advantages that specialized architects achieve through tighter specs are fully available to general commercial architects and contractors who are willing to specify with the same rigor. Three of the most important contributors to door system performance are:

1. Thermal breaks

Doors can lose heat in more places than the curtain or section. In a rolling door, the curtain slats are often the main point of thermal transfer. Each slat in a standard insulated rolling door uses a double-wall design that sandwiches insulation between the interior and exterior steel layers, but without something to interrupt the metal-on-metal contact at the edges of each slat, the steel itself becomes a continuous conductive path across the entire opening.

The insulation in the middle of the slat is effective, but heat travels around the insulation and through the connecting metal components of a single slat.

The same problem can appear in sectional doors when section-to-section joints and steel frame members create conductive paths between the interior and exterior faces of the assembly. A sectional door section with injected polyurethane insulation can achieve impressive R-values within the section itself, but if the joints connecting one section to the next allow metal-on-metal contact, heat moves freely through those joints regardless of how well the sections perform individually.

Thermal breaks address this heat transfer by introducing low-conductivity materials that interrupt these conductive paths. In sectional doors, advanced joint designs use

Specifying advanced perimeter sealing for overhead sectional doors in a large distribution center can contribute to a significant reduction in the facility's energy load.

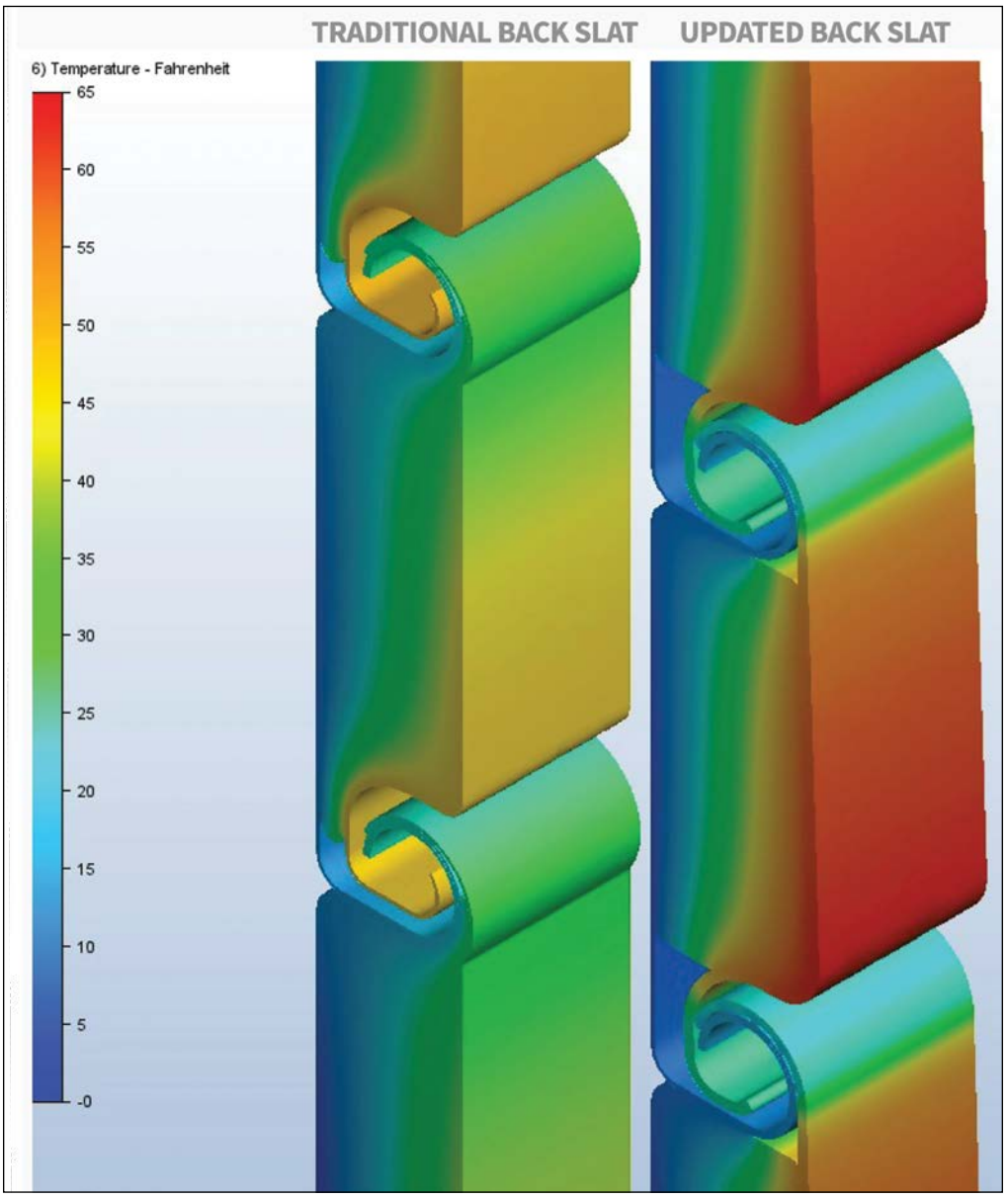
tongue-and-groove profiles with continuous foam thermal breaks between sections, eliminating metal-on-metal contact across the full height of the door.

In rolling doors, manufacturers pair curtain insulation with a low-conductivity backer integrated into the slat profile, interrupting the conductive path within each slat assembly without compromising the curtain's structural integrity.

The performance difference is measurable. A door without thermally broken joints might have strong R-values but a relatively poor (meaning high) U-factor, the metric that accounts for thermal transfer across the entire door assembly. By contrast, a door that combines injected polyurethane insulation with thermally broken joints can achieve full-assembly U-factors as low as 0.16, reflecting genuine resistance to heat flow at every point in the assembly.

Similarly, insulated rolling doors with thermally broken curtain construction and thermally broken guides can achieve full-assembly U-factors as low as 0.53. Specifying thermal breaks is, in effect, the difference between specifying a door with good insulation and specifying a door that performs as a complete thermal assembly.

Unlike other building envelope failures, the consequences of omitting thermal



In rolling doors, manufacturers pair curtain insulation with a low-conductivity backer integrated into the slat profile to interrupt the conductive path within each slat assembly.

breaks don't show up at inspection. They show up later in energy bills and complaints about discomfort over the life of the building.

2. Air infiltration control

Even when a rolling or sectional door is fully closed, air still has many opportunities to move through the assembly. The door perimeter, joints, hood, guides, and bottom edge are all potential leakage points, and in a large commercial door, each one represents a meaningful gap in the building envelope.

Left unaddressed, these pathways add up, and the consequences extend beyond energy performance. Uncontrolled air infiltration carries moisture, dust, and outdoor contaminants into conditioned space, affecting occupant comfort and indoor air quality.

Door manufacturers have made significant advances in air-sealing technology, and the gap between a standard-specification door and a well-specified one is now substantial and quantifiable. Some of the most impactful improvements include:

Full-perimeter sealing systems. Rather than relying on piecemeal weatherstripping applied at individual locations, advanced sealing systems address the sides, top, and bottom of the opening as an integrated assembly. When combined with thermally broken guide construction, these systems can reduce air infiltration by up to 94% compared to standard products, achieving independently tested values below 0.3 cfm/sf and meeting the requirements of ASHRAE 90.1, IECC 2021, and California Title 24.

That difference is not marginal. In a large distribution center with 20 or 30 overhead doors, the gap between standard and advanced perimeter sealing represents a significant and ongoing energy load that never appears on a specification sheet but shows up every month on an energy bill.

Non-metallic curtain backers at slat interlock joints. Traditional rolling door curtains relied on metal-on-metal connections between slats. These connections were not thermally broken, meaning the curtain assembly itself was a source of thermal transfer. Newer designs insert a CPVC or similar polymer backer at every slat joint, interrupting the pathway through the curtain to reduce thermal bridging.

