

2026 POST-FRAME BUILDER SHOW PREVIEW

FRAMEBUILDING NEWS®

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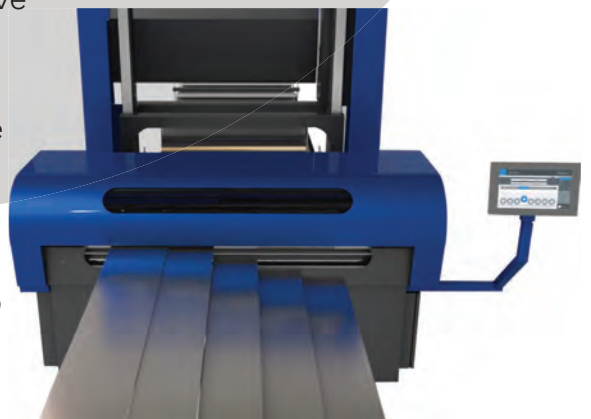
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EVENT DIRECTOR'S NOTE //

BY MISSY BEYER

Find Us In York June 10-11

We're excited to gather June 10-11 in York, Pennsylvania for the Post-Frame Builder Show. This business-to-business event brings together the full spectrum of our construction community. We will host two full days dedicated to the post-frame, rural, and plain building industries. We are proud to host family friendly events, welcoming those who share your lives to share your time in beautiful York, Pennsylvania.

Each morning begins with focused informational sessions designed to address the needs and opportunities across building segments. Attendees can enjoy a complimentary continental breakfast while connecting with peers and preparing for a full day on the show floor. Again, this year we will be including a panel discussion focused on barndominiums.

On Wednesday evening, we invite all exhibitors and attendees to join us for a complimentary reception featuring food, entertainment, and plenty of time to network in a relaxed setting. It's a highlight of

the show and a great way to celebrate the collaboration that drives our industry forward.

If you haven't secured your passes yet, there's still time. Visit www.postframebuildershow.com or contact any of our exhibitors listed in this issue for a free pass. Or you can buy admission at the door.

I want every industry partner who can benefit from this event to be part of it. If you feel your place at the show is behind a booth, please reach out and I will give you details about exhibiting or find room for you to exhibit at one of our future events.

Thank you for your continued support for our Shield Wall Media events. I look forward to seeing you in York and making 2026 our strongest year yet.

Warm regards,
Missy Beyer
Event Director
Shield Wall Media

EDITOR'S NOTE //

BY KAREN KNAPSTEIN

Turning Over the Reins

You'll find this to be my farewell edition. As *Frame Building News* continues to grow alongside the post-frame industry it serves, we recognize the importance of strong, relevant editorial leadership. With that in mind, I'd like to share an important transition.

Beginning with our August edition, I will be stepping aside as managing editor of *Frame Building News* and passing that role to Kathleen Riley. (In addition to occasionally contributing to FBN, I will still be managing *Rollforming*, *Metal Roofing*,

Plain Builder, and *Roofing Elements* magazines.)

Kathleen brings a perspective that aligns closely with the values of this publication and the builders we serve. Her background is rooted in agriculture, animal facilities, and rural construction environments, where performance, durability, and real-world function matter most. She has spent decades working in and around barns, arenas, and farm operations, developing a deep appreciation for what it means to build structures that simply have to work.

Just as importantly, Kathleen approaches

editorial work with a “boots on the ground” mindset—prioritizing firsthand experience, practical insight, and clear communication over theory or abstraction. Her goal is to deliver information that is useful, honest, and directly applicable to builders in the field.

That approach makes her a natural fit for *Frame Building News*.

It has been a privilege to serve this audience. When you see me around the event circuit, be sure to stop me and say “Hi.”

