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A FEW WORDS ABOUT STEEL

STEEL FRAMING PHASE OF CHILDREN'S MIRACLE MANSION IN BATON ROUGE NOW COMPLETE



AFTER MORE RAIN THAN USUAL AND A FEW OTHER UNEXPECTED DISRUPTIONS, THE STEEL FRAMING PHASE OF THE CHILDREN'S MIRACLE MANSION PROJECT IN BATON ROUGE, LA., IS NOW COMPLETE.

Not only was the Steel Framing Alliance (SFA) selected to build the first Miracle Mansion in the Gulf Coast region following hurricane Katrina, it is also the first time cold-formed steel framing has been selected as the framing material for this annual

fundraiser that benefits Our Lady of the Lake (LOL) Children's Hospital. Located in the new Lexington Estates residential community, construction for the home began on

November 27, 2006. Once complete, the Miracle Mansion will be raffled off to raise funds for critical services provided to the more than 60,000 children served annually by LOL Children's Hospital, a Children's Miracle Network (CMN) hospital.

"We are excited to be involved in such a prestigious charity program. The construction of the cold-formed steel framed Miracle Mansion is yet another important step toward building back communities and re-building a

stronger Gulf Coast region," says Larry Williams, SFA president.

Of course, the SFA would not have been able to provide such a generous donation – valued at \$55,000 – to this worthwhile project without the

support of several of its members and partners such as Aegis Metal Framing, LLC in Chesterfield, MO. A longtime contributor to many charitable steel framing efforts, Aegis donated the Ultra-Span® cold-formed roof truss materials to the Miracle Mansion.

"We always feel it's important to give back to the community, so we knew we could really get behind this project and are happy to do what we can to help support so many children (served by the Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital)," says Thomas Valvo, Aegis president. "At the same time, the Miracle Mansion project has allowed us to join with the Steel Framing Alliance as part of an ambassadorial effort to get steel framing in front of more people in the Gulf Coast community." Aegis provided the truss materials as well as design support to Bama Truss & Components, Inc., who then manufactured the trusses for the project.

As a major sponsor of this fundraising initiative, the Capital Region Builders Association (CRBA) coordinates the construction of the project and also works closely with the hospital to market the house throughout the region. Following a series of marketing efforts, a live announcement of the Miracle Mansion winner will take place on June 3rd during the national CMN telethon on WBRZ-

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**MIRACLE MANSION...
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Channel 2 in Baton Rouge.

According to Lynda Evans, CRBA's executive vice president, the Alliance's offer to come in and assist with the 2007 Children's Miracle Mansion has been a blessing.

"We always rely on our members to contribute materials and labor, but we have never received such a large donation from one organization," Evans said.

"Every dollar we save on construction costs means one more dollar for the children of our community to receive the very latest and best medical care. A donation of this size could mean the difference in saving a child's life, and it only takes one to make this whole project worthwhile. We cannot say 'thank you' enough for this very generous contribution from the Steel Framing Alliance."

One of the largest providers of pediatric services in the state of Louisiana, OLOL Children's Hospital is the only Baton Rouge-area healthcare provider to offer a full range of pediatric services that range from a 24/7 Pediatric Emergency Department to a team of certified Child Life Specialists. Every donation raised

from this effort will stay in the Baton Rouge community to benefit the children treated at OLOL, which covers 13 parishes and is the only CMN hospital in the greater Baton Rouge area. A non-profit alliance of 170 children's hospitals, CMN is dedicated to saving the lives of hospitalized children by raising critical funds throughout the country and has raised more than \$2.2 billion since 1983.

The steel industry continues to commit significant resources toward supporting the widespread adoption of steel framing in the Gulf Coast region. The Miracle home will help demonstrate to both homebuilders and homebuyers that steel is not only here to stay, but can also provide sustainable, cost-effective housing solutions.