Robust bottom seals. The floor-to-door interface is one of the most vulnerable air leakage points in any overhead door assembly, and it is also one of the most variable, because concrete floors are rarely perfectly flat. A conventional rubber astragal contacts the floor at a single line, which means surface irregularities can create gaps that cannot be eliminated without overdriving the door's lower travel limit. This workaround accelerates seal wear and stresses the drive mechanism.

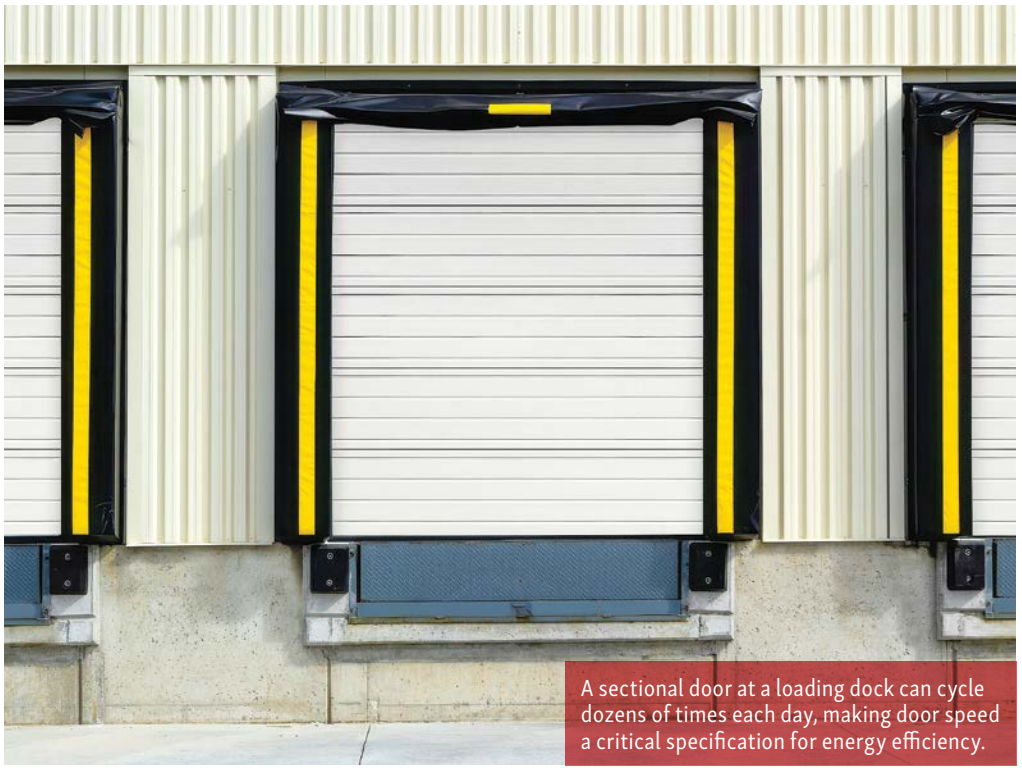
Dual-fin bottom seals solve this issue. The two fins conform independently to the floor surface on both the interior and exterior face of the bottom bar, maintaining contact across uneven concrete without mechanical compensation. The result is a more consistent seal that is also easier on the door system.

Double-brush perimeter weatherstripping in the guides. Standard angle-iron guides leave a gap between the curtain edge and the guide channel that single-layer weatherstripping only partially addresses. Double-brush designs maintain consistent contact with the curtain edges throughout

the door's travel, closing this gap more reliably and accommodating minor variations in curtain alignment that can occur as a door cycles over time.

Across all of these features, replaceability is key. Perimeter seals, bottom seals, and brush weatherstripping all degrade over time. A seal system that cannot be replaced without removing the door will likely not be serviced on a reasonable maintenance schedule. What begins as a well-sealed assembly on day one degrades, becoming less efficient as the building ages, not because the door failed, but because maintenance was impractical.

Specifying doors with seal retention systems that slide into a channel or track, and can be replaced by one or two people without removing hardware, allows air-sealing performance to be a maintainable building attribute rather than a diminishing one.



A sectional door at a loading dock can cycle dozens of times each day, making door speed a critical specification for energy efficiency.

High-performance sectional and rolling doors can open at 24 inches persecond, which is up to three times faster than a standard sectional door.

3. Cycle speed and automated controls

For most commercial projects, door speed and automation are not the first performance dimensions that come to mind. But in any building where doors cycle frequently, the amount of time a large door spends open has a direct and cumulative effect on energy use and indoor environmental quality.

Every cycle is an exchange between conditioned interior air and whatever is outside, and a door that opens and closes slowly makes that exchange costly.

A sectional or rolling door at a busy loading dock might cycle dozens of times a day. Multiply the open time per cycle by the temperature differential between inside and outside, and the energy impact of door speed becomes a real number, not a theoretical one.

High-performance sectional and rolling doors can open at 24 inches per second, which is up to three times faster than a standard sectional door. This speed dramatically reduces the exposure window at each cycle.

This is where cycle life ratings also become an important specification. Standard sectional door torsion springs carry a 10,000-cycle baseline rating with upgrades available to 25,000, 50,000, or 100,000 cycles—a meaningful range for high-traffic applications where the base rating can be exhausted in a matter of years.

For rolling doors, springless direct-drive systems eliminate the primary mechanical failure point entirely. Doors are available with a direct-drive operator and motor-mounted variable frequency drive in place of springs that can carry a warranty of one million cycles, 100 times the standard sectional door baseline.

The difference in cycle life is not just a durability story; it is a performance consistency story, as a door that doesn't wear out is a door that continues to open, close, and seal as specified.

What speed and durability make possible, control logic makes real. The actuation method, whether motion sensor or push-button—along with a programmable time-delay-to-close—has an outsized influence on how much conditioned air is lost per cycle.

A fast door paired with a generous time-delay-to-close will still stand open far longer than necessary, and an actuation method poorly matched to traffic patterns will produce the same result. Doors serving high-traffic areas with predictable flow, such as a busy loading dock with scheduled deliveries, benefit from motion sensors paired with tight time-delay settings that close the door as soon as clearance allows.

Doors serving variable or pedestrian-mixed traffic may need longer delays or push-button actuation to avoid nuisance cycling, which drives up mechanical wear and defeats the energy benefit of a fast door. In any case, closing speed should be specified alongside opening speed. A door that opens and closes quickly, on a tight and well-defined schedule, is actively working in service of the building rather than simply providing access.

Specifying for performance, not just function

Altogether, these features capture the most impactful ways that rolling and sectional doors can contribute to building performance when specified in greater detail.

Commercial rolling and sectional doors have progressed considerably over the last few years, introducing material and engineering advances designed to contribute meaningfully to energy efficiency and indoor environmental quality.

By applying detailed specifications for thermal breaks, air sealing, and cycle speed and control, building architects and owners can unlock higher levels of performance and take advantage of features that specialized commercial spaces have enjoyed all along.

Likewise, contractors reviewing specs before a bid can recognize when a proposed substitution would compromise the performance the spec was written to achieve.

With a few targeted additions to standard specifications, rolling and sectional doors can move from bare-minimum placeholders to optimized contributors, fully supporting the goals of good commercial design.