— Karen Knapstein, Editor



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Gary Reichert,
Publisher, Shield Wall Media

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FIND US ONLINE AT:
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CONTACT THE NEW EDITOR AT:
kathleen@shieldwallmedia.com

FRAMEBUILDING NEWS

Managing Editors:
Karen Knapstein
karen@shieldwallmedia.com
715-952-1633

Kathleen Riley
kathleen@shieldwallmedia.com
715-952-1644

Editorial Staff:
Linda Schmid

Circulation/Subscriptions:
Camin Potts
camin@shieldwallmedia.com
715-952-1682

Publisher/CEO:
Gary Reichert
gary@shieldwallmedia.com

Director of Events:
Missy Beyer
missy@shieldwallmedia.com
715-350-6658
Fax: 1-715-227-8680

Executive/Advertising Assistant:
Kathy Budsberg
kathy@shieldwallmedia.com

Advertising/Show Assistant:
Cari Ullom
cari@shieldwallmedia.com

Graphic Designers:
Tom Nelsen, Kevin Ulrich

FAX:
1-715-304-3604

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Acoustic Solutions in Post-Frame

How to Build a Quiet Interior

By Linda Schmid

IMAGE COURTESY OF ROCKWOOL

Acoustic performance in a building isn't the result of a single product choice—it's the outcome of an entire assembly that is designed, detailed, and installed with acoustics in mind. That's especially true in post-frame construction, where large open spaces, metal cladding, and long structural spans can create both opportunities and challenges for sound control.

The key for builders is understanding what problem they're trying to solve. Sound behaves in predictable ways, and once those fundamentals are clear, material and assembly choices become more straightforward.

How Sound Moves Through Buildings

Sound travels in two primary ways: through the air and through the structure. Airborne sound includes voices, music, and traffic noise. Structure-borne sound includes vibration – footsteps, mechanical equipment, or impact noise – that moves through framing members.

These two paths require different strategies. Airborne sound is managed by

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adding mass and absorption. Structure-borne sound is controlled by interrupting the path which is often referred to as decoupling.

If a wall or ceiling system has a continuous structural connection from one side to the other, most of the sound energy will follow that path. In practical terms, that means even a well-insulated wall can transmit significant noise if the framing directly connects both faces. Builders often assume insulation alone will solve the problem, but insulation primarily absorbs sound within a post-frame cavity; it does not stop vibration from traveling through framing.

Absorption vs. Blocking: Why Both Matter

Absorption and blocking are often discussed interchangeably, but they serve different roles. Insulation materials such

as fiberglass and mineral wool absorb sound by leveraging the aerodynamic air within their fiber structure, reducing the energy of airborne sound waves.

Blocking sound, on the other hand, depends on mass. Heavier, denser assemblies—multiple layers, concrete, or masonry are more effective at preventing sound from passing through.

Absorption and mass need to be understood as complementary, not competing strategies. Insulation like stone wool is designed to absorb sound energy within a cavity, while materials like drywall provide the mass needed to block transmission.

In practice, a wall might use insulation to absorb sound within the cavity and layered gypsum board to add mass and limit transmission. Even then, performance depends on the weakest link. Openings, gaps, and rigid connections (as opposed



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to decoupled components) can undermine otherwise solid assemblies.

The Role of Assemblies, Not Just Products

One of the most common missteps in acoustic design is focusing on individual products rather than complete assemblies. Acoustic ratings such as STC (Sound Transmission Class) are assigned to tested wall, floor, or ceiling systems – not to insulation alone.

For example, a basic 2x4 wall with gypsum board on both sides may achieve an STC in the low 30s. Adding insulation can improve that rating into the upper 30s, but meaningful gains beyond that may require changes to the assembly itself – additional layers or structural separation such as resilient channels.

A useful rule of thumb: an increase of about 10 STC points is perceived as roughly cutting sound transmission in half. That kind of improvement rarely comes from a single upgrade; it comes from combining strategies.

Acoustic performance is always measured at the system level. Ratings like STC are based on full wall or floor assemblies, not individual materials. That's why looking at tested assemblies is critical when setting expectations.

Insulation Expectations

Insulation is often the first place people look when they want to improve acoustics, but it's important to understand what role it actually plays. Materials like fiberglass and mineral wool are sound absorbers, not sound blockers. They reduce the

energy of sound waves within a cavity, but they do not stop sound from passing through a wall on their own.

Both fiberglass and mineral wool work by trapping air within a dense network of fibers. As sound waves enter the material, they force air molecules to move through that fibrous structure. The friction created in that process converts some of the sound energy into a small amount of heat, reducing the intensity of the sound – particularly in mid- to high-frequency ranges.

Sound absorption happens as air moves through the fiber structure. The denser and thicker the material, the more opportunity there is to dissipate that energy, particularly at mid- to high-frequency ranges.