"This combining of efforts by compa-

nies and organizations within the steel framing industry is making a powerful statement to the building community in the Gulf Coast region that our commitment to supporting the rebuilding effort is broad and deep," says Mr. Williams.

Over the last decade the use of steel framing in home building has continued to grow, particularly in markets that are more vulnerable to severe weather conditions, like California, Florida and Hawaii. Although the use of steel framing in Louisiana has been relatively uncommon, area builders and homeowners looking for stronger, more durable construction solutions have expressed considerable interest. Steel framing can be prescriptively designed to withstand hurricane-force winds up to 150 miles, cannot be eaten by termites, and will not provide food for mold. Steel won't burn, warp, crack, or split, giving homeowners straight, square walls without unsightly nail pops.

While the framing is now complete, SFA continues to be actively involved in the construction of the Miracle Mansion.

Assistance SFA has provided in the Miracle Mansion's construction effort includes:

- Contribution of framing materials, fasteners, clips, connectors, and accessories
- Active participation in the planning and implementation process, including briefings of local building departments
- Pre-construction review of plans and engineering drawings



Steel Framing Alliance™

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1201 15th Street, NW, Suite 320, Washington, D.C. 20005-2842
(202) 785-2022; Fax: (202) 785-3856 • www.steel framing.org

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- Supervision and liaison with suppliers to ensure timely delivery of materials, as well as on-site assistance to ensure smooth introduction and use of steel framing

- On-site training/support during mechanical, electrical, and plumbing installations

While David Richardson and Christy Richardson Clark of Richardson Builders are donating the building of the 2007 Children's Miracle Mansion, the lot comes courtesy of Greg Flores and John McPherson of Lexington Land Development, LLC. Once complete, the 4,200 square foot, four bedroom home will be valued at more than \$500,000.

Together with 12 steel companies, the Metal Roofing Alliance, American Iron and Steel Institute and Steel Recycling Institute, SFA is actively supporting the Gulf Coast Steel Initiative, a collective effort to help reshape the rebuilding efforts and future construction in the region following hurricane Katrina.

Visit www.steel framing.org for more information about SFA, and www.steel.org to learn more about the Gulf Coast Steel Initiative.

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CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CHILDREN'S MIRACLE MANSION

Aegis Metal Framing
trusses, materials and design
www.aegismetal.com



Bama Truss & Components, Inc
truss fabrication
www.bamatruss.com

**American Zinc Association/
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design, www.zinc.org



Simpson Strong-Tie
shear wall system, www.strongtie.com

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studs, track, and joist, www.ssma.com



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NEWS FROM THE COLD-FORMED STEEL ENGINEERS INSTITUTE (CFSEI)

CFSEI COMPLETES NEW NAME WITH NEW LOOK

WITH THE TRANSITION FROM LIGHT GAUGE STEEL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION TO THE COLD-FORMED STEEL ENGINEERS INSTITUTE, THE CFSEI IS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHING ITS NEW LOOK AT PACRIM THIS MONTH. CFSEI IS AN INSTITUTE OF THE STEEL FRAMING ALLIANCE.

CFSEI board member Jeff Klaiman led the charge for the new logo which was designed by Baltimore advertising agency Exit10. The Institute wanted their new logo to convey a new, distinct organization while at the same time belonging

to the SFA brand identity. The new logo is made up of dynamic steel channels that represent the industry's materials, advanced thinking, and strength.

"The board felt it was very important to update our image with a new logo that not only gives us a more modern image, but also conveys the stature of our organization as a technical resource for the cold-formed steel framing industry with a more institutional look," Mr. Klaiman says."



CFSEI
COLD-FORMED STEEL
ENGINEERS INSTITUTE

CFSEI serves as an operating institute for the Steel Framing Alliance. Visit www.cfsei.org to learn more.

