# Letters

# New Look, Same Book



hat's going on, you're asking? Not much — a nominal change, really. As in, we're giving the magazine the nickname that most everyone already calls it (say Journal of Light Construction three times fast and you'll know why).

We've been discussing this for years, but I decided the time had come while manning the editors' booth at a recent JLC Live show. An attendee walked up, talking about what a great show it was, never been to anything like it, and so on; then he read our banner and said, "Journal of Light Construction? Huh. What's that?" Looking around at all the JLC Live signs everywhere, I explained the magazine's connection to the show, thinking it would be nice if it were a little more obvious.

We were also overdue for a redesign on the inside. The goal was "clean and simple," and it has been masterfully executed by art director Barb Nevins. Still, even though the presentation is different, you'll find that most of the content is exactly the same.

We have introduced one new column. Called On the Job, it's a place where we hope you'll share tricks and techniques that make your work go better. The range of topics is wide open — pretty much anything from excavation to punch list, with a focus on time savers and solutions to common production problems. The explosion in digital-camera technology has made keeping a job-site record easier than ever, and if your camera has a resolution of at least 3 megapixels, chances are good your photographs will be publishable. You can submit by mail, or e-mail me or any of the other editors on the masthead. We will pay for items we publish.

Thanks for your continued support of JLC; as always, we look forward to hearing from you.

Don Jackson

JLC Editor

#### Nice Ice Advice

Contrary to the advice in the story "Retreating Snows Leave Legacy of Roof-Ice Repairs" (*In the News*, 4/05), you should never put icemelting chemicals on a roof with ice backup problems. The reason the ice gets attention in the first place is that water has intruded into the house. Adding salt will exacerbate the problem, is difficult to remove, and can cause

permanent damage to interior surfaces. (Been there, done that, a long time ago!)

A more practical approach is to wrap heat tape around 1½-inch-diameter thin-walled pipes and lay them perpendicular to the dam. In 24 hours, the heat will generate a channel 3 to 5 inches wide, letting the water run off the roof. We've been using this method for a long time with positive results. If you leave the pipe on the roof for the season, the internal thermostat will regulate the heat and keep an open channel until you can rip the shingles up and cover the sheathing with ice and water shield.

Ted Newman Jr.

Lakes Region Remodeling Co. Center Tuftonboro, N.H.

#### **KEEP 'EM COMING!**

Letters must be signed and include the writer's address. *JLC* reserves the right to edit for grammar, length, and clarity. Mail to *JLC*, 186 Allen Brook Lane, Williston, VT 05495; or e-mail to jlc-editorial@hanleywood.com.



## Letters

# Hiding Vent Holes in Eaves Blocks

In the item on ventilation and eaves blocking in seismic zones (Q&A, 3/05), the author discusses shear issues and the relative lateral strengths of two different venting details. I didn't run the numbers, but it seems that if someone wanted the high shear value of the diaphragm nailing detail and the look of the hidden ventscreen detail, they could just combine the strengths of each. For venting, instead of cutting the diaphragm short, why not continue the diaphragm blocking to the roof sheathing but cut ventilation holes at intermittent distances? Then attach the vertical spaces on the outside and cover with a decorative fascia piece. This would accomplish a high load, yet retain the look of the hidden vent.

Kelly Hamm

Manhattan Beach, Calif.

## NAHB Opposes ICC Energy Code Amendments

Your readers have good reason to be concerned about a proposed change to the ICC energy code ("DOE Study Criticizes Energy Code Amendments," *In the News*, 4/05), because the new insulation requirement changes conventional construction practices. Builders would have three options for complying with the new code: moving from 2x4 to 2x6 construction; using a costly, high-density fiberglass product; or attaching additional insulation to the outside face of exterior walls.

All three options have drawbacks and add between \$600 and \$1,000 to the cost of an average new home. NAHB does not believe that home builders or home buyers should bear the burden of expensive new code requirements that provide negligible energy savings.

David F. Wilson NAHB President

## Setting the Record Straight

Without knowing me or my business, Mr. Kenneth Benson (*Letters*, 4/05) accuses me of locking out minorities. For the record, two of my three primary subcontractors are black and my best helper is a woman. I pay 30 percent more than the going rate to keep them.

My comments referred solely to a continuing discussion of the Hispanic labor market.

**George Gritmon** 

Lonestar Home Improvement Little River, S.C.

