



THE JOURNAL OF LIGHT CONSTRUCTION

A Builderburg Group Publication

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The Journal of Light Construction (ISSN-1056-828X; USPS-001-659) is published monthly by Builderburg Partners, Ltd., 1025 Vermont Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20005. Periodicals-Class Postage paid at Richmond, VT, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to *The Journal of Light Construction*, 932 West Main Street, Richmond, VT 05477. Copyright 1999 by Builderburg Partners, Ltd. All rights reserved.



JLC's

Letters

Shingle Recycling Program

To the Editor:

The comments by James Glover and Eric Borden (*Letters*, 7/99) concerning reroofing over asphalt shingles were much appreciated. In northern Vermont, where the weather is quite cold in winter but the sun is also a factor, the experienced roofers I have dealt with will not add a second layer of shingles over an old one.

Regardless, all contractors involved in reroofing should be made aware of a recycling program for asphalt, fiberglass, felt, and even nails from a tear-off. Contact your local solid waste district to find out if there is one in your locale. Not only will this save landfill space and avoid tipping fees, but it also contributes in other ways because the ground-up waste is used for building roads.

Be sure to inquire as to the specifications for acceptance. If you meet them, there may be no charge for delivery.

Henri de Marne
Waitsfield, Vt.

Another Good Reason

To the Editor:

Regarding the response to the question regarding the extension of fire separation walls to the footings (*On the House*, 6/99), there's another good reason for these firewalls the author didn't mention. Although this is not a code issue, a subgrade firewall

between units provides at least a modicum of physical security between the units. Without a barrier of some type, even someone of my admittedly convex cross-section would have little trouble dropping into the crawlspace of one unit, squeezing through a pony wall, and popping up (perhaps with a slipper hanging from one ear) into another unit.

Jan DeGiorgio
NOVA Property Research
Boise, Idaho

Crown Tip

To the Editor:

Like Robert Sanders (*On The House*, 7/99), I also install a backer around the ceiling when installing crown molding. Sanders's method works fine as long as the crown isn't coped at the corners. With coped corners, however, the butt end of the crown has to extend all the way to the wall. I usually leave the backing board shy the protrusion of the crown plus 1/2 inch. Also, if the ceiling has been textured, the texture has to be scraped off to get a proper fit.

Wayne Clifton
Charlotte, N.C.

Prefers Wood Siding

To the Editor:

Finally someone has put it in print ("Durable Exterior Details," 6/99). I've been trying for years to explain that vinyl and aluminum siding age poorly.

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Many agree that vinyl siding looks cheap and is often poorly detailed. But typically, the argument is that in exchange you get a maintenance-free material. In reality, vinyl siding looks worse and worse as it ages and there is nothing you can do about it. I much prefer the texture of clapboards that have been scraped and repainted a few times over 20 or 30 years.

D. Gorini
Cambridge, Mass.

Reroofing Concerns

To the Editor:

In the article "Reroofing Over Asphalt Shingles" (5/99), the photo in Figure 4 shows a method known as "racking" or the "straight-up" method. The problem with this method is that the butt joints of the shingles align every other course, which makes it easier for moisture to migrate into joints and eventually through fastener penetrations. Typically, the recommended method is to use a 6-inch offset after each course so that the butt joints only align in every seventh shingle course.

Anthony Harrington, AIA
Celotex Corporation

Seeks Employment

I read the article on the labor shortage (*Notebook*, 7/99) with a great deal of frustration. When I graduated from high school in 1977, I wanted to become a carpenter, but was encouraged to "get a degree and get a good-paying job." I've been a teacher, a biologist, and now work for a magazine and still make less than a carpenter. I am frustrated by the fact that there is no reasonable way that I can become an apprentice carpenter. I find

that although a journeyman carpenter makes 35% more than I do now, in order to become an apprentice, I have to work so far below my present wage that there's no way I can afford to.

I could probably go to work as a nonunion carpenter, but wouldn't it be wiser for unions, in light of present and future labor shortages, to make it possible for professionals like myself to become carpenters?

I presently volunteer with Habitat for Humanity and do a fair amount of concrete work on the side. I don't find that it is too physical for an old man like me, but many that do the hiring seem to feel that construction is a "young man's sport." However, I find that a strong back may be a reasonable substitute for a good mind for a while anyway, but eventually the guy who uses his head rather than his back is still standing upright at the end of the day.

Are there any programs that make it possible for a person to learn the trade and feed and clothe a family at the same time? Has anyone in the construction industry ever considered recruiting from the ranks of those already employed? Any feedback would be appreciated.

Matt TeRonde
Via e-mail

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