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STEEL CENTRAL AT INTERNATIONAL BUILDERS SHOW — ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL EVENT FOR SFA MEMBERS

HUNDREDS OF LEADS AND NEW BUSINESS CONTACTS ADDED UP TO A NICE SUCCESS FOR THE NEARLY ONE DOZEN STEEL FRAMING ALLIANCE (SFA) MEMBERS EXHIBITING IN STEEL CENTRAL AT THIS YEAR'S INTERNATIONAL BUILDERS SHOW.



A concept that has been effective in the past, Steel Central allowed Alliance members to significantly bump up steel's presence and drive more foot traffic to their booths by joining together in one consolidated location. As the biggest annual tradeshow and exhibition of the year for the housing industry – 1.6 million square feet of exhibit space, 1,900 exhibitors and more than 100,000 attendees – Steel Central served as an excellent strategy to demonstrate steel's superior performance.

"It exposed us to a lot of new contacts and companies," said Andrew Marshall, who has been with DragonBoard U.S. in Astoria, N.Y., since 1999. "We secured more than 200 leads so we'll definitely be back next year."

Raymond LeTellier, vice president and chief operating officer of Steel Elements, was also pleased with the results from Steel Central and plans to participate again in next year's show. Headquartered in Gorham, NH, Steel Elements chose to exhibit in this year's IBS because of the value they felt Steel Central would bring to their experience. "We were able to get a lot of international leads. Even though we were located at the end, the amount of traffic to our booth was really pretty phenomenal," he said.

"With a show as large as the International Builders Show, there is a tremendous amount of competition for visibility and it's always difficult for individual exhibitors to get any attention," says Larry Williams, SFA President. "By consolidating these steel framing companies into a single area with a large footprint, we projected a larger, more substantial presence at the IBS than if we had remained scattered about the show floor. We're looking forward to building on this in the 2008 IBS."

In addition to SFA, the following member companies joined together to exhibit in Steel Central:

Aerosmith Fastening Systems



Clark Western



DragonBoard U.S.



Flex-Ability Concepts



Grabber



Intermat, Inc./Sure-Board for Steel



Metwood, Inc.



Radius Track Corporation



Steel Construction Systems (Steel-Con)

Steel Elements



Super Stud Building Products



While they didn't participate in Steel Central, several other SFA members also exhibited at this year's show, including Genesis Building Solutions, Integrity Gasket, Inc., Marino/Ware, NUCONSTEEL, Platinum Advanced Technologies, Inc., and Simpson Strong-Tie.

Plans are already underway for Steel Central at next year's International Builder's Show, which is scheduled once again in Orlando from Feb. 13-16, 2008. Several Alliance members who did not participate this year are already on board to sign up for Steel Central next year.

For more information about this and other Steel Central exhibition opportunities, contact Laurie Farrell of the Steel Framing Alliance at (202) 785-2022, ext. 13 or LFarrell@steelframing.org.

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THE STEEL INDUSTRY'S QUIET MAN OF STEEL

LONGTIME SFA VOLUNTEER AND SEVEN-YEAR MASFA PRESIDENT HONORED FOR HIS SERVICE

MOST PEOPLE CAN THINK OF AT LEAST ONE PERSON THEY MIGHT LIKE TO CLONE. FOR THE STEEL FRAMING ALLIANCE (SFA), THAT PERSON IS DANNY FEAZELL, PRESIDENT OF PREMIUM STEEL BUILDING SYSTEMS IN ROANOKE, VA., AND LONGTIME SFA VOLUNTEER, LEADER AND 'GO-TO GUY.'

Danny Feazell (front right) reviews plans for a single story, light commercial structure donated to the Clark County School District – Area Technical School in North Las Vegas with Nader Elhajj (front left) and students from the STUD University program that took place in 2004 at the Las Vegas Convention Center. Mr. Elhajj is senior structural engineer for the National Association of Home Builders.



Following a seven-year stint as president of the Mid-Atlantic Steel Framing Alliance (MASFA) since its inception in 1999, Danny decided to step down and give someone else a chance to lead the organization's efforts to advance the steel framing industry. He was recently honored for his service and dedication at the MASFA quarterly education meeting in College Park, Md.