Heather Bender *leverages 17 years of experience in manufacturing and building materials as the director of commercial product marketing at Clopay Corporation, a designer and producer of residential and commercial garage doors, as well as industrial rolling steel doors. Heather helps building owners and designers uncover unique and innovative door solutions, and can be reached hbender@clopay.com.*

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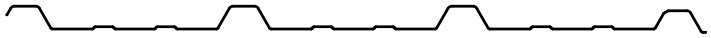
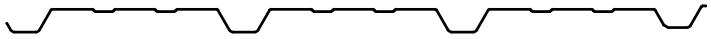
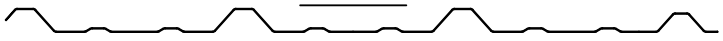


Vertarib

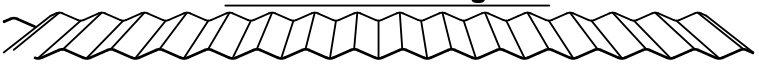


A-Panel

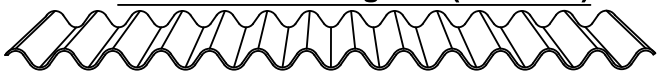
R-Panel



2.67" x 1/2" Corrugated



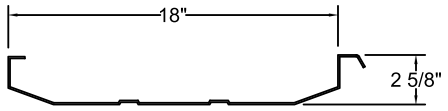
2.67" x 7/8" Corrugated (3/4" also)



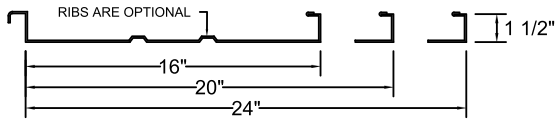
Flex-B-Deck (36") - Roof Deck - Composite Floor Deck - Form Deck

MECHANICALLY SEAMED ROOFING

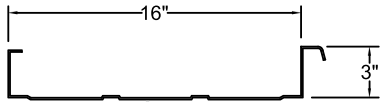
FSS-18 Standing Seam



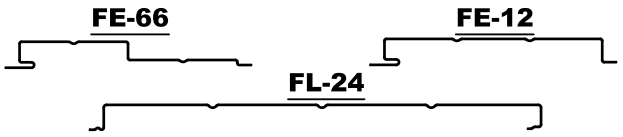
FSS-1.5 Series



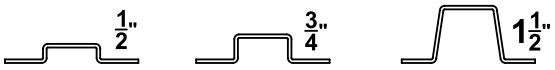
FSS-316 Standing Seam



Architectural Panels



16 & 18 GA. Galv. Subgirts



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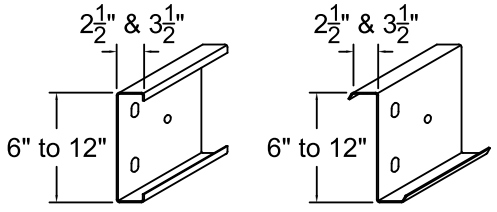

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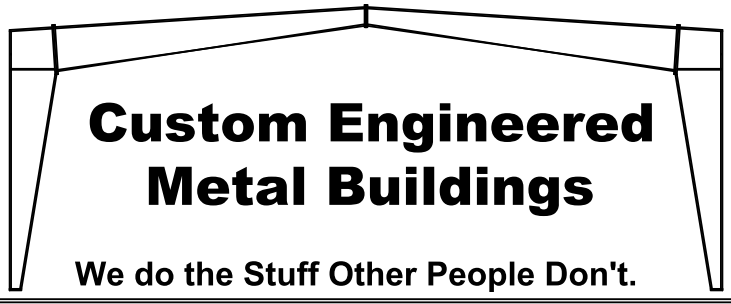

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From load data to layout

Rooftop attachments do not all transfer loads in the same manner. Snow retention systems may place significant downslope loads on the attachment, acting parallel to the seam or rib (drag loads).

Roof clamp basics

By Rob Haddock

SOURCE: MICHAL / ADOBE STOCK

Roof clamps may be among the smallest components on a metal roof, but they are critical to securing rooftop attachments. Snow retention systems, solar arrays, conduit supports, service walkways and other accessories all rely on mechanical seam clamps to help transfer loads into the roof system without compromising its integrity.

Proper clamp selection requires more than finding a clamp that simply "fits" the seam, or using some standard spacing "rule of thumb," like always putting a clamp on every second seam when installing snow guards. Clamp placement should only ever be determined by a proper engineering study that accounts for the installation and its location, never by rule of thumb.

Selection starts with the tested design capacity of the clamp on the specific roof panel, then accounts for the in-service loads the connection will experience.

Start with tested load data

Every clamp should have a tested load-to-failure associated with the specific roof panel or seam profile to which it will be attached. The determined "ultimate" (failure) load should be based on accredited third-party laboratory

SOURCE: S-5!

A clamp that "fits" the seam is not necessarily engineered for that specific application or load condition.

Proper clamp selection requires more than finding a clamp that simply "fits" the seam, or using some standard spacing "rule of thumb."

testing. Contractors and specifiers should also understand the factor of safety used to reduce the ultimate tested load to the published "allowable" load.

Generally, this factor of safety should be 2.0 or greater. In other words, the allowable load used in design is half the ultimate load as proven by certified testing. Depending upon the importance of the connection, the factor of safety can be reduced or increased, but without this information, an engineered attachment is not possible.

Let project conditions guide the layout

Project conditions also play a major role. Because the application dictates the forces transmitted to the clamp, the intended use should always be included in the layout discussion. The objective is to distribute loads over multiple attachment points without exceeding the allowable holding strength of any single attachment.

Panel material and thickness matter in testing and can render vastly different holding capacities. Copper, aluminum, stainless, and zinc panels require scrutiny with respect to metallurgical compatibility in addition to holding strength. A reputable clamp manufacturer can help determine the proper solution based on these variables.

Rooftop attachments do not all transfer loads in the same manner. Snow retention systems may place significant downslope loads on the attachment,

Load Tests

Panel: Choose One...

Safety Factor: 2

Clamp Name	Roof Panel	Thickness Material	Screw Tension (in-lbs)	Ultimate Load (lbf)	Failure Mode	Allowable Load (lbf)
S-5-E	DMC 100SS (Double Fold)	24 ga Steel	115	1187	B	594
S-5-E	DMC 150SS (Double Fold)	.032 Alum	115	1175	F	588
S-5-E	DMC 150SS (Double Fold)	22 ga Steel	150	1943	C	972
S-5-E	DMC 150SS (Double Fold)	24 ga Steel	115	1652	C, F	826
S-5-H90	DMC 200S 2"	24 ga Steel	115	1744		872
S-5-H90	DMC 210S (Armco Style)	22 ga Steel	150	2280	B, F	1140
S-5-H90	DMC 210S (Armco Style)	24 ga Steel	115	2056		1028
S-5-S	450	24 ga Steel	115	1538	B	769
S-5-S	450 SL	24 ga Steel	115	1508	B, F	754
S-5-S	550S	24 ga Steel	115	1490	B	745
S-5-S	DMC 100SS (Single Fold)	24 ga Steel	115	1650	F	825
S-5-S	DMC 150SL	24 ga Steel	115	1508	B, F	754
S-5-S	DMC 150SL	26 ga Steel	115	1383	F	692

SOURCE: S-5!

A manufacturer load test table provides engineered allowable load data for specific clamp and roof panel combinations.

acting parallel to the seam or rib (drag loads). Solar arrays can introduce wind uplift loads that act perpendicular to the seam or rib. Walkways and mechanical equipment supports may create concentrated downward service loads combined with drag loads.

Again, the best clamp is not simply one that *appears* to fit; it is one that has been tested and approved for the specific roof panel and load condition.

Before contacting any clamp manufacturer, contractors should gather key details, such as:

- type of application being installed
- roof panel profile
- seam-to-seam dimension
- panel material, thickness, and manufacturer
- roof slope
- project location
- applicable design criteria for wind and snow

Providing this information upfront can help the manufacturer recommend a properly engineered clamp layout more efficiently and reduce the risk of changes once work begins.

Install with care

Installation practices are just as important as product selection. Because clamps secure rooftop attachments without penetrating the roof panel, proper torque is critical. A common mistake is over- or under-tightening.

Excessive torque can damage the clamp, roof seam, or panel finish, while insufficient torque may prevent the clamp from performing as tested and intended. Dissimilar metallurgy or damaged coatings can lead to corrosion, which can spread over time. Installers should follow the manufacturer's torque requirements and calibrate their driver tools accordingly.

Care should also be taken not to damage anti-back-out features found on some clamps. These features are designed to help the clamp resist vibration caused by wind flutter or low-level seismic activity. Using the wrong tool or applying incorrect screw tension can compromise that performance.

Sequence matters for snow retention

For snow retention systems, sequence matters. When multiple rows of snow rails are required to meet snow load conditions, the uppermost row should be installed first, with crews working down the roof from there. If a project is delayed for whatever reason and only a lower row has been installed, an unexpected snowstorm could overload that row and damage the system or roof.