## The Missing Page

I enjoyed Leland Stone's "A Handyman's Guide to Self-Preservation" (*Business*, 3/05). I run a small contracting business in the Seattle area and found his insights applicable to my business. He has found answers to many of the communication snags that come up with homeowners — an area where contractors often run into problems. I was glad you printed the contract form he uses, but would have liked to have been able to read the back, which was partially obscured.

William Harris

Straight-A Remodel & Repair Seattle



DO NOT ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL ON THE REVERSE SIDE UNTIL YOU HAVE READ, UNDERSTOOD, AND AGREED TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS. THESE ARE THE "CONTRACTOR'S TERMS" REFERRED TO ON YOUR PROPOSAL. THEY ARE PART OF THE PROPOSAL.

Federal Law provides three business days for you, THE HOMEOWNER, to change your mind after signing any contract in your home. If you wish to cancel this Proposal, do so by midnight of the third business day after signing AND notify Contractor in writing.

YOU, THE HOMEOWNER, CANNOT CANCEL THE CONTRACT AFTER THE THREE DAY 'RESCISSION PERIOD' EXPIRED - DOING SO MAY RESULT IN A MECHANIC'S LIEN BEING FILED AGAINST YOUR PROPERTY. Please see the accompanying "Notice To Owner" for more details.

YOU, the HOMEOWNER, are responsible for securing valuables and breakables. Anything that can be assigned by the work proposed must be removed or secured. The CONTRACTOR IS NOT RESPONSIBLE for any damage occurring during performance of this Froposal. You, the HOMEOWNER, are also responsible for keeping peter and children away from the work area.

Homeowner is responsible for providing Contractor with access to the site where work is to be done. Access must be avaisable at any time during from 3:00 am. to 5:00 pm. weekdays. Contractor may RESCINI this proposal at CONTRACTOR'S sole discretion if access to work site is delayed or denied.

MATERIALS provided by HOMEOWNER are not guaranteed in any way by Contractor; should Homeowner provide materials for proposal, Homeowner is solely responsible for their performance. Homeowner-supplied material must be provided in accordance with Contractor's educities Contractor may RESCIND this proposal at Contractor's sole discretion in materials are not so provided, OR he may elect to charge a standing fee of \$60 per hour (non pro-rata) for such delays.

YOU, the Homeowner, may require a permit for intended projects. If so, the cost of acquiring such a permit is EXCLUDED from this Proposal. Definitive answers reading permits can be obtained from your local bailding department.

UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES are a possibility with any project. You, the Homeowner, need to be aware that hidden damage and/or deficiencies (including, but not british in procet damage, dry rot, rust/corrosion, unsafe or inadequate installation by previous workers, wear and decay, hazardous materials) may exist, that

these problems may not be revealed until significant demolition has taken place. YOU, the Homoowner, need to be aware that these problems may cause delays and additional expense for which YOU, the Homoowner, are responsible. Should such hiddle damage become apparent, Contractor, at his sole discretion, may elect not to proceed with Proposal until corrective measures have been taken.

Homeowner may choose not to take such corrective action, in which case Contractor reserves the right to charge a pre-rated portion of total Proposal price, from 1N NO CASE SHALL CONTRACTOR BE RESPONSIBLE FOR RESTORING ANY PART OF THE WORK SITE TO ITS PRIOR CONDITION.

The schedule for beginning this Proposal is TENTATIVE and APPROXIMATE — NO START OR COMPLETION DATE IS GUARANTEED. Unsattleipated events (including but projects, or other causes) may result in unintentional delays in the START or COMPLETION of this Proposal for You, the Homeowner. Contractor's sole responsibility in such an event is to proceed with due diligence.

Contractor may revoke this Proposal at any time prior to its acceptance in writing by You, the Homeowner.

Contractor shall complete this Proposal in a good and workmanlike manner. Should the Homeower deem the resulting affort unsatisfactory, Contractor may elect to waive all or part of Proposal price at his discretion. In no consequential damages.

The Homeowner must provide water, electricity, and restroom facilities for the duration of any work to be done at the work site. You, the Homeowner, must also provide a safe and appropriate work elte in which the properal may be conducted. Should be fortractor, for any reason and in his sole discretion, deem the work site Contractor may elect to suspend or rescind this Proposal.

Should this Proposal be rescinded by Contractor for any cause listed above, then Contractor is relieved of all obligations set forth in that Proposal.

"By signing below, I confirm that I have read, understood, and agreed to these terms."

Homeowner's Signature	
Date	
Contractor's Signature	