Mineral wool tends to be denser than fiberglass possessing a much higher air-flow resistivity which generally allows it to absorb lower frequencies. Fiberglass can still perform effectively in many wall and ceiling applications, especially when installed to fully fill the cavity without gaps or compression. In both cases, consistency of installation matters as much as material choice; voids, misalignment, or compressed batts reduce performance.

What insulation does *not* do is stop sound transmission by itself. Without mass or isolation, sound can still travel through framing members and finish materials. This is why insulated walls that lack additional acoustic strategies can still allow voices, equipment noise, or impact sounds to pass through.

The takeaway is straightforward: insulation improves acoustic performance inside an assembly, but it is only one part

of the system. It works best when paired with mass (such as gypsum board) and, where needed, separation strategies that limit how vibration moves through the structure.

Decoupling: Breaking the Sound Path

Decoupling is one of the most effective—and often misunderstood—tools available to builders. The concept is simple: interrupt the direct path that vibration follows through framing.

Resilient channels are a common approach. These thin metal members are installed between the framing and drywall, allowing the drywall to “float” slightly and reducing vibration transfer. However, their effectiveness depends entirely on insulation. While resilient channels prevent the structural transfer of the acoustic energy, it finds another path by moving into the wall cavity. Without insulation in the cavity the effectiveness of the resilient channel is greatly reduced. If drywall fasteners penetrate through the channel into the framing, their effectiveness is largely lost.

More advanced approaches include staggered stud or double-stud walls, where each side of the wall is structurally independent. Both choices rely on insulation to perform optimally. These assemblies can achieve significantly higher STC ratings, but they require more space and coordination.

For floors and ceilings, similar principles apply. Underlayments, acoustic mats, and isolation clips help reduce impact noise by separating finish surfaces from structural members.

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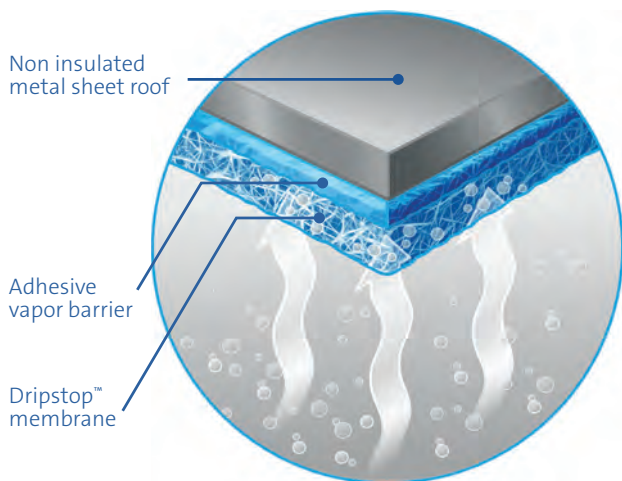
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Frequency Matters More Than Most Builders Realize

Not all sound is created equal. High-frequency sounds – like speech – are relatively easy to absorb and control. Low-frequency sounds like bass or mechanical rumble have longer wavelengths and are much harder to stop.

Material choice and thickness play a role here. Lower airflow resistivity materials, which also tend to have lower densities, may perform well in mid- or high-range frequencies, while higher airflow resistivity materials can improve absorption in lower frequencies. But no insulation alone will fully address low-frequency transmission; that typically requires added mass or more advanced assemblies.

This is why a space may feel “quieter” after adding insulation but still transmit certain types of noise. The improvement is real, but frequency-dependent.

Air Sealing: The Overlooked Factor

Small gaps can have an outsized impact on acoustic performance. Sound behaves much like air; it will find the easiest path through an assembly.

A continuous barrier – without breaks, cracks, or penetrations – is essential to maintaining acoustic performance.

Openings around electrical boxes, plumbing penetrations, ductwork, and even small cracks can allow sound to bypass otherwise well-designed walls. Sealing these pathways with acoustic sealants, gaskets, or putty pads is often one of the most cost-effective improvements a builder can make.

Layout decisions matter as well. Placing electrical boxes back-to-back in the same wall cavity creates a direct path for sound. Offsetting them or using insulated boxes helps maintain separation.

Material Choices in Post-Frame Construction

Post-frame buildings introduce some unique acoustic considerations. Metal cladding, for example, transmits sound more readily than heavier exterior materials like masonry, making it less effective at blocking exterior noise.