Danny says that early on those involved with starting MASFA decided to focus strictly on education and training because they felt it would make the greatest impact on the industry. According to Jeff Klaiman, P.E., MASFA's new Board president, the organization owes its success in large measure to Danny's leadership and dedication.

"Danny took on the role of president of MASFA when it was just forming, and his leadership has really made an impact on cold-formed steel framing in the entire mid-Atlantic region, as well as all over the country with all of the volunteering he does on behalf of the Steel Framing Alliance," Mr. Klaiman says. "He's a real inspiration and I just hope I can keep up all the great work that he has selflessly invested into the organization so far." Mr. Klaiman is also principal and vice president of Specialty Engineering for ADTEK Engineers, Inc. in Fairfax, Va.

In addition to his service to MASFA, Danny has spent countless hours of his own time on SFA's behalf providing hands-on training to vocational school instructors, speaking for the past five years at various engagements throughout the country, and communicating the value of steel

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DANNY FAEZELL...
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

framing to home builders' associations and code inspectors nationwide. He has also lent considerable support to SFA's STUD University (STUD U) educational program, serving as the master contractor for Stud U at METALCON International since the program's inception in 2003.

"I would like to clone Danny," says Maribeth Rizzuto, SFA's Director of Training and Education. "There has never been a time when I have called that he hasn't helped. If we had more people in the industry with Danny's attitude and dedication, steel would be off the charts."

For Danny, the reasons why are simple. "Because steel framing is such a small industry, the more people see steel, and the more each of us can get it in front of builders, buyers or inspectors, then it is going to be good for the entire industry," he says. "Every piece of steel that goes into the marketplace helps us all."

But Danny's contributions go far beyond Stud U, says Ms. Rizzuto. "Probably the most important aspect of Danny's support to this industry has been the many hours he has spent talking to those who want to build with steel. He's always just a phone call away, and his attention to customer service, patience for those who need a little extra time to make sense of it all, and the willingness to go the extra mile are a testament of what we need more of in this industry."

Danny encourages anyone interested in seeing the steel framing industry advance to get involved. "I always feel that I have gotten much more out of this than I have given," he says. "Anything anyone can do to get steel in front of more people is going to be good for the whole industry, which is then going to be good for our own businesses. If you give as much as you can, I think you will find that you will be blessed in more ways than what you have put out there."

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MASFA's new Board president, Jeff Klaiman (right) presents immediate past president Danny Fezell with a plaque and certificate to his favorite outdoors retailer for his longtime dedication to MASFA.



Pictured from left to right during a pre-meeting cocktail reception are Tom Budd of Tri-State Drywall, Inc. in Rockville, Md.; Mahendra Shah of ADTEK Engineers, Inc. in Fairfax, Va.; and MASFA Board Secretary Ed Daigneau of Super Steel Components in Grand Rapids, MI.

2.5 MASFA HOLDS FIRST EDUCATIONAL MEETING UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP

About 30 people attended MASFA's first quarterly educational meeting of the year on Jan. 30th in College Park, Md. Greg Bundy, P.E., a branch engineer with Simpson Strong-Tie Co., Inc. in Columbus, Ohio, gave an interesting and informative presentation on "Cold-Formed Steel Shear Wall Design to Resist Seismic Load," for which attendees were able to receive one educational credit hour.

Earlier that day, several Board members and guests attended MASFA's first board meeting under new president, Jeff Klaiman. In addition to Mr. Klaiman, MASFA's new Board roster includes Kevin Scott, vice president; Ed Daigneau, secretary; Nader Elhadj, treasurer; Danny Fezell, immediate past president; and Jay Larson, member. The meeting focused on the organization's plans for the year which include a second educational dinner meeting on fasteners later this spring, as well as a spring social event.

STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS BY VISITING WWW.MASFA.ORG.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING



By **MARIBETH RIZZUTO, DIRECTOR OF TRAINING AND EDUCATION, STEEL FRAMING ALLIANCE**

THE FOLLOWING CALENDAR OF EVENTS REPRESENTS SEVERAL UPCOMING TRAINING AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE COLD-FORMED STEEL INDUSTRY:

MARCH 14-16, HONOLULU, HAWAII

Pacific Rim Steel Framing Conference – Held in conjunction with the Steel Framing Alliance's Spring Forum and the Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute's (CFSEI) national meeting, the conference is featuring 15 educational sessions for building designers, contractors, engineers, and homebuilders.

www.steel framing.org.

MARCH 14-15, HONOLULU, HAWAII

STUD University – An intensive 16-hour training program that combines classroom instruction with hands-on training, STUD U. is designed to teach the construction workforce the skills and techniques required for framing with cold-formed steel in both residential and commercial applications. Participants must either be a contractor, builder or framer. Tuition (\$650 for SFA members; \$750 for nonmembers) includes all course-related textbooks, lab materials, and resources.

www.steel framing.org.

MARCH 20-23, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

ABC National Craft Championships – Sponsored by the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), this intense, two-day competition includes a two-hour written

exam as well as practical, hands-on performance testing where more than 100 participants are expected to compete in building projects representing 10 craft areas, including steel framing. The event will be held in conjunction with the ABC National Convention and the Construction Showcase at the Gaylord Opryland Nashville Hotel & Convention Center, featuring more than 100 construction industry participants with 9½ exhibit hours.

www.abc.org.

MARCH 24-27, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Green Means Grow – From technical expertise and the latest product developments to educational sessions led by some of the most successful builders in the industry, the 2007 National Association of Home Builders' National Green Building Conference is where you'll find the latest information about making cost-effective business decisions that also help the environment. As one of the exhibitors, the Steel Framing Alliance will be on hand to provide valuable information and resources on the environmental advantages of building with steel as a recyclable - and recycled - material. The SFA is also this year's sponsor of the Anheuser-Busch Brewery Tour that takes place on March 24.

www.nahb.com.

MARCH 29-APRIL 1, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Steel Central at the 52nd annual New Orleans Home and Garden Show - In another united effort to prominently showcase steel, several member companies will join the Steel Framing Alliance as Steel Central exhibitors in a consolidated location at this event. As the Gulf Coast region moves further along with the rebuilding process, Steel Central exhibitors will have the opportunity to demonstrate steel's

superior performance by providing much needed information for the consumer and contractor. Sponsored by the Homebuilders Association of Greater New Orleans, "The Big One at the Dome" is the largest consumer home show of its kind offered throughout the entire southeast region of the U.S. and draws more than 51,000 consumers each year.

www.neworleanshideshow.com.

APRIL 1-5, ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Expand Your Market with Cold-Formed Steel – Takes place at the Association of Walls and Ceiling Industry's (AWCI) Convention and Intex Expo. Scheduled for April 5 from 8 to 9:30 a.m., this educational seminar will be presented by Larry Williams, Steel Framing Alliance president, who will cover why mid-rise structures present a unique opportunity in cold-formed steel construction, with everything from hotels, motels and apartments to condominiums and assisted living facilities being built at a rapid rate across the nation. Don't miss out on finding out why more companies are joining the steel train, lowering their builders' risk insurance, and building better.

www.awci.org.

MAY 8, NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

Design and Construction of Cold-Formed Steel Structures – Sponsored by the Structural Engineers Association of New York, this day-long seminar is specifically designed for architects and engineers focusing on cold-formed steel in construction today, including the Code of Standard Practice and design tools available for building with cold-formed steel..

www.seaony.org.

JUNE 15-16, ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA

Cold-Formed Steel Education Sessions at the California Steel Framing Conference -Sponsored by the California Steel Framing Alliance (CASFA), the sessions will include the latest design techniques for high wind/high seismic zones, training for building code inspectors, panelization, and much more. There will also be an exhibit showcase of some of the latest tools and equipment for steel framing.

www.casfa.org.

