MBI’S RECENT CODE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS TO BENEFIT FLEET OWNERS

One of the goals I communicated last year at World of Modular was to better communicate the efforts of the MBI staff on behalf of our fleet owners. The staff spends a great deal of time working to protect the fleets of our various member companies. It is my pleasure to share the latest code development news with our membership and highlight some big “wins” on behalf of the relocatable buildings industry.

Welcome to the IBC, Relocatable Buildings:
MBI scored its biggest code victory to date last week when our code change proposal for the 2018 IBC moved a step closer to reality. MBI worked to submit a comment which adds a new section in Chapter 31 specifically for newly constructed relocatable buildings. This section requires that manufacturers provide basically everything that is currently required with most state administrative programs and requires affixing a data-plate with the building’s information. In essence we codified the state administrative requirements so that the local AHJ would not have to refer back to an administrative manual, rather find the compliance path within the IBC for a newly constructed RB. The new section also clearly points code officials to the existing building code for RBs built prior to the adoption of this code. This new language will essentially become the de facto program requirements for relocatable buildings in all states that do not have administrative programs, and eliminates any confusion about requiring an existing RB to meet new codes when moved.

While these changes will not apply until states adopt the 2018 codes, MBI has developed an ICC CEU approved webinar explaining how to determine compliance for RBs and will publicize and promote that webinar once final.

The Death of 3410:
As mentioned above, IBC section 3410 has caused this industry a great deal of costs and delays, perhaps more so than any other single section of the code. That is why we are pleased to report that effective with the 2018 IBC, all references to moved structures meeting new codes will be eliminated. MBI worked to get this section removed from the 2015 IBC, Chapter 34 Existing Buildings. That chapter now points readers to the International Existing Building Code (IEBC) to determine compliance. However, the 2015 IEBC also contained a “moved structures” section (409). MBI successfully lobbied to have section 409 deleted from the 2018 IEBC, meaning readers looking at the IBC to determine compliance with existing buildings are referred to the existing building code. Once there, there is no other applicable section for “moved structures” besides Chapter 13 Relocated Buildings — a much more favorable code section for our industry.

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Kelly Williams
MBI Board of Directors President
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6. Markets include education, multifamily, hospitality, health care, components, government, workforce housing and more.
7. You’ll find out why “Greener, Faster, Smarter” isn’t just a slogan.
8. It’s always in a great location.
9. If you’re an equipment or service supplier, it’s the best place to display your products for the modular industry.
10. If you want to learn about modular and prefab, it’s the place to be.

Contact Dave Sikora at MBI to reserve your sponsorship or exhibit space now!

Email: dave@modular.org • Phone: 888-811-3288 x155
www.worldofmodular.org

MODULAR CONSTRUCTION SUMMITS & FACTORY TOURS

November 4, 2015 in Dallas, Texas:
Open to the general public, the event will take place at the Hyatt Regency Dallas. Registration is $99 for MBI members, $199 for nonmembers, and FREE for students & professors of architecture, engineering, and construction schools, as well as for AIA members. The factory tour will be held at the Ramtech Building Systems facility.

November 11, 2015 in Brooklyn, New York:
Open to the general public, the summit will take place at the Sheraton Brooklyn New York Hotel. Registration is $99 for MBI members, $199 for nonmembers. The factory tours will be held at the FC Modular facility and the Capsys facility, both in Brooklyn, NY.

Register here: www.modular.org/events_calendar.aspx

NEW YORK BUILD 2016
MARCH 7 & 8 • NEW YORK, NY

PARTNER EVENT

New York Build 2016 is the ideal opportunity for your organization to get involved in New York’s booming construction industry and to access major developers, contractors and suppliers from New York and across America. It is taking place at the Javits Center.

MBI is partnering with host Oliver Kinross, which hosts similar expos around the world, to promote commercial modular construction.

Attendance is FREE. The first 10 MBI members that register to exhibit will receive a 10% discount.

www.newyorkbuildexpo.com

To register for MBI events or to view more upcoming events, please visit our website at www.modular.org/events_calendar.aspx
MBI US and Canadian Foundations Award 2015 Scholarships | Congratulations Winners!

The MBI Educational Foundation and the MBI Canadian Foundation are pleased to announce two recipients of educational scholarships in 2015. Annually, the foundations provide $5000 in scholarships to employees of MBI member companies or employee spouses, children, or grandchildren. The US foundation provides one $2500 scholarship and the Canadian foundation provides one $2500 scholarship. Applicants apply directly to the foundations and must be enrolled or enrolling in two- or four-year schools. Any course of study is eligible—it need not be related to modular construction—though applicants with majors applicable to our industry are ranked higher in the selection process.

