

Loose Screws

October 28, 2009

Upcoming Ohio Valley NARI Events

Save the Date: November 5, 2009 - 8:00am: *Quick Fix* - A Tile workshop for NARI Friends and Baths Plus Employees! Start your day with education; wrap it up at the Green Diamond Gallery with a baseball and audio experience hosted by Viewings Audio & Video Automation!

Setting Tile in Today's Building Environment: This workshop will cover the basics of thin-set mortars and applications for different sized tiles and formats. We will cover the different sizes of notched trowels and the applications they are suitable for or not, as well as show the proper troweling technique and hydration of absorbent substrates. We will also show the proper coverage required for tile installations and review the ANSI specification for coverage on floors, exterior applications and wet areas.

Other topics will include the various grouts that are now available to the market and their properties. A demonstration of the proper techniques for mixing, spreading and dressing grout joints will also be included.

With the overwhelming use of porcelain bodied tile in the market, we will discuss the issues with regard to modified and un-modified mortars with porcelain and their use in wet and dry areas and with large size format tile as well as small glass mosaics.

The estimated time for this workshop is approximately one and a half to two hours.

*Where: Baths Plus Inc., 8711 Reading Road, 45215 **RSVP (513) 821-7464***

Save the Date: November 5, 2009 - 6:00pm: Viewings would like to present to Ohio Valley NARI members the trends they see in the world of automation and "going green". The program will be held in the beautiful Green Diamond Gallery, located in Montgomery. There we will experience one of the largest privately-owned collections of baseball memorabilia in the United States. Your friends at Viewings will provide the food; the drink and a GREAT raffle (it's a secret)! We are sure to enjoy a night of education that will further distinguish NARI as the premiere association of remodeling experts. Visit www.naricincinnati.org to register or call 1-800-498-NARI and RSVP Today!

Special Seminar: February 10, 2010 – 8:00am-4:00pm: Ohio Valley NARI along with Roth & Associates will be presenting a Sandler Sales Training Program. Highlights: Why salespeople fail... and what to do about it. • How traditional sales practices turn salespeople into unpaid consultants. • How to get to the real decision maker. • How to touch 100% of your desirable opportunities, 100% of the time. • Why everyone looks busy, but sales remain low. • Do your salespeople have what it takes to succeed in today's

volatile economy and marketplace? • Is your sales management strategy and structure optimized to produce the results YOU need to succeed? For more information or visit www.naricincinnati.org.

Contractor Faces \$4 Million Suit Over Wages

The state of New York is taking action against six construction and contracting companies for failing to pay \$4 million in wages and for discriminating against minority and immigrant workers.

The companies, which are all controlled by Michael Mahoney, 42, of Pearl River, include: EMC of New York Inc; FSC Construction LLC; FSC General Construction LLC; BMC Construction Contractors Corp.; Eastlake Industries Inc; and Rigid Concrete Construction. All six companies provide carpentry and concrete services at construction sites throughout New York City.

According to the complaint, Mahoney's companies consistently failed to pay millions of dollars in overtime wages to dozens of employees at more than 10 construction sites since 2002. Though most employees often worked upwards of 50 to 60 hours a week, they allegedly were not paid the overtime rate of one and a half times their regular wage, resulting in some employees being underpaid by more than \$600 per month.

The companies are also charged with discriminating against African-American, Brazilian and Latino employees in wages and benefits. The complaint says non-white workers were refused promotions, kept out of supervisory positions, denied leave, and paid lower wages for performing the same work.

Non-minority employees were promoted into higher-paying positions without regard to qualifications or were paid more than minority workers for the same work.

Non-minority employees were paid about \$25 an hour; African-American employees, about \$18 an hour; and Brazilian and Latino employees, about \$15 an hour, the complaint says.

“New York is supported by the hundreds of thousands of construction workers who labor tirelessly to build and maintain this City,” said Attorney General Cuomo. “To deny workers the wages guaranteed by this State, or to discriminate against them based on race and ethnicity is a gross violation of the law and a disgraceful abuse of power. Today’s lawsuit is a message to all businesses in New York -you play by the rules or you face the legal consequences.”

The lawsuit seeks to force the companies to pay the workers the unpaid overtime and other wages to which they are entitled. It also seeks to reform the companies’ business practices by instituting policies and procedures to ensure that employees

are lawfully compensated and are not subject to discrimination.

Federal and state labor laws require employers to keep accurate records of employees, including hours worked, and to fairly compensate employees for hours worked in excess of 40 hours per week at 1.5 times their regular pay rate. Further, New York civil rights laws prohibit employers from paying different wage rates based on an employee's race or national origin.