Don't overlook material compatibility

Contractors must also pay attention to material compatibility. The clamp material should be matched appropriately to the roof panel material to reduce the risk of galvanic corrosion. This is particularly important on specialty metal roofs, where dissimilar metals can create long-term problems.

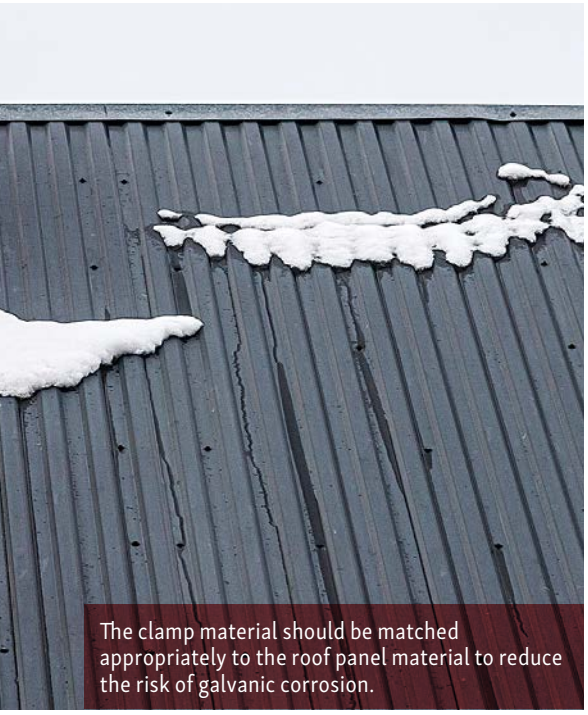
Before work begins, contractors should confirm that the selected clamp is correct for the seam or rib profile. When there is uncertainty, they should ask the manufacturer for guidance and request a sample before starting installation. Clamps should be installed according to the manufacturer's written instructions, using

Full-scale assembly testing verifies clamp holding performance on specific roof panel systems and seam profiles.


SOURCE: S-5!

Common mistakes that can lead to roof failure

- Improperly engineered clamp spacing and attachment frequency.
- Over- or under-tightening fasteners and clamps.
- Substituting untested attachment components.
- Improper sealant placement.
- Dual fixity caused by fastening through standing seam panels, preventing normal panel expansion and contraction.
- Roof-mounted equipment creating unintended thermal restraint.



The clamp material should be matched appropriately to the roof panel material to reduce the risk of galvanic corrosion.

SOURCE: OLEG MARCHAK / GETTY IMAGES

the recommended tool and torque setting, then verifying with a torque wrench.

Once your screw gun is calibrated to the correct torque, you do not have to stop to verify every single screw you drive. Instead, check roughly every 200 fasteners to ensure you are still delivering the same verified tension.

Contractors should also consider warranty requirements before installing rooftop attachments. Using the wrong clamp, damaging the panel, unintentionally penetrating the roof panel, or failing to follow the manufacturer's instructions may affect roof or attachment-system warranties. When in doubt, confirm requirements with both the roof panel and clamp manufacturer before installation.

Ask before you attach

Quality assurance depends on three interconnected elements: engineered application, certified testing, and consistent manufacturing.

Contractors, designers, and building owners should contact the clamp and roof manufacturer whenever questions arise about product limitations, roof compatibility, installation procedures, or environmental concerns.

Concerns about the environment can be twofold. First, there may be questions about how the product is manufactured and brought to market (i.e. carbon footprint, cradle-to-grave). Second, there are the environmental forces to which the snow retention system will be exposed, such as drag/gravity load and wind uplift forces.

The bottom line is simple: moving from load data to layout demands more than a standard spacing rule. It requires tested performance data, project-specific details, and proper installation for the clamp system to perform as intended over the life of the roof. MCH

Rob Haddock is the CEO and founder of S-5! and the inventor of metal roof attachment solutions. A former contractor turned building-envelope scientist, he has dedicated more than five decades to advancing the metal roofing industry. Haddock is an award-winning roof-forensics expert, author, lecturer and educator, as well as the director of the Metal Roof Advisory Group Ltd., a consulting firm specializing in metal roof design, installation, and performance. Visit www.S-5.com or www.rmhaddock.com.

In sheet metal processing, coil straighteners and levelers often get confused, but levelers promise a more advanced form of flattening.

Levelers versus straighteners for coil processing

By Matt Werner

SOURCE: THE BRADBURY GROUP

In sheet metal processing, two machines often get confused with each other: coil straighteners and levelers. While both are used to improve sheet flatness, one of these is more capable. Understanding the differences between these two machines is crucial for successful material processing.

Let's first go over some common terms for issues involving coiled metal.

Issues with coiled metal

Steel and other sheet metals stored in coils experience uneven stress. A *coil set* is when the metal is uncoiled but the curvature of the coil remains.

Crossbow is a curvature across the width of the strip where the sheet forms a smile or frown due to stress differences through the face or the top and bottom surfaces of the strip.

Edge wave and *center buckle* are length differences in the strip. When edges are longer than the center of the strip, we call it an edge wave, and a center buckle is when the center is longer than the edges.

Machine differences

While similar, levelers and straighteners address different issues. A straightener is primarily used to remove the coil set or crossbow. The metal strip is fed through rolls that bend it up and down uniformly across the face to reduce or eliminate the internal stress created when the metal was coiled.

Straighteners focus on surface-to-surface stress and cannot fix edge waves or center buckles.

Levelers offer a more advanced form of sheet metal flattening, as not only can they remove coil set or crossbow, but can also correct length differences. They work by employing closely spaced rollers that allow for greater bend angles, which enable the machine to stretch specific areas of metal and equalize the strip length.

A straightener is well suited for flattening coil or precut blanks before rollforming, press feeding, press brake work, or folding. But when you are producing tighter-tolerance parts—or any parts where flatness affects fit, appearance, or downstream processing—defects such as edge wave and center buckle become more noticeable.

Examples include architectural roofing and wall panels with wide flat areas, as well as sectional door panels, where forming occurs mainly at the edges and the unformed center can reveal defects. In these cases, a leveler is the better investment.

So while properly sized straighteners can remove coil set or crossbow, levelers can do this *plus* improve the overall flatness of the material by correcting length issues, making them one of the most versatile metal flattening machines available. MCN

***Matt Werner** is the senior sales and marketing manager with The Bradbury Group—a provider of automated production and systems integration for the metal processing industry.*

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MBMA recognizes member facilities for outstanding safety performance

During its Spring Meeting, the Metal Building Manufacturers Association presented its 2025 Safety Awards to Building Systems and Associate members demonstrating exceptional performance in maintaining workplace safety.

"As we strive to make the industry a safe place for everyone, it is a pleasure to honor those facilities that lead by example," said MBMA general manager Tony Bouquot.

The Superior Safety Award was presented to two Building Systems member manufacturing facilities for achieving zero recordable cases for the calendar year:

- Dean Steel Buildings (Cedartown, Ga., Thomasville, Ga.)