JUNE 26-30, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

SkillsUSA University/SkillsUSA Championships – For the past eight years, the Steel Framing Alliance has offered two training sessions for vocational/technical instructors on how to add cold-formed steel to their school's program during Skills University during the conference. This week-long conference culminates with the SkillsUSA Championships, representing the “best of the best” of students from across the nation demonstrating their skills in carpentry, electrical, plumbing, and more than 70 other trades. The use of steel framing continues to grow through its participation in carpentry, industrial motor controls, and TEAMWORKS competitions.

www.SkillsUSA.org.

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NEWS FROM THE COLD-FORMED STEEL ENGINEERS INSTITUTE (CFSEI)**STEEL FRAMING ALLIANCE NAMES NEW MANAGER TO CFSEI**

THE STEEL FRAMING ALLIANCE (SFA) HAS NAMED SUSAN CLEMENTS AS MANAGER OF THE COLD-FORMED STEEL ENGINEERS INSTITUTE (CFSEI).

Ms. Clements, who brings 16 years of association experience, will work closely with the CFSEI Board of Directors and Larry Williams, SFA president, in managing the association, its programs, and member services.

“The engineering community is a very important element in the growing market for steel framing, and we are happy to have found someone with the passion and depth of experience that Susan offers,” says Mr. Williams. “We’re delighted to have her on board and believe that she will make an immediate and significant impact on the products, programs and services that we provide the design community.”

One of Ms. Clements’ first goals is to ensure regular distribution to CFSEI members of “Technical Notes,” summary documents designed primarily for engineers that focus on technical issues related to cold-formed steel framing. In addition to an explanation of a specific issue



along with key references, “Technical Notes” typically feature at least one work design example. She is also available to discuss with members their ideas for publications, events and training opportunities.

Previously, Ms. Clements served as the director of Member Relations for the National Association of Wholesale Distributors after working for 10 years as an administrator for the Federal Circuit Bar Association. Other membership organizations she has served include The Alliance for

Responsible Atmospheric Policy, The International Climate Change Partnership, and the International Council of Cruise Lines.

In addition to earning an Associate in Science degree from Northern Virginia Community College, she has attended George Mason University and Hawaii Loa College. She is also a member of the American Society of Association Executives and Meeting Professionals International. She resides in Locust Grove, Va., with her husband and three children.

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STEEL FRAMING INDUSTRY TO GATHER IN HAWAII FOR PACRIM MARCH 14-17

AS THE FINAL TOUCHES ARE BEING ADDED TO THE FIFTH ANNUAL PACIFIC RIM STEEL FRAMING CONFERENCE (PACRIM) IN BEAUTIFUL HAWAII, PLANNERS TELL US THIS YEAR'S EVENT WILL OFFER ATTENDEES SIGNIFICANTLY MORE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THAN EVER BEFORE. PACRIM BRINGS TOGETHER MANUFACTURERS, DISTRIBUTORS, DEVELOPERS, STEEL-FRAMING CONTRACTORS, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, AND GOVERNMENT AND RESEARCH OFFICIALS FOR A FULL SCHEDULE OF NETWORKING SEMINARS.

Hosted by the Hawaii Pacific Steel Framing Alliance (HPSFA), PACRIM 2007 is also being held in conjunction with the Steel Framing Alliance's (SFA) Spring Forum and the Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute's (CFSEI) national meeting. In addition to informative presentations on advancements in steel-framed construction and the latest research on steel framing performance and design standards, there will also be an executive track that will focus on areas of innovations in steel technology and industry competitiveness.

"In the past, PACRIM attendees have told us that they come to the conference to learn about the advancements in steel framing technology and to grow professionally," said Larry Williams, SFA President. "The enhancements we've made to the training programs and symposiums this year directly support those objectives."

