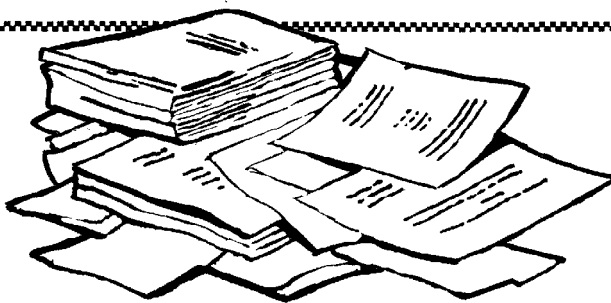


Letters



Winning the Public Trust

To the Editor:

Regarding the last sentence of your recent editorial [JLC 10/88] in which you state that "if... you don't regulate yourselves, the state legislatures will do it for you:" This is exactly the conclusion that our organization has come to in carefully studying the pros and cons of certification.

State-mandated licensing and registration programs are gaining steam all across the country. In California, for example, you cannot hold yourself out to be a professional paperhanger unless you have a state license; and we believe that more and more states will follow California's lead.

At the root of this activity are the consumer-advocacy groups that have sprung up in the last 20 years or so; and they're right... consumers need protection. However, legitimate contractors need protection, too, and it's about time we all realized that fact. We can best protect ourselves by regulating ourselves, whether it be through certification, licensing, or some other means.

The alternative is to be caught in an adversarial posture with the consumer groups when they get around to writing the laws that govern your business activity. Don't let that happen!

Robert Kelly
National Guild of
Professional Paperhangers
Lee, Mass.

To the Editor:

I just read your editorial in the October 1988 issue with interest. What the public perceives about contractors is about the same as it perceives about architects, for somewhat different reasons. And how contractors and architects perceive each other is also with mistrust.

As long as an adversarial attitude is maintained between construction professionals, the public is not served well.

Add to that simplistic articles in the media suggesting that the owner can easily dispense with professional design services and be his own general contractor as well, and you have a confused public ready to blame everyone.

Part of the complex solution of

building public confidence and trust, is to do all you suggest in your final paragraph, and also instill some plain old-fashioned respect for each other. After all, we help good contractors get work, and we get work from good contractors.

It can work for all of us.

Emile Berger
Berger and Krieger Architects
Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.

To the Editor:

Your October issue editorial was excellent. As a 24-year-old self-employed carpenter/remodeler with one full-time employee, "customer service" is what gets me my next job. Returning a phone call or showing up on time produces thankful customers.

Jonathan Belshaw
Belmont, Mass.

Dead Air Doubted

To the Editor:

Referring to the article about the new "Barrier" wall system in your Miscellany column [8/88, page 10]:

The wall provides for a 1 5/8 inch air space on the outside of the insulated bay. After reading countless articles warning against air spaces in and around an insulated area, why is this particular air space suddenly designated a "dead air space" when in fact it is a large void prone to promoting a cold-air convection loop?

We all know the theory of trapped still air versus moving air providing insulation.

David Brinton
Ludlow, Vt.

William Brod, representative of
Barrier Systems, responds:

The Wall Within The Wall

Technology of the Barrier System creates two dead air spaces within a wall cavity, separated by a panel of rigid foam insulation. This insulation panel is sealed tightly within each stud cavity by gaskets, preventing any air infiltration, or intermixing of air between each dead air space. (Cold air is trapped in the exterior dead air space, warm air in the interior dead air space: The airtight seal short-circuits any possibility of a convective loop).

Furthermore, since each dead air space is bordered by a reflective foil surface, the area's ability to insulate is increased, and contributes significantly to the system's

tested R-33.8 insulation value.

The Barrier system allows you to frame, insulate, and install the vapor barrier and building wrap in one simple step, while leaving the vapor barrier intact after installation of mechanicals in the freeze-safe chase created by the interior dead air space. Premanufactured components assemble on-site with conventional tools and methods into a highly energy-efficient wall. Substantial improvements in dimensional accuracy and thermal efficiency are achieved with lower labor costs and less reliance on job skills. —[Editor's note: The Barrier System is manufactured by Lincoln Environment Services, Inc., P. O. Box 346, Canastota, NY 13032; 315/697-7224. This information was omitted in the original article.]

Editorial Hits Nail on Head

To the Editor:

Daniel Paquette's editorial on land use issues [7/88] hit the nail on the head. I have been trying to build a duplex in Island County, Wash., for over three years and have been stifled by a new zoning ordinance. It appears

that it's only when we are affected directly that we get involved.

I have tried unsuccessfully to find *Creative Land Development: Bridge to the Future*, the book Mr. Paquette refers to. Do you know who the publisher is?

Your publication is the most informative I read. Keep it coming.
Bradley E. Robertson
Clinton, Wash.

Creative Land Development: Bridge to the Future is published by its author, Robert Lemire. You can purchase a paperback copy of the second edition from the Massachusetts Audubon Society's bookstore in Lincoln, Mass. (617/259-9500) for \$11.95. —Editor



Keep 'em coming... We welcome letters, but they must be signed and include the writer's address. The Journal of Light Construction reserves the right to edit for grammar, length, and clarity. Mail letters to The Journal, P.O. Box 5059, Burlington, Vt 05402.

Salary Survey Planned

Over the years, many of you have requested information about how much local contractors are paying their help. When a subscriber called us a few weeks ago with the same request, we realized it was time to start gathering this data and offering it to our readers.

So by now, several hundred of you working in the New England region have received copies of our first salary

survey. We'll publish the results in the January 1989 issue. If you are one of those selected by the computer to receive a survey, please complete it, and return it to us in the postage-paid envelope provided. If you've already done so, thanks.

In the future, we'll be conducting other business surveys that will help us better serve you. We appreciate your cooperation and welcome your suggestions. —Editor