The 18 Building Systems member manufacturing facilities that received the Safety Performance Award achieved an incident rate equal to 50% or less than the OSHA industry average:

- Behlen Building Systems (Columbus, Neb.)
- Bigbee Steel Buildings (Muscle Shoals, Ala.)
- Cornerstone Building Brands (Atwater, Calif.; Elizabethton, Tenn.; Houston, Texas; Lexington, Tenn.; Mt. Pleasant, Iowa)
- Kirby Building Systems (Portland, Tenn.)
- Nucor Buildings Group (Brigham City, Utah; La Crosse, Va.; Swansea, S.C.; Terrell, Texas; Waterloo, Ind.)
- Pinnacle Structures (Cabot, Ark.)
- Red Dot Buildings (Athens, Texas)
- Schulte Building Systems (Hockley, Texas)
- Tyler Building Systems (Tyler, Texas)
- Whirlwind Steel Buildings (Houston, Texas)

The Associate member Superior Safety Award went to 56 facilities that achieved zero recordable cases:

- Atlas Building Products (Ashland, Ohio; Flat Rock, N.C.; Houston, Texas)
- Bay Insulation Systems (Aurora, Colo.; Baton Rouge, La.; Brooklyn Heights, Ohio; Coppell, Texas; Eastlake, Ohio; Easton, Pa.; Fridley, Minn.; Houston, Texas; Kansas City, Mo.; Louisville, Ky.; Norcross, Ga.; Orlando, Fla.; Pensacola, Fla.; Phoenix, Ariz.; Roanoke, Va. [2 locations]; San Marcos, Texas [2 locations]; St. Louis, Mo.; Sumner, Wash.)
- Curbs Plus (El Dorado, Kan.; Glendale, Ariz.)
- Expi-Door Systems (Green Bay, Wis.)
- Global Building Products (Elkhart, Ind. [3 locations])
- Metl-Span, A Nucor Company (Brigham City, Utah)
- S-5! Attachment Solutions (Iowa Park, Texas)
- Silvercote, A Service Partners Company (Ashland, Va.; Byram, Miss.; Denver, Colo.; Greenville, S.C.; Houston, Texas; Huntsville, Ala.; Little Rock, Ark.; Lubbock, Texas; Macedonia, Ohio [2 locations]; Marshfield, Wis.; Mooresville, N.C.; Portland, Ore.; Pottstown, Pa.; Salt Lake City, Utah; Scotia, N.Y.; Sioux Falls, S.D.; Spokane Valley, Wash.; Stockton, Calif.; Valdosta, Ga.; Wright City, Mo.)
- Wurth Construction Services (Birmingham, Ala.; Hicksville, N.Y.; Tampa, Fla.)

"Effective safety initiatives have many benefits, including boosting employee morale, improving operations, and mitigating insurance risks and exposure to OSHA audits," Bouquot added.

SOURCE: KINGSPAN LIGHT + AIR NORTH AMERICA

Kingspan Light + Air offers envelope service and maintenance through Life Safety partnership

Kingspan Light + Air North America (KLA) has partnered with Life Safety Services (LSS) to offer customers access to service and maintenance solutions for smoke vents, daylighting systems, and other building envelope components.

"This partnership represents a natural evolution of our offering, combining our product expertise with trusted service capabilities to help ensure systems continue to perform as intended over time," said KLA Americas president Marci Bonham.

A provider of daylighting and natural ventilation solutions, KLA is a business division of Kingspan Group PLC, a global player in insulation and building envelope solutions.

LSS possesses over 20 years of experience in fire and life safety services, with a nationwide footprint and a track record of helping more than 25,000 projects meet regulatory requirements and maintain critical building systems.

"The market is demanding more accountability for system performance," said LSS owner and CEO Craig Rutledge. "This partnership delivers it, combining leading solutions with the service infrastructure to ensure they perform over time."

Architecture billings remain below growth threshold in April 2026

The AIA/Deltek Architecture Billings Index (ABI) score declined from 49.8 in March to 48.3 in April 2026, indicating that the share of architecture firms reporting a decline in billings was greater than the share reporting an increase.

The ABI is a leading monthly economic indicator based on billings at U.S. architecture firms that uses proprietary AIA data to predict nonresidential construction activity 9 to 12 months in advance.

ABI scores greater than 50 indicate growth, while scores below 50 indicate contraction.

The ABI April report notes that national architecture firm billings have not crossed the 50-point threshold since January 2023.

However, inquiries into new projects increased for the third consecutive month in April, and the value of new design contracts remained close to returning to growth.

Business conditions stayed soft at firms in all regions of the country in April, with none reporting growth, the ABI finds. For the third consecutive month, firms located in the West were the least likely to report a decline in billings, while firms in the South reported that billings softened further after showing encouraging signs of growth at the beginning of the year.

Firms that specialize in the commercial and industrial sectors saw their billings continue to decline. These sectors have been among the weakest for the last six months. However, firms with institutional and

multifamily residential specializations reported modest growth in April, according to the ABI, suggesting this is "a promising sign that new projects are on the horizon."

Finally, employment in architectural services declined for the first time this year in March, decreasing by 600 jobs. (March's data was the most recent available.)

Roc Hughes tapped to lead SBS Construction's eastern expansion

Self-storage construction specialist SBS Construction is expanding into the southeastern United States and has appointed to lead SBS Construction East as president.

SOURCE: SBS CONSTRUCTION

Roc Hughes

"Our expansion into the southeastern United States marks a major milestone for SBS Construction," said SBS Construction president Clyde Johnson IV. "Attracting a leader of Roc's caliber is a testament to the reputation our team has built through years of commitment, professionalism, and execution."

Established in 1995, Select Building Systems Inc. (SBS) is a self-storage construction firm based in Boerne, Texas.

Hughes joins SBS from Janus International where he served as vice president of self-storage sales. Based in the Atlanta, Ga., area, he will lead SBS's geographic expansion and business diversification beyond its Texas market.

ABC chief economist: "Construction input prices surged again in April"

"Construction input prices surged again in April," said Anirban Basu, chief economist for Associated Builders and Contractors, regarding ABC's analysis of Producer Price Index data published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics this morning.

Nonresidential construction input prices increased 1.8% for the month.

Overall construction input prices are 7.0% higher than one year ago, while nonresidential construction input prices are 7.4% higher.

Prices increased in all three energy subcategories last month. Crude petroleum prices increased 11.3%, while unprocessed energy materials and natural gas prices were up 9.2% and 4.9%, respectively, in April.

"Input prices have now risen more during the first four months of 2026 (6.2%) than over the prior three years (4.8%). While much of the recent rise can be traced to soaring oil prices, escalation was widespread in April, with tariff-affected materials like iron and steel posting particularly large price increases," Basu continued.

"In addition to the direct impact of this reemerging materials price escalation, too-hot inflation data coupled with upbeat labor market indicators suggest that the Federal Reserve is unlikely to cut rates this year," Basu said, adding that these cost pressures will likely weigh on construction activity over the coming months.

METALCON launches recognition program to spotlight rising metal construction leaders

With its 35th anniversary as the backdrop, METALCON has launched its "40 Under 40" program to recognize professionals who are making an impact across the metal construction industry while representing the next generation of leadership.

METALCON is an annual event dedicated exclusively to the application of metal in design and construction. It is produced by PSMJ Resources Inc. in partnership with the Metal Construction Association.

COURTESY NEUBEK PHOTOGRAPHERS

METALCON brings together decision-makers from across the metal construction ecosystem to explore innovations shaping the built environment.

Forty professionals, age 40 and under, will be recognized for their work influencing projects, teams, and processes—from jobsites and fabrication floors to engineering and design. METALCON brings together decision-makers from across the metal construction ecosystem to explore innovations shaping the built environment.

Nominations are open and must be submitted via the online form by July 21. Visit metalcon.com. Honorees will be announced in September and formally recognized during METALCON in Orlando in October

Acuity Insurance recognizes Sheet Metal Supply for outstanding safety performance

SOURCE: SHEET METAL SUPPLY LTD.

From left: Sheet Metal Supply's Phoebe McCorkindale, Phil Kweton, and Ben Kweton.

Sheet Metal Supply was recognized with an award from insurance provider Acuity for outstanding safety performance, 2025.

"You are among a select group of Acuity customers being recognized," said Neil Argall, vice president of commercial insurance. "Your efforts to provide safe working conditions to your employees have resulted in a record of which you should be proud."

Sheet Metal Supply is a zinc fabricator as well as a fabricator/supplier of custom-formed perimeter edge systems, wall facades, flat lock tiles, substructural components, ES-1 rated products, glazed-in panels, standing seam, and ACM/MCM/plate panels.

The company has 52 employees working in its 80,000-sf facility in Grayslake, Ill.

"Safety has always been a major focus to us at SMS," said director of operations Phoebe McCorkindale. "We routinely discuss safety awareness in weekly department meetings, engage in continuing education on current safety practices, and prioritize a safe working environment for our team."