That doesn't mean post-frame buildings can't perform well acoustically, it just

means the wall assembly needs to do more of the work. Continuous insulation, proper sheathing, and layered interior finishes all contribute to overall performance.

Windows and doors are another common weak point. Even high-performing wall systems can be compromised by lightweight doors or poorly sealed window assemblies. Upgrading to solid-core doors and multi-pane glazing can significantly improve results.

Impact Noise vs. Airborne Noise

Airborne sound and impact sound act differently. Airborne noise is addressed through mass and absorption, while impact noise, such as footsteps, is managed by isolating surfaces.

Carpet, acoustic underlayments, and floating floor systems can all reduce impact noise. Adding mass to ceilings below or using isolation clips can further improve performance in multi-level spaces.

Installation Quality Is the Difference Maker

Acoustic performance is highly sensitive to installation quality. Gaps in insulation, poorly sealed penetrations, or incorrectly installed resilient channels can all reduce effectiveness.

In many cases, the difference between a good assembly and a poor one comes down to execution. Insulation that fully fills the cavity, continuous air sealing, and attention to detailing at edges and transitions are all critical.

The same is true for long-term performance. Materials like fiberglass and stone wool are designed to maintain their structure over time, but only if they are properly installed and protected from excessive moisture.

Choosing the Right Approach

If the acoustic goal is reducing sound between rooms, focus on wall assemblies – insulation, added drywall layers, and decoupling where needed. If exterior noise is the concern, prioritize mass, airtightness, and high-performance openings. For impact noise, look to floor and ceiling isolation.

Above all, think in systems. Insulation, drywall, framing, sealants, and layout all work together. While a single product can help, no single product will deliver full acoustic control on its own. However, a well-designed assembly can produce a noticeable and measurable difference in how a space sounds and feels. **FBN**



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Summer Shop Season

Designing Residential Post-Frame Hobby Shops for Peak Use

■ By Danielle Bower, Whitetail Construction

For a lot of people, there's nothing quite like working in your hobby shop with the doors open and summer sunlight pouring in. That is, until the heat builds, the air gets heavy, and the space becomes uncomfortable fast.

And as a builder, that's not the kind of environment you want to hand over to a customer. Avoiding that often comes down to how the building is designed from the start. A few key considerations can make the difference between a space that overheats and is unusable and one that stays comfortable all summer long.

Ventilation: More Than Just a Ridge Vent

At a baseline, every building should in-

clude proper passive ventilation. We use a ridge vent and vented soffit in every building. That's the starting point. From there, it comes down to how the customer plans to use the space.

If the planned building will only be used occasionally, then standard ventilation may be enough. If a customer is planning to be in the building only rarely, we would also use our standard ventilation practices. If the customer does have more extensive plans, we would use our standard ventilation practices and see if they would want more windows or doors, and discuss insulation options. If the customer is going to be using the building daily, we would do the basic ventilation practices and recommend additional windows, insulation, or AC or mini-split options.

Poor ventilation, combined with low ceiling heights or poor building placement, is one of the biggest reasons shops become uncomfortable in the summer. Low ceiling heights, how the building is placed on the property, and poor ventilation all contribute to that discomfort. On the other hand, a well-ventilated structure, especially one that's designed for how the building will be used, keeps the space usable even during peak heat.

Room to Move, Work, and Grow

When you're talking about building a hobby shop, you have to consider what's going to go inside. Hobby shops may need to accommodate vehicles, bigger tools, and, depending on the kind of workshop, be able to move large projects in or out.



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For that reason, it's almost always good to have a garage door and one service or entry door. That's important for fire safety, but also just as importantly, it gives the building flexibility. What starts as simple box storage can one day be used to store a riding lawn mower, and the next, be converted into a virtual golfing space.

We see clients using these spaces for vehicle storage, more garage space, or even business ventures like car repair shops or hobby ag barns. That means the structures need room to move equipment, bring materials in and out, and work without feeling restricted.

Thermal Comfort: Fighting the Heat Before it Wins

There are a few passive solar tricks you can include to keep heat at bay before you switch on the mini split.

A concrete floor is a must. It's durable, easy to maintain, and essential for most hobby shop uses. Concrete works great to help moderate temperatures, but can get hot if exposed to direct sunlight.