The US foundation is awarding its scholarship to Ryan Pauly. Ryan is employed as an intern at RedGuard, a modular building design and construction company based in Wichita, Kansas that produces blast-resistant buildings. He is also a junior at Kansas State University where he is enrolled in the mechanical engineering program. At RedGuard, Ryan works alongside company engineers on research and development projects getting firsthand experience in engineering, designing, building, and testing structures. Having grown up in a farming family, Ryan understands the importance of hard work and accountability and continues to help his family with annual harvests. Ryan also enjoys coaching recreational baseball in the summer and serving as a volunteer with a local chapter of Big Brothers Big Sisters.

The Canadian foundation is awarding its scholarship to Cynthia Léger. Also an intern, Cynthia is employed at Kent Homes in Bouctouche, New Brunswick. Kent is a manufacturer of commercial and residential modular buildings. Cynthia is a junior in the civil engineering program at the Université of Moncton and works at Kent in project coordination and business improvement. She leads small projects and worked on the team that managed one of Kent’s largest commercial projects, a 310 unit workforce camp in Manitoba. Cynthia enjoys playing team sports like hockey, soccer, and volleyball. Throughout high school she was routinely named most valuable player and in college went on to represent the Université of Moncton at nationals in March. Cynthia helps in the community by coaching children’s hockey and volunteering at a local hospital.

These scholarships make a total of 22 scholarships and over $45,000 awarded since 2001. Please consider a generous donation to the foundations to support this worthy cause by using the contribution form online or calling 888-811-3288.

To make donations online visit: www.modular.org/foundations_donate.aspx

MBI has opened up 2016 membership renewals. The main contact for your company may renew online by logging in at modular.org. A membership renewal link should appear at the top of the page in red after you enter your username and password. Click on “Renewal” and follow the instructions. By renewing your membership, you will:

- Obtain leads and referrals through the MBI website
- Keep informed of issues and trends in the industry
- Network and build professional relationships with other members
- Help MBI represent your modular interests at the state and provincial levels
- Gain access to training opportunities and events at highly discounted rates
- Gain industry-wide recognition
- Receive valuable company discounts
- Help MBI raise positive awareness of the industry and increase market share

If you have questions about membership benefits or assistance with renewals, please contact MBI via email memberapp@modular.org or by calling 888-811-3288.

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Please email stories and high resolution photos to: communications@modular.org. Don’t miss this opportunity to let others in the industry hear about the exciting developments in your company!
Robert Frick Rejoins Ramtech Building Systems as MEP Design Manager

Mansfield, Texas-based Ramtech Building Systems, the Southwest’s premier design-build construction firm for relocatable modular buildings and prefabricated permanent facilities, has hired commercial MEP design veteran Robert Frick who will join the company’s engineering group as Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing Design Manager. This marks Frick’s return to Ramtech after 18 years working as an MEP consultant including his most recent position as Vice President and Director of the Education Division for Image Engineering Group of Grapevine, Texas. In his role at IEG, Frick directed multiple project teams and coordinated all aspects of MEP design including facility assessments, schematic design planning, design development, and construction documentation and administration. Frick joins Ramtech at a pivotal time for the company as it seeks to grow both its traditional permanent modular construction and Accelerated Building System (ABS) prefabricated building process. According to Roland Brown, Ramtech’s Vice President of Design and Development, “Robert brings a wealth of experience back to our engineering group, including a broad technical knowledge of sustainable MEP design which will help take us to the next level in developing larger and more sophisticated permanent modular construction projects.”

In his new role, Frick will be responsible for working within the Ramtech design team to develop cutting edge, cost efficient MEP designs encompassing all of Ramtech’s education, healthcare, government, and commercial projects. Frick is a Certified Geo-Exchange Designer, a LEED AP BD&C accredited professional, and a member of the US Green Building Council, the Association of Energy Engineers, and the Council of Educational Facility Planners.

www.ramtechmodular.com

Modular Building by NRB, Inc. is Helping to Treat MRI Patients

Located in the heart of Charlottesville, Virginia, the University of Virginia’s Medical Center recently had an MRI facility added. The new MRI facility is a modular building constructed by NRB, Inc. The building modules were created off-site in Pennsylvania, then transported to Charlottesville, where they were installed on October 10, 2015.