This lawsuit is part of the Attorney General's ongoing efforts to prosecute New York City employers engaged in persistent violations of wage and hour and civil rights laws, and to obtain compensation for affected workers and to stop discriminatory practices.

EPA Recognizes 'Green Building' Projects

The U.S. EPA recently recognized innovative green-building design ideas that reduce the environmental and energy impacts of buildings, as part of the agency's "Green Building Challenge" program.

Among the projects recognized are a recyclable modular temporary construction wall/barricade, an arid-zone shade structure, and the creation of "green jobs" related to maintenance of sustainable building elements. Also cited were an arboretum and research visitor's center building in Kentucky, a modular-school prototype design, and a "modern, green home" built largely with reclaimed materials.

The EPA and its partners—the American Institute of Architects, West Coast Green, the Collaborative for High Performance Schools, and stopwaste.org—invited professionals and students nationwide to submit designs and ideas that support cost-effective disassembly and anticipate future use of building materials.

"These cutting edge designs are part of a new innovative trend in environmental protection," said Jeff Scott, the EPA's Waste Management Division director for the Pacific Southwest region. "Lifecycle building strategies will help all of us get the most possible out of our natural resources and ultimately save money."

The EPA said lifecycle building emphasizes the design of buildings to facilitate disassembly and material reuse as ways to minimize waste, energy consumption, and associated greenhouse-gas emissions. Also known as design for disassembly and design for deconstruction, lifecycle building creates high-performance buildings that provide stocks of resources for the future.

The agency recently reported that doubling the reuse and recycling of construction and demolition debris would result in an emissions savings of 150 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent per year, equal to the entire annual carbon emissions of the

state of North Carolina.

The winning designs in the Pacific Southwest region were recently featured at a poster session at West Coast Green, a major conference on green innovation for the built environment. They are the following.

- Professional Product Winner, Modular Temporary Construction Wall/Barricade, Douglas Spear and Aaron Barnes, ENVY Modular Wall Systems LLC, Las Vegas, NV. This modular temporary construction wall system consists of panels and extruded joining parts that are recyclable, reusable and can be recycled into new products with zero waste. It can replace wall systems that are used for a short period of time (one to 18 months) and often end up in a landfill. The modular temporary construction wall system is being used in the MGM Mirage City Center Project in Las Vegas, where it is expected to conserve more than 100 tons of construction debris.
- Outstanding Achievement Award for Best Green Job Creation, ReAnimateLA: Center for Ecological & Urban Recovery, Hayley Stewart, Cal Poly Pomona, Pomona, CA. ReAnimate LA would create up to 100 green jobs for maintaining the sustainable elements of the building, such as the extraction and reuse of salvaged materials in construction, photovoltaic and ground-source heat-pump systems, and bioremediation planting.
- Student Building Honorable Mention, Political Ply—An Arid Zone Shade Structure, Jason Griffiths, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ. Political Ply explores methods of re-purposing existing political campaign signs to form a temporary arid-zone shade structure. The structure is composed of hexagons, and each cell houses a self-contained cooling structure. The project is designed for disassembly, and each hexagonal cell is tapered to allow cells to stack together for convenient transportation.

The Green Building Challenge program also recognized the following.

- Student Building category: (Un) Modular design for deconstruction, David Fleming, University of Cincinnati. This construction trade-school design redefines “building” as a temporary resting place for materials to be traded, upgraded and reused. The adaptable structural system can create almost any column, beam and wall configuration.
- Professional Product category: Arboretum and Research Visitors' Center, Kira Gould, William McDonough + Partners. The visitors center design, in Clermont, KY, roots the building firmly in its woodland context by blurring distinctions between the indoors and outdoors, and by incorporating the surrounding forest into the building's lifecycle analysis. The project performs 51% better than the ASHRAE-compliant base case used to measure the greenhouse gas reduction. The project

was also recognized in the category of Best Greenhouse Gas Reduction.

- Outstanding Achievements category: School M.O.D., Yosuke Kawai and Ikue Nomura, University of Pennsylvania. This prototype school building focuses on feasibility and maximizing flexibility by combining modular (M), open (O), and dual structural (D) systems. This construction technique allows any individual to build with locally available materials to meet immediate needs while providing the opportunity for future growth.

More information on the winners, and gallery of winning submissions:

www.lifecyclebuilding.org

**CotYTM 2010
Awards**

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