From there, insulation, ventilation, overhangs, and ceiling height all play a role. Higher ceilings help reduce heat buildup, while proper insulation and air-flow keep temperatures manageable. After that, insulation choice, ridge vents, soffit ventilation, ceiling fans, and mini-splits all contribute to keeping the building cooler.

For those who want a conditioned space, planning ahead for a mini-split system makes a big difference. Even if it's not installed immediately, roughing in for future climate control gives them options.

Daylighting: Sell Natural Light as a Design Feature

It's a good idea to tailor the number of windows to the size of the building and how the client plans to use it. Natural light reduces reliance on artificial lighting and makes the space feel less like storage and more like a true workspace.

There are multiple ways to bring that light in. Glass in garage doors and entry doors, and skylight options for customers looking for a more cost-effective solution are great ways to brighten up a space.



The key is balance. You want enough light to make the space functional without turning it into a heat trap. When done right, daylighting improves both comfort and usability.

Flexible Use: Designing for What Clients Don't Know Yet

Most customers come to builders with a specific use in mind. They are usually looking for vehicle storage, more garage space, or sometimes planning a business venture like a car repair shop or wood-working space. But those needs change over time.

We had a project once where a client

needed garage space, office space, and a hobby gun parts shop all in one. We built a 36x56x18 structure with a mezzanine and wrap-around porch. It included higher windows, insulation, a 12x12 garage door, upgraded posts, and a standing seam roof. The mezzanine created office space above, while the space below was used for the hobby shop and storage. Then, he had a garage door to pull vehicles in and an area for tools. Because those spaces were all considered and designed with those uses in mind, he really was able to give a longer life to the building.

That kind of flexibility starts with asking the right questions early. Both the builder

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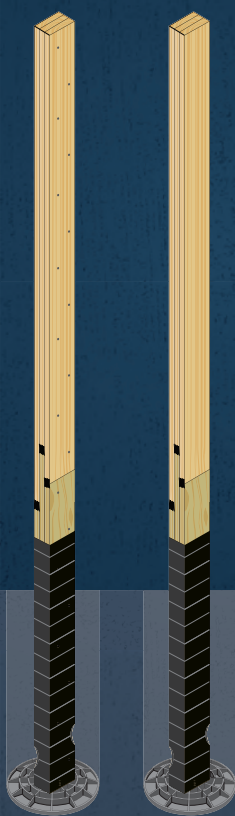
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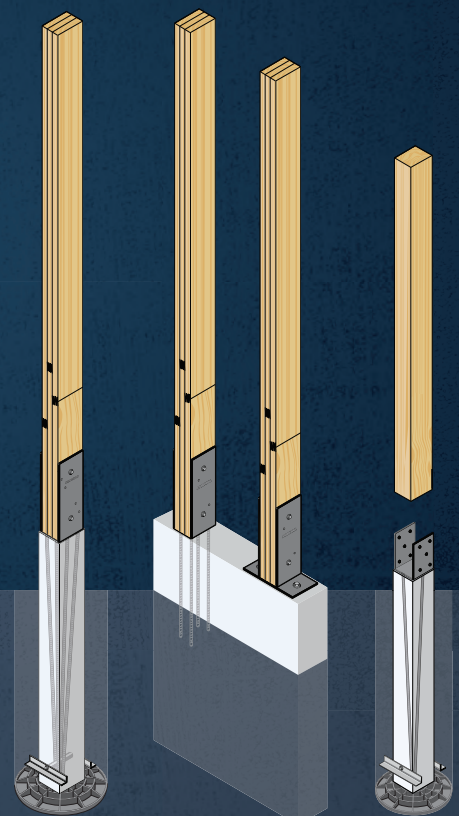
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and your customer should be on the same page as to the location of the project, budget, timeline, aesthetics, permitting, how much space is needed, whether the structure will be temperature-controlled, utilities, interior finishing, number of windows, and number and style of doors.

Pre-planning can show up in the structure design itself. Clear-span interiors allow for open layouts. For us, we can free span up to 80 feet (and larger in some cases), which allows for flexible interior finishing options. Lean-tos, mezzanines, and extended overhangs create additional usable space, and they can also add to the overall aesthetic.

The Builder's Edge: Selling Summer Performance

Most customers won't come to you asking about ventilation strategies or thermal performance. That means it's your job to consider their structure's warmest days.

When you bring these considerations to the table early, you're able to position yourself as more than just a builder. All of a sudden, you become a trusted partner in design and planning for the structure's future use.