"To be recognized for this by Acuity means we're doing things the way they're supposed to be done."

NAFS 2026 makes secondary designator mandatory


SOURCE: FENESTRATION AND GLAZING INDUSTRY ALLIANCE

Fenestration systems, including windows and glazing assemblies, are evaluated under the North American Fenestration Standard (NAFS) to verify performance under wind and water conditions.

The 2026 edition of the North American Fenestration Standard (NAFS) for windows, doors, and skylights has been published.

AAMA/WDMA/CSA 101/IS2/A440, North American fenestration standard/specification for windows, doors, and skylights, is the result of a multi-year effort by CSA Group, Fenestration and Glazing Industry Alliance (FGIA), and Window & Door Manufacturers Association (WDMA).

Lisa Bergeron, FGIA's Joint Document Management Group (JDMG) co-chair, says NAFS-26 does not contain any major revisions except for the secondary designator clarification.

The secondary designator provides the underlying test values—such as design pressure and water resistance—that contribute to the overall performance grade used in fenestration product ratings (primary designator).

Previously optional, the secondary designator is now mandatory and must be included in product test reports and labels. It must show performance values for:

- Positive design pressure
- Negative design pressure
- Water penetration resistance test pressure

This clarification means more detailed performance information will now appear directly on product labels, providing greater clarity during submittals, inspections, and onsite verification.

The change was proposed by FEMA, which had become increasingly concerned with water intrusion performance, particularly in coastal and hurricane-prone regions. Following discussions with the JDMG, the change to the secondary designator was accepted.

"The JDMG held meetings with representatives from FEMA and came to agreement on how to address their concerns through NAFS," said CSA's JDMG co-chair Robert Jutras.

FEMA's proposal also aligned with recommendations previously raised by the Florida Building Commission.

"Since NAFS is a document that puts all the requirements for fenestration products in a single place, it has become a document that different code bodies have adopted," said WDMA's JDMG co-chair Dan Raap, noting that NAFS is referenced in the national building codes of both the U.S. and Canada.

"As it has been before, NAFS remains an excellent industry tool as an internationally accepted performance standard for the included fenestration product types," Bergeron added.

NAFS 2026 is available for purchase through all three partner organizations.

Nonresidential construction spending inches higher in April

Nonresidential construction spending increased 0.1% in April 2026, according to an Associated Builders and Contractors analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data.

On a seasonally adjusted annualized basis, nonresidential spending totaled $1.250 trillion.

Spending was up on a monthly basis in 10 of the 16 nonresidential subcategories. Private nonresidential spending was down 0.2%, while public nonresidential construction spending was up 0.4% in April.

Spending on data centers, which is included in the office category, increased another 1.9% in April, rising to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $50.7 billion, and is up 28.1% over the past year.

"Nonresidential construction spending inched higher in April, but that growth was entirely due to a sizable increase in public sector activity," said ABC chief economist Anirban Basu. "Private nonresidential construction spending fell for the seventh consecutive month and is down nearly 8% from December 2023's all-time high."

"While much of the segment's recent weakness is attributable to the rapid decline in CHIPS* Act-incentivized manufacturing megaprojects, private sector construction momentum has been difficult to find outside of the still-ascendant data center segment," Basu continued.

** Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors a.k.a. CHIPS and Science Act.*

Michael Pulcanio joins Cornerstone Building Brands as EVP and HR chief

SOURCE: CORNERSTONE BUILDING BRANDS

Exterior building products manufacturer Cornerstone Building Brands has appointed Michael Pulcanio (photo) executive vice president and chief human resources officer.

"His background in manufacturing and managing large and complex HR organizations, with a focus on driving strategic talent initiatives, makes him an excellent fit to lead our human resources function as we continue to transform our business," said CEO Gunner Smith.

Pulcanio has over two decades of progressive HR leadership experience. He most recently served as executive vice president and chief human resources officer at CJ Schwan's Co.

"The company's commitment to their customers and operational excellence creates an incredible opportunity to build on its strong foundation," Pulcanio said. "I look forward to advancing our talent development, fostering an inclusive culture, and ensuring our people strategy supports the company's business goals."

Pulcanio received a bachelor's degree in business from Northern Illinois University and a law degree from John Marshall Law School. He served as a labor attorney prior to pursuing a career in human resources.

The Roofing Alliance announces 2026–2027 board of trustees

The Roofing Alliance—a network of roofing leaders committed to shaping the future of the industry—has announced its board of trustees for 2026-2027.

- President: Sherri Miles, J.D. Miles & Sons Inc.
- Vice president: John Campbell, Eagle Roofing Products
- Secretary-treasurer: Jason Dark, Duro-Last Inc.
- Immediate past president: Greg Hudson, Duro-Last Inc.

Trustees: Piers Dormeyer, EagleView; Heidi Ellsworth, The Coffee Shops; Paige Harvill, Nations Roof; Alex Hernandez, Clark Roofing Co.; Beth Kegley, QXO; Scott Keith, Jobba Trade Technologies; John Kiesel, Division 7 Roofing; Michael Kruger, L.E. Schwartz & Son Inc.; Craig Rainey, Supreme Roofing; Natalia Rizzatti, All Weather Insulated Panels; Jason Stanley, IB Roof Systems; John Yuko, GSM Roofing.

Terms are effective from June 1, 2026, to May 31, 2027.

EquipmentShare debuts new Jacksonville Core Solutions facility

SOURCE: EQUIPMENTSHARE

Joined by the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, Select Florida, and community partners, equipment rental provider EquipmentShare celebrated the grand opening of its new Core Solutions branch in Jacksonville, Fla.

"This facility is one of the largest in our entire network for a reason: the demand here is immense," said Kim Anderson, general manager of the Jacksonville branch—the company's flagship branch in the state.

As part of the grand opening and the company's commitment to the communities it serves, EquipmentShare presented a $1,500 "Giving Back" donation to Wounded Warrior Project.

Situated on 8.5 total acres, the 17,000-sf branch has co-located its Core Solutions rental fleet with a CASE Power & Equipment Florida dealership to provide one-stop shopping for equipment rentals and machine ownership.

The rental provider says each new branch it opens is associated with the creation of 25 to 50 jobs and a projected investment range of $35 million to $70 million.

The Jacksonville branch is the 28th EquipmentShare location in Florida.

Peter Dyer to lead Apogee's new NW region; Potthast continues in Southwest


SOURCE: APOGEE ARCHITECTURAL METALS

Apogee Architectural Metals—a provider of aluminum windows, and curtain wall, storefront, and entrance systems—has appointed Peter Dyer (photo) sales manager for the newly established Northwest region, where he will oversee sales and market development efforts across Washington, Oregon, Alaska, northern California, and western Nevada.

"Peter's extensive industry experience, leadership background, and customer relationships make him well-suited to lead this newly established region," said Jacob Johnson, vice president of sales for the Western and Southern regions. "His understanding of our brands, customers and markets will help continue strengthening our presence and support throughout the western United States."

Dyer brings 35 years of experience in the architectural aluminum and glazing industry to his position, including extensive experience with Apogee's EFCO, Tubelite, and Wausau Window brands.

Most recently, he assisted in developing and training Apogee's direct and independent sales reps, and has supported the company's growth initiatives across the Midwest and West regions.

As part of this restructuring, Hanna Potthast remains Apogee's sales manager for the newly established Southwest region, which includes Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Montana, Idaho, Utah, eastern Nevada, and southern California.

Both Dyer and Potthast report to Johnson.

Katherine Domenico joins Construction Specialties as VP of sales for North America


SOURCE: CONSTRUCTION SPECIALTIES

Katherine Domenico has joined building products manufacturer Construction Specialties (CS) as vice president of sales for North America.

"Katie brings deep experience and, more importantly, she aligns naturally with our values: people-first, agility, solutions-driven, and integrity," said company CEO Nick C. Longman. "She leads with people at the center of every decision and believes that when individuals are supported, trusted, and given the clarity they need to succeed, the results take care of themselves."