The modules were as close to finished as possible. Everything from plumbing and air conditioning, to desks and automatic doors were already pre-installed in the modules. Locals who are not familiar with the installation process were “thrown-off” some, because it was so fast, contrary to the construction process of a traditional building.

“People are amazed,” says Lee Bachman, construction manager for NRB. “They might go home Friday from work and come back Monday and have a building that wasn’t there. It’s pretty neat.”

NRB says it takes about three months to pre-build the structure off-site, but only about a week to install and finish the building. NRB says that UVa is going to use the modular building to help do more MRI scans for patients in a more permanent facility.

Since the Modular Building Institute (MBI) is also located in Charlottesville, MBI staffers, Sharon Holman and Steven Williams, visited the site during the installation process. This was a real treat for Sharon, who had never seen building modules being set before now. While on site, she snapped some great photos of the process.

www.nrb-inc.com
Du Bois Integrity Academy Opens New Modular Facility Constructed by Innovative Modular Solutions

Following a Labor Day weekend full of construction crews working extra hours and teachers preparing their new classrooms, the Du Bois Integrity Academy in Riverdale, Georgia officially opened in their own home.

The new 25,000 square foot, 17-classroom facility utilized modular construction through Innovative Modular Solutions to complete the school on an aggressive timeline.

Du Bois Integrity Academy and its educational management group, Du Bois Charter School Consortium based in Memphis, Tennessee, partnered with American Charter Development from Salt Lake City, Utah. American Charter Development agreed to build the school and facilities on the land Du Bois purchased. Innovative Modular Solutions was contracted to complete Phase One construction of the charter school building and Atlanta-based DPR/Hardin Construction acted as the general contractor and site developer.

Du Bois has a lease to own development arrangement with American Charter Development and the school governance board plans to purchase the facility within the next three to five years.

www.innovativemodular.com

The new Du Bois Integrity Academy facility.

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Offsite Construction Expo Recap
Success stories from the first ever Offsite Construction Expo despite a visit from the Pope that threatened to shut down D.C. traffic.

Over 500 attendees and exhibitors participated in the first ever Offsite Construction Expo held at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center on September 23-24. MBI was a major sponsor of the event, understanding the importance of using the more general topic of offsite construction as an opportunity to educate attendees about modular construction in particular.

About seventy companies displayed their products and services, with a majority of the booths comprised of commercial modular construction companies. Other exhibitors included providers of wall panels, framing systems, pre cast concrete, and bathroom pods while attendees were primarily general contractors, architects, and developers of commercial and multi-family projects.

Most attendees cited the variety of vendors and presentations as their favorite part of the show. While nearly eighty percent of attendees said they plan to attend next year, a full 93% of attendees indicated that they are “likely” or “very likely” to do business with at least one exhibitor. Facilitating this business development was the primary goal of the event. Many attendees cited the advantage of gaining industry information from many sources at one show as a key benefit of attending. One developer attendee stated that this event saved him six months of research!

The most common criticism was that the overall attendance could have been greater. The original footprint of the show floor had to be scaled back after one key event supporter backed out of their role to sell additional booth space. Others took a “wait and see” approach believing that the attendees would be primarily from the mid-Atlantic region. That turned out not to be the case, as attendees from a dozen countries were on hand.

Nonetheless, a majority of the exhibitors felt that the QUALITY of the attendees was as good as or better than other shows. Additionally, 70% of exhibitors expect to generate business from this show and 76% plan to return next year.

For a first year event, we feel that there is enough feedback to make some adjustments and improvements to the event, and thus consider supporting it again in 2016.

www.offsiteconstructionexpo.com

Pacific Park Reaches New Heights!

Despite its troubled past and vocal critics, FC Modular is moving full steam ahead with its Pacific Park project, slated to be the tallest modular building in the world at 32-stories. The team recently installed the 22nd floor, making it the tallest modular building in North America! With a new floor being set each week, the project will soon reach its goal of 32-stories tall.

Previously, the tallest modular building in North America was the 21-story Hilton Hotel on the San Antonio Riverwalk, built in 1968! A 24-story student dormitory in Manchester, England currently holds the distinction of world’s tallest modular building, despite claims from China’s Broad Group about their recent 57-story “modular” project built in just 19 days. While the Chinese project was a phenomenal feat and highlights the speed of offsite construction practices in general, it used a combination of prefabricated wall panels and subassemblies and a seemingly unlimited supply of labor. In terms of volumetric, three dimensional modular construction, we still give the nod to the UK project. Nonetheless, Broad Group has quite a story with over 3 million views on YouTube: http://bit.ly/broad_group.
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