Post-frame construction already offers clear advantages. It is cost-effective, allows for wide clear spans, offers flexible interior finishing options, and has a quicker build time.

A shop that's actually usable in July is a shop the client talks about. And hobby shop customers tend to know other hobby shop customers.

By building with the hottest days in mind, you might just be building your customer base. **FBN**

Danielle Bower is the financial manager at Whitetail Construction, a Pennsylvania-based post-frame building company that specializes in garages, dairy barns, horse barns, and more.



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BY FRAME BUILDING NEWS STAFF

Handle With Care

Proper truss handling creates safe, efficient jobsite

NOVEMBER 2006 FLASHBACK

Editor's Note: You can gain practical value from revisiting this 2006 article written by then-editor Scott Tappa because the core challenges it addresses haven't changed. Despite advances in equipment and safety awareness, improper truss handling and bracing remain causes of jobsite failures. The insights from industry experts like Dan Pogreba and Ed Callahan reinforce a critical truth: success depends less on knowledge availability and more on consistent execution in the field. This article serves as both a technical refresher and a management guide, helping bridge the gap between knowing proper procedures and ensuring crews follow them. It highlights common shortcuts, explains why they're dangerous, and outlines proven best practices from delivery through installation.

For today's builders facing labor shortages and varying skill levels, the piece is especially relevant. It underscores the importance of training, communication, and accountability—timeless factors that directly impact safety, efficiency, and long-term building performance.



PHOTOS BY SELECT TRUSSES & LUMBER, WWW.SELECTTRUSSES.COM

There really is no excuse for handling and installing trusses improperly on post-frame buildings. Organizations like WTCA and the Truss Plate Institute, not to mention local truss suppliers, supply an endless amount of literature and other reference materials to help builders do the job right. You would think every truss installation would be safe, sound, and stable. And yet ... “I know there are builders who still do it wrong and have a tendency to take short cuts,” says Dan Pogreba, general manager of Select Trusses and Lumber in West Salem, Wis. “We see a wide variety of contractors with different levels of experience. We see new, young contractors that have limited labor and equipment resources and we see older, established contractors that have a good labor force and the proper equipment. The fact of the matter really boils down to whether or not the crew that



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sets the trusses is well-trained and whether or not they want to follow the required directions for proper setting and bracing techniques.”

Pogreba and engineering manager Rob Hansen have been past presenters on various aspects of the truss industry to members of the Wisconsin Frame Builders Association. Even in a room filled with reputable, responsible builders and business owners, Pogreba senses that attendees tend to show facial expressions or other body language that tells him they or their crews need to pay better attention and follow proper technique, or that they have had problems in the past where perhaps a building did go down or almost went down.

“The reception to our presentation is really strong, people ask questions and it tells us that they want this type of information and guidance and they are not embarrassed to ask for assistance or information,” Pogreba says. “But we can still look out into the audience and see by the facial expressions who’s struggling with using proper procedures or having their crews follow proper setting and bracing methods. We can see who is picking up 60-foot ag trusses by the peak with a chain and setting them that way.

“The people in attendance are normally company owners or managers and they know the right way to do things, but how do they take that back to their crew people? That’s the part that most companies struggle with.”

Those struggles can lead to dire circumstances. Select Trusses’ WFBA presentations have shown horrific photos of truss system collapses that occurred before the structure was completed. Then there are the truss failures that take place after a building is finished. “Eighty-five percent of failures are from improper erection,” says Ed Callahan, the first full-time managing director of the Truss Plate Institute who now investigates truss failures. “Installing subs do not know the importance of triangulation in the plane of the roof.” The following is a primer of proper truss handling, from jobsite delivery to final installation.

Delivery

When Select Trusses drops off a load of trusses at a jobsite, the driver will tilt the bed and roll the trusses off the trailer or truck bed. “We try hard not to flex and bend the truss bundles any more than we have to,” says Pogreba. Trusses should not be unloaded on rough terrain or uneven surfaces that could cause damage to the trusses. Trusses stored horizontally should be blocked up off



Gable bracing.

ON THE WEB

- Select Trusses and Lumber • www.selecttrusses.com
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Interior bracing.

the ground to prevent excessive lateral bending and lessen moisture gain from the ground. Long-term jobsite storage should not be a critical issue, as trusses are normally delivered as close to the date of installation as possible.