Previously, Domenico held progressive roles at SRS Distribution, Johns Manville, Avnet Technology Solutions, and Pulte Homes. She most recently served as vice president of commercial restoration at Carlisle Companies.

In a career spanning over two decades, Domenico has established a track record of sales leadership, says CS. Her expertise is grounded in the building products industry where she has built and led high-performing sales and marketing teams, expanded customer segments, secured enterprise contracts, and strengthened strategic partnerships.

Construction Specialties' solutions include interior wall protection, impact-resistant doors, entrance flooring, expansion joint solutions, architectural louvers, sun controls, architectural elements, and privacy curtains and tracks.

Kawneer's Greg McKenna named FGIA honorary member


SOURCE: FGIA

The Fenestration and Glazing Industry Alliance's board of directors has named Greg McKenna—who retired from Kawneer Company in December 2025—an honorary member of the association.

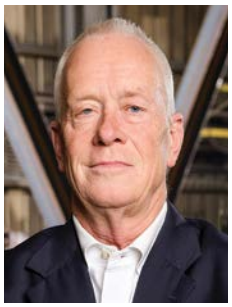
Nominators described McKenna as a "quintessential engineer," citing a logical approach to problem solving, firm attention to detail, and ingenuity as his most notable qualities.

McKenna served as first vice president of the FGIA Architectural Products Group and as chair of the International Building Code Task Group. He was also co-chair of three high-level association committees: Code Action Steering, Joint Document Management, and Technical Steering.

He also recently received FGIA's highest level of recognition, the Outstanding Service Award.

Being named an honorary member is a distinction reserved for members who are retired from the industry but have demonstrated exceptional dedication and contributions to FGIA, have held multiple leadership positions, and/or have continuously participated with FGIA for 20 years or more.

FabArc breaking ground on new 25,000–sf Oxford headquarters


SOURCE: FABARC STEEL SUPPLY INC.

FabArc Steel Supply Inc. announced it is set to break ground on its new corporate headquarters next week at 111 Meadow Lane in Oxford, Ala.

"This new corporate headquarters represents an important investment in our people and our future," said president, chair and CEO Tom Adams (photo). "By bringing our teams together in a modern purpose-built space, we are creating an environment that supports collaboration, efficiency, and continued growth."

The new 25,000-sf HQ will bring all administrative and fabrication support functions under one roof, and will be designed with future growth in mind.

The facility will include multiple conference and meeting spaces, expanded workspaces to accommodate a growing team, and a variety of employee-focused amenities. Notable features of the new HQ include a lower-level courtyard, gym, recreational areas, and safe room space.

Construction is set to begin in mid-May, with an anticipated construction timeline of approximately 12 to 14 months. The project's general contractor is Goodgame Company Inc., based in Pell City, Ala.

"We are proud to continue expanding right here in Oxford, where FabArc has deep roots," Adams added.

FabArc is a steel subcontractor and an AISC-certified fabrication facility.

Dawson Danner awarded Flex-Ability scholarship at University of Oklahoma


SOURCE: FLEX-ABILITY CONCEPTS

Dawson Danner, a graduate of the master's program at the Christopher C. Gibbs College of Architecture (University of Oklahoma [OU]), is the latest recipient of the Flex-Ability Concepts OU scholarship program.

"We cannot wait to see the spaces that Dawson develops, and to support him as he

creates movement, function, and flow in all types of facilities," said Frank Wheeler, an owner of Flex-Ability Concepts.

This is the 24th year Flex-Ability Concepts has offered a scholarship to OU architectural students.

Danner is interested in creating experiences and immersive spaces, such as zoos and theme parks, saying he likes the notion of immersing someone so deeply that they forget they are in a man-made place.

While he did not know about Flex-Ability Concepts prior to the scholarship process, Danner says, "I have learned that curves are realistic and affordable, and they can be used efficiently in many designs."

Flex-Ability Concepts was formed in 1995 for the purpose of developing the Flex-C Trac system—a flexible framing product invented by Frank Wheeler.

Bader promoted to field technical manager; Kline takes on Alabama and Mississippi

SOURCE: MULEHIDE

Alejandra Mahecha Bader

Daniel Kline

Low-slope roofing manufacturer MuleHide has promoted Alejandra Mahecha Bader to field technical manager.

Bader has 10 years of experience in the construction and roofing industries. Prior to joining MuleHide in 2024 as a technical field rep, she was a production manager for residential roofing contractors in California and Southeast Florida, and service manager with Best Roofing Inc. in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

In her new role, Bader manages the company's team of technical field reps, leading and assisting them as they perform roof inspections, investigate warranty claims, and present training programs for contractors, distributors and associates.

She is also a technical resource for the company's territory managers and regional directors.

"In her time with MuleHide, she has built strong relationships with our contractors and territory managers, bringing her technical expertise, hands-on approach and leadership skills to every project," said managing director Dan Williams. "We're excited to have her bring that energy and track record of success to her new role."

Born and raised in Colombia, Bader holds a master's degree in management from Universidad de San Buenaventura in Cali.

Meanwhile, Daniel Kline has joined the company as territory manager for Alabama and Mississippi, where he will serve as lead contact with customers.

"Dan has a deep commitment to service, reliability, and results," said Southeast regional director Matt Bost. "He knows how to deliver solutions for his customers."

Kline had been an outside sales associate in ABC Supply's Lakeland, Fla., branch since 2020.

His new responsibilities include helping ensure that projects are completed efficiently and according to spec, working with contractors and ABC Supply Co. Inc. branch teams to develop the best solutions to meet owners' roofing needs, and providing ongoing product, technical, and sales training for contractors and ABC Supply associates.

Nonresidential construction spending down again in March, ABC reports

National nonresidential construction spending decreased 0.2% in March 2026, according to Associated Builders and Contractors' analysis of data published by the U.S. Census Bureau.

"Nonresidential construction spending contracted yet again in March," said ABC chief economist Anirban Basu. "While a large portion of the ongoing decline is due to steadily falling manufacturing-related construction activity, weakness is becoming more widespread."

On a seasonally adjusted annualized basis, nonresidential spending totaled $1.244 trillion.

On a monthly basis, spending was down in nine of the 16 nonresidential subcategories.

"Both public and private sector activity fell in March, and the latter is now down more than 2% on a year-over-year basis," Basu added. "With the exception of the ongoing boom in data center construction (+34.3% year over year), there are few sources of momentum."

Top 4 safety practices that slash construction incident rates: ABC report

SOURCE: PVECT02 / ADOBE STOCK

Contractors who prioritize toolbox talks, substance abuse prevention programs, and employee participation in health & safety (H&S) efforts achieve measurable improvements in both performance and reputation, according to Associated Builders and Contractors.

"When leaders refuse to compromise on safety, they set the standard for the entire industry," said ABC senior director of health and safety Joe Xavier.

"By implementing proven health and safety systems, companies not only protect their workers but also achieve measurable improvements in performance and reputation in the marketplace."

ABC's 2026 Health and Safety Performance Report contains findings from more than 1.3 billion hours of work completed by participants in the construction, heavy construction, civil engineering, and specialty trades in 2025. It identifies several H&S foundations that reduce total recordable incident rates (TRIRs) and days away, restricted, or transferred (DART) rates:

Frequency of toolbox talks. Companies that conduct daily toolbox talks reduce TRIRs by 59% and DART rates by 61% compared to companies that hold them monthly.

Substance abuse prevention programs. Robust programs and policies with provisions for drug and alcohol testing (where permitted) lead to a 55% reduction in TRIRs and a 57% reduction in DART rates.

Health and safety meetings. Clear, concise, and consistent communication builds trust, culture, and an understanding that every worker is empowered to keep jobsites safe. Companies that follow best practices for H&S meetings lower TRIRs by 52% and DART rates by 54%.

Employee participation. Leaders must build strong relationships, listen actively, and seek input from front-line workers on how to improve safety year after year. Companies that follow best practices on engaging the workforce reduce TRIRs by 55% and DART rates by 57%.

The report also identifies six core practices that construction safety leaders use to identify hazards and eliminate or minimize them:

- Planning for project health and safety
- Top leadership engagement
- Leading indicators
- Incident investigation
- Trailing indicators
- Behavior-based safety observations

ABC offers contractors its STEP Health & Safety Management System to help them identify opportunities for improvement in their health & safety programs and lower their total recordable incident rates.

"STEP can help any construction contractor reinforce its commitment to the well-being of its workforce," said Xavier. "The 2026 Health and Safety Performance Report is a blueprint for industry leaders and workers to deliver projects safely and protect what is most important to us—our people."

Working with USACE? Prepare for a new construction management platform

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) announced it will deploy the Construction Management Platform (CMP), powered by Kahua, in 2027.

This industry-standard, cloud-based system will replace the current Resident Management System (RMS) and establish a new standard for collaboration across USACE projects, the organization says.

Designed to be secure, adaptable, and user-friendly, CMP is a commercial off-the-shelf system that operates on a project-based model.

More than just new software, CMP is a new way of working together, says USACE. By uniting project delivery teams and industry partners within a single platform, USACE can create a more seamless, transparent, and efficient experience.

Key CMP benefits include:

A single source of truth, eliminating rework. CMP centralizes access to all project documents, including version-controlled drawings, specifications, requests for information (RFIs), submittals, and BIM assets, ensuring everyone is working from the most current information.

Improved visibility across the project lifecycle. The system provides real-time insights into project status, approvals, and documentation history, helping users anticipate issues and make faster, data-informed decisions.

Standardized workflows configured for USACE. The platform is configured with standardized workflows for USACE projects, creating consistency and reducing process variability across projects.

Field-to-office connectivity (mobile-enabled). CMP's mobile access lets field and office teams view drawings, submit updates, and track issues in real time, no matter where they are.

Faster reviews and streamlined communication. CMP automates the routing of RFIs, submittals, and other project records. It centralizes comments and streamlines the entire review process for quicker turnaround.

Modern collaboration and visualization tools. The platform supports in-browser building information modeling (BIM) viewing, interactive dashboards, and centralized markup tools to enhance coordination and accelerate decision-making.

The deployment will commence in January 2027 and occur in six phases throughout the year. As part of this transition, USACE will migrate the required data for all fiscally active projects from RMS to CMP. Contractors will not be required to migrate their own data.

Once a district is migrated to CMP, the RMS system for that district will no longer be accessible.

To prepare its industry partners, USACE will:

- Provide a suite of training resources, including virtual sessions, videos, and quick-reference guides.
- Update the Unified Facilities Guide Specifications (UFGS) to include information on the use of CMP.

USACE says it is confident CMP will strengthen partnerships and usher in a new era of efficiency and innovation in project delivery.

S-5! and partners take hands-on rooftop training on the road

SOURCE: S-5!

Roof attachment solutions provider S-5! is launching a 14-stop roadshow offering hands-on training, practical product demonstrations, technical discussions, and networking with contractors, EPCs, installers, and other professionals.

"On Tour With S-5!" brings education, live demos, and industry partners directly to customers, said director of marketing Jessica Haddock.

Joining the S-5! roadshow are:

- Mission Solar: solar PV modules
- SnapNrack: wire management solutions
- EZ Solar Products: solar PV junction boxes

"By bringing leading manufacturers into one common space, we can provide comprehensive education, show contractors what solutions are available and build relationships, trust, and business for everyone involved," said Haddock.

The tour will focus largely on commercial solar attachment and rooftop project considerations, while also addressing regional needs. (Stops in the Northeast, for example, will include education and solutions for contractors working in snow-prone environments.)

Events will cover multiple roofing applications and include discussions on topics such as Domestic Content and Foreign Entity of Concern (FEOC).

Each stop is structured as a training event, with approximately four hours of instruction, live product demonstrations, and giveaways.

"When you bring education directly into local markets, you create more than a training opportunity—you build lasting relationships," Haddock added.

Nonresidential construction employment increases by 19,000 positions in April, ABC

The construction industry added 9,000 jobs on net in April, according to an Associated Builders and Contractors analysis of data released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"Nonresidential construction employment rose at a healthy pace for the month and is up a respectable 2.0% over the past year," said ABC chief economist Anirban Basu. "This strength can be traced to surging data center construction spending, which is up 34% over the past year."

On a year-over-year basis, industry employment has expanded by 50,000 jobs, an increase of 0.6%.

Nonresidential construction employment increased by 19,000 positions, with gains in all three subcategories.

Nonresidential specialty trades added the most, increasing by 12,600 positions.

Nonresidential building and heavy and civil engineering added 5,600 and 800 jobs, respectively, in April.

"Construction employment expanded modestly in April, but that's largely due to weakness on the residential side of the industry," Basu added.

The construction unemployment rate was 3.8% in April. Unemployment across all industries remained unchanged at 4.3% and is 0.1 percentage point higher than it was a year ago.

CRRC publishes Cool Surfaces Toolkit

The Cool Roof Rating Council has published a microsite with information about solar-reflective roofs, exterior walls, and pavements.

"Our hope for the microsite is that it opens doors for more audiences to utilize and benefit from the CRRC's extensive collection of scientifically supported educational resources," said communications manager Audrey McGarrell.

The site is designed to provide science-based information on cool roofs, walls, and pavements to a range of audiences. Additional materials and updates will be added over time as they become available.

Visit coolrooftoolkit.org.

"A symbolic building of Budapest has been reborn"

Puskas Arena, Budapest

In 1953, Hungary opened the "People's Stadium"—a 100,000-capacity venue that hosted national soccer great Ferenc Puskas and his teammates, who together formed "The Magical Magyars."

By the turn of the century, the old concrete bowl was crumbling. In 2016, demolition of the old structure began.

But the city did not want to see the past erased, so architect Gyorgy Skardelli chose to "reincarnate" the old stadium in the creation of the new Puskas Arena. Crushed concrete from the old Népstadion was used in the foundations, and the large concrete pylons on the exterior were designed to mirror the "staircase towers" of the 1953 original.

"A symbolic building of Budapest has been reborn," writes Kotzi Architects.

Particularly noteworthy are the areas of the facade between the portals and pylons, which consist of stainless steel structures finished with wire mesh that follow the curve of the stadium.

Consisting of 229 panels measuring about 13 x 95 feet and weighing almost 220 lb—and a total surface area of around 209,900 sf—these mesh curtains provide natural ventilation while reducing solar exposure, contributing to improved thermal comfort within the stadium. Their open structure allows airflow while maintaining a consistent external appearance across the stadium envelope.

On match days, the entire building glows in Hungary's national colors. For concerts, the lighting can be customized to match the stage show, turning the stadium itself into a giant light installation. MCN

SOURCE: CODINA ARCHITECTURAL

Additional reading

Puskas Arena Guide, 2026, b**udapeststadium.com**
Puskas Arena, Kotzi Architects, **kozti.hu**
Puskas Museum, **puskasferencmuzeum.hu**. MCN

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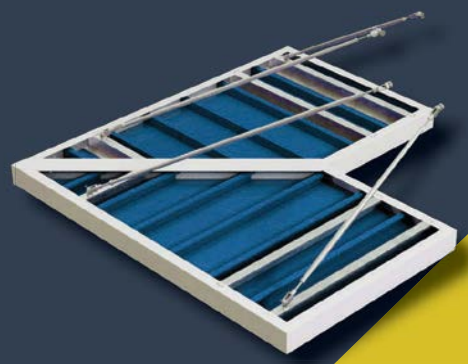

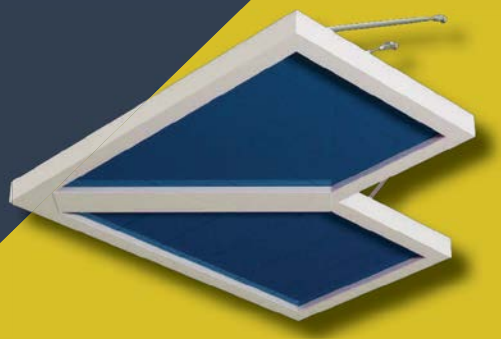

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