

LETTERS



BOCA Not Impressed

To the Editor:

I'd like to address the letter of Mr. Marcus S. Barnes ("Steep Stair Blues," 4/93) regarding BOCA's consideration of the 7-11 stair rule.

First, any change to the BOCA National Codes is approved by a vote of the BOCA membership of practicing code officials, after public debate, and not by the directors of BOCA.

Second, stair safety is the subject of ongoing investigation and consideration by BOCA, including a special committee established for precisely that purpose. Any information, including statistical reports, that Mr. Barnes or anyone else wishes to offer is welcome. The welcome includes participation in the discussion before the committee and the BOCA membership.

Third, BOCA is not enamored with any particular symbol, nor are we impressed by those who shout from a distance and complain of not being heard.

And so it goes.

Paul K. Heilstedt, P.E.
Executive Director, BOCA
Country Club Hills, Ill.

Sometimes A Great Product

To the Editor:

In the construction business, we have to stay on top of new product developments; if you stick to "the way things have always been done," you'll confine yourself to a smaller and smaller market share and eventually go belly-up due to your antiquated methods of doing business.

Occasionally new products become available that perform better than those they replace. In the stucco business, if you give me a dimensionally stable substrate, I'm one happy hombre. To date, that's been plywood or OSB, properly spaced and nailed per APA dictates.

In your March '93 issue, you have a full-page ad for Louisiana-Pacific's *FiberBond* underlayment. This is the interior version, available in 1/4-inch and 3/8-inch thicknesses. I'm interested in *FiberBond* sheathing, which comes in 1/2 inch and 5/8 inch. I'll admit it, I'm taken with this product, which is:

- dimensionally stable — its lateral

"growth" needs a micrometer to measure

- stronger than OSB or plywood
- cheaper than OSB or plywood
- "environmentally friendly," in that it uses recycled newspapers as one of its principal elements
- slow to burn, unlike OSB or plywood
- able to tolerate weather exposure longer than exterior gyp board

For the moment — until something better comes along — this board appears to have it all. Especially in these times of lumber prices going just past Mars, this is a perfectly acceptable alternative to OSB or plywood for sheathing. (Honest: I do not own any L.P. stock).

I do, however, wish this new product were made somewhere exotic like Sunbury, Ohio, and not in Nova Scotia — that might help with the freight expenses.

Steve Thomas
Reitter Stucco Inc.
Columbus, Ohio

Locksets For Pocket Doors

To the Editor:

We are having trouble tracking down pocket door lock sets. What we really hope to find is some nice, simple mortise locks with pulls built in, made for either single or double pocket doors. I enjoyed the article "Pocket Door Primer" (2/93) and had high hopes when I read of the mortising lockset by Hafele. After two attempts to get the appropriate information, we received a fax showing an "Espagnolette" push lock, which seems to be used for

cabinet doors. It's just not what we're looking for.

We do upscale renovations of older homes and the only types of locksets that we have been able to locate are those by Johnson, or ones that require chopping out part of the door stile. They really don't fit the style of our projects. We have seen locksets removed from older houses that would be fine, but finding them in junk yards is not very consistent.

Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Frank M. Barnes
New Orleans, La.

Sal Alfano responds:

The extension rods for Hafele's Espagnolette lock are made for doors up to 78 inches tall. But the lock is designed for use with cabinet doors and will work only in light-duty situations. The older locksets you have seen were probably made by Adams Rite Manufacturing Co., who sold the line to a company that no longer makes the locks. However, Baldwin Hardware Corp. of Reading, Pa. (215/777-7811) makes a solid forged-brass lockset specifically for sliding doors. The Sliding Door Lock has a mortise body that works with any of five functions, including passage, privacy, patio, entrance, and double cylinder. Dummy trim is available for use on the inactive pull of double sliding doors.

Electrical Code Change

To the Editor:

Paul Turpin's articles on kitchen and bath are always informative. However, it should be noted that there is no longer a need to run a

separate general purpose circuit for the electrical hook-up for gas appliances using electronic ignition systems and/or electric timers, as he indicated in his April '93 K&B column. The 1993 NEC allows such low wattage items to be connected to the kitchen small appliance branch circuits (NEC Section 210-52 Exception 5).

Rex Cauldwell
Little Mtn. Electric & Plumbing
Copper Hill, Va.

Alcohol A Drug

To the Editor:

Thank you, thank, you, thank you for including a can of beer and a shot of whiskey in the illustration of your article regarding drug abuse (*Eight-Penny News*, 5/93). Alcohol is a drug and the cause of more damage to our society than any of the illegal drugs. Repeating this fact is the best way to get the message out. When our society has accepted it, we will be better prepared to deal with drug abuse and rehabilitation.

Joe Mack
Chicago, Ill.

Felt Not Needed

To the Editor:

I was disappointed in Henry Spies' answer to the question regarding the necessity of felt beneath asphalt shingles (*On the House*, 5/93). Except as a temporary cover, I disagree that it serves any useful purpose and many codes are being changed to reflect this. I have seen no documentation proving that pitch baking out of sheathing has been a problem, nor do I agree that felt offers "cheap insurance" if the shingles should happen to blow off. I installed 30 roofs without felt in New England over 15 years ago and they have held up just as well, if not better, than those with felt.

J. Christie Lash
Whispering Pines, N.C.



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 JLC, RR#2, Box 146, Richmond, VT 05477.

Magazine Editor Wanted

The Journal of Light Construction has a job opening for an associate editor at its offices outside of Burlington, Vermont.

Responsibilities include writing and editing features, departments, and news briefs. Candidates should have broad experience in residential construction plus proven writing and reporting skills. If you're energetic, intelligent, and have an inquisitive mind, we'd like to hear from you.

Send resume and writing sample to
JLC-EDIT,
RR 2, Box 146,
Richmond, VT 05477.