It is vital that at the time of delivery, attached paperwork be reviewed and inspected. Pogreba says his company

includes truss handling paperwork in the form of BCSI sheets from WTCA, which detail every part of the handling process. “You shouldn’t just pick them up and start setting them without reviewing the paperwork,” he says.

Lifting

Before lifting and setting trusses, make

sure wind conditions are safe. “I don’t think anybody wants to be out there setting trusses in 30 to 40 mph winds,” Pogreba says. “You should be fine with light winds as long as you take certain precautions.” Under any truss application, a tag rope should always be used. This will help keep the truss stable and allows you to keep the truss parallel to the framework or other trusses already set. The tagline will also help to secure the truss from trying to twist in light wind conditions.

Trusses that are 30 feet or shorter may be lifted at the peak of the truss, but in general, it’s always better to use a spreader bar with nylon straps attached to the top chord. Anything wider than 30 feet should not be lifted at the peak of the truss. Pogreba says, “Every year we replace trusses because someone tries to lift a 60-foot truss at the peak, the crane starts swinging it around, and the two ends where the heels and overhangs are will come around and fold the truss together at the peak.”

The best option for longer trusses is a spreader bar. A spreader bar can be very simple in its design, a solid piece of iron that can support the weight of the truss. On trusses up to 60 feet long, WTCA recommends the spreader bar be one-half to two-thirds of the truss’s length. On trusses more than 60 feet long, WTCA recommends the spreader bar be two-thirds to three-fourths the truss’s length. Lifting devices should be connected to the truss top chord with a closed-loop attachment using nylon straps or chains.

Bracing

Before lifting and setting trusses, the lower framework of a post-frame building should be solidified. “You definitely want to have all the girts on, and you’ll also want some additional cross bracing on the inside of the post,” says Pogreba. “You don’t want to just brace the gable truss, brace the framework as well. The framework tends to be loose and unstable until you start fastening the trusses.”

Gable end support is critical, Pogreba says, especially in post-frame buildings.

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Parallel chord bracing.

“If you skimp on gable end bracing or don’t do it at all, the trusses can get real snaky and get out of shape fast — an accident waiting to happen,” he says. The BCSI sheet that Select Trusses sends out to every jobsite will specify bracing information. In terms of lumber size, 2x6 material is normally used and anything smaller for gable end bracing would be too weak for this application. “Once you get into bottom chord, web, and cross

bracing you can run 2x4s, but for framework and for stabilizing the gable end, run 2x6s,” he says.

Bracing of the first two or three trusses set should begin as soon as possible, depending on the purlin system. If purlins are installed between trusses using hangers, bracing should begin with the setting of the second truss. Pogreba says if purlins are running on top of the truss’s top chord, it’s a different application and you

might have three or four trusses up before fully stabilizing the system. “You can’t just put up six, eight, ten trusses and start to support them after that,” he says.

Always follow the recommendations using WTCA’s BCSI-B10 summary sheet that provides guidelines for top and bottom chord temporary truss bracing, as well as diagonal and vertical bracing. Top chord temporary lateral bracing should be placed from 6 to 10 feet on center, and bottom chord lateral bracing should occur at a maximum of 15 feet on center. Bracing considerations are critical for truss setting safety.

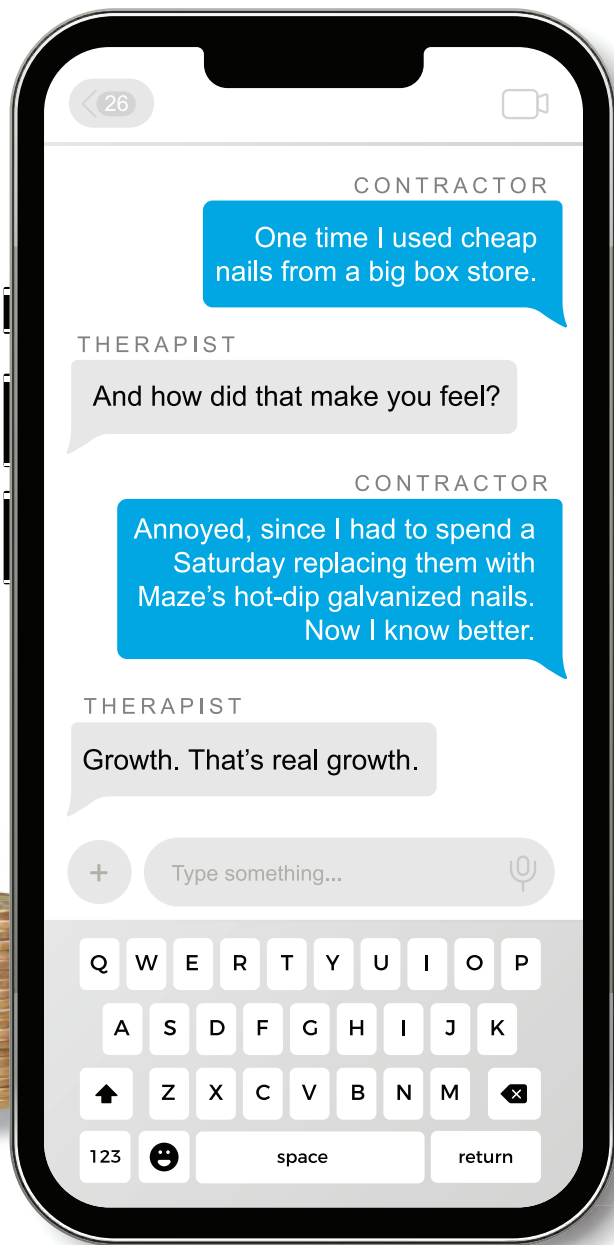
“Improper bracing is usually what brings it down,” says Callahan. “They’ll start out, and instead of adequately bracing the gable end walls, they’ll set four or five trusses and just put purlins on top. They’ll reach a point where there is nothing to restrain the lateral movement, and the stability of the top chord plane is inadequate.”

When the building shell is completed, Pogreba says exterior gable end bracing can come down first, but temporary interior bracing should be left in place as long as possible.

Safety

One way to brace and stabilize trusses is to build an assembly of three or four on the ground, then lift it into place with a crane. While this is seen primarily with smaller truss systems, and some post-frame builders have figured out how to make this method work (see sidebar), Pogreba says it is not a commonly used tactic in post-frame construction.

Truss setting safety is a major concern in the post-frame industry, where workers still scurry up top chords and use a leg lock while nailing in purlins. By following guidelines provided by truss manufacturers and standard-setting organization like WTCA and TPI, truss setting can be accomplished with as little risk to the erection crew, construction company ownership, and to the eventual building occupants, as possible. **FBN**



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Post-Frame Houses That Look Like Home

How builders can deliver residential curb appeal with post-frame efficiency

■ By Linda Schmid

Post-frame construction has long been valued for what it does best — speed, efficiency, and structural performance. What’s changing is what clients expect it to look like when it’s done. Whether the project sits on a farm, a lake lot, or in a residential neighborhood, more owners want the finished building to read as a home.

That shift doesn’t require builders to abandon post-frame methods; it requires more deliberate choices—especially in how doors, windows, materials, and trim are handled. The aesthetic difference between “ag” and “residential” often comes down to a series of small, coordinated decisions.



Double Casement with Eyebrow.
IMAGE COURTESY OF AJ MANUFACTURING

Form Matters

Lower visual height, steeper rooflines, and consistent overhangs move a structure toward residential proportions. But on today’s projects, getting the form right is just the baseline. The elements that clients notice most are the ones they interact with every day: doors, windows, and finishes.

The structure’s overall shape still sets the tone. A tall rectangle with a shallow roof pitch reads as agricultural, while a lower wall height paired with a steeper roof immediately feels more like a home. A roof pitch in the 4/12–6/12 range will tend to align with surrounding residential architecture, and overhangs in the 12–24-inch range create the shadow lines and depth people subconsciously associate with houses rather than outbuildings. Coordinating overhang depth and soffit treatment early in the design process reinforces that impression.

Beyond the basic massing, breaking up large wall planes helps reduce the visual scale. Wainscot, changes in siding orientation, or modest bump-outs can keep façades from feeling flat or oversized. Porches, even shallow ones, introduce depth and usability, while dormers or similar roofline interruptions add rhythm without complicating the structural system.

Rooflines carry much of the visual weight and material choice can reinforce the residential connection. Concealed-fastener metal systems such as standing seam panels offer a clean, architectural look with strong performance. Architectural asphalt shingles will match many