The offerings include a trade expo featuring a variety of products and services on steel and related products, as well as many exciting seminar tracks for building designers, contractors and homebuilders. A hands-on, cold-formed steel-framing curriculum is supplementing the seminars. Guest speakers from around the world will also be on hand to address topics on economics, home forecasts, architectural and engineering issues, and new construction tools and technologies. In addition, the CFSEI will hold its annual national meeting and technology sessions, which will include field trips and special presentations on resisting progressive collapse, as well as the structural effects of the recent earthquake in Hawaii.

"We hope the 2007 PACRIM will help enhance the industry's ability to compete with new products and services, increase customer satisfaction, and enable innovations throughout the steel framing industry," said Adam Sutton, HPSFA president. "The conference will also focus on identifying and discussing major trends that will have a significant impact on the industry and leaders' roles and responsibilities."

This year's event is taking place at the Hilton Waikiki Prince Kuhio in Honolulu on the island of Oahu where steel-framed construction represents more than 70 percent of all new construction.



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FROM THE FORUM

RECEIVED A CALL TODAY ASKING ABOUT A DRYWALL DROP CEILING THAT WILL BE SUPPORTED FROM THE STRUCTURE ABOVE, AS WELL AS SUPPORTED AT EACH END AT NON-BEARING WALLS.

The issue raised was that the non-bearing walls had a slip connection at the top, and the ceiling was to be directly supported from the underside of the floor slab. The concern of the caller was that if the floor were allowed to move vertically with respect to the non-bearing walls, the support of the ceiling system would change with the movement of the floor system. In its initial configuration, the floor and walls would all support the ceiling members as designed. However, as the floor deflected, an increased amount of the ceiling load would be transferred to the non-bearing walls.

Note that based on the International Building Code, non-bearing walls are permitted to carry up to 100 pounds per lineal foot (plf) of axial load. Steel framing members that are fully sheathed on both sides typically have no problem carrying this and greater loads. However, the issue at hand is not the capacity of the walls, but the ability of the ceiling to span between the walls without interior supports. With the ceiling losing support from the tie-wires attached to the underside of the deflecting floor, the ceiling members will need to span from wall-to-wall, rather than spanning only the distance between the tie wires. Unless the framing members have been designed to span this distance, the members could quite possibly deflect enough to crack the ceiling finish. On an acoustic tile ceiling, this is not as much of an issue, since the system has enough flexibility to accommodate this deflection. For a drywall or plaster ceiling, however, cracking of the finish materials may be a valid concern.

There are several solutions to address this concern. One would be to design the ceiling members to span from wall to wall, without relying on support from the ceiling above. Another would be to design the entire ceiling framing system to be supported from the floor above, without any support from the adjacent walls. This is not a common method of framing, because isolation joints between walls and drywall ceilings are not typically detailed. Also, it is usually easier for the installer to support the framing from the adjacent walls than from the ceiling at these locations. The third method would be to check the anticipated deflection of the floor system, and see if it will be within the deflection capacity of the ceiling.

Drywall framing is typically capable of flexing without cracking up to $L/240$ of its span. This means that if a ceiling member spans 10'-0", the member may deflect up to one two-hundred fortieth of its span (or $\frac{1}{2}$ ") before cracking. Thus if a ceiling member is 10'-0" long, and there is a supporting tie wire at midspan, even if the floor above deflects up to $\frac{1}{2}$ " the member should be able to accommodate this deflection without cracking. Longer members should be able to accommodate even

greater relative deflections.

Another issue that makes this even less of a concern is the fact that on projects such as hotels and motels, the live and dead load on each floor is typically about the same. This will cause each level to deflect about the same amount. Therefore, the relative deflection between the floors is very small, and there will be little movement between the non-bearing walls and the floor slab above.

Don Allen P.E., Steel Framing Alliance director of engineering and LEED 2.0 accredited professional.



ASK YOUR QUESTION!
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MHD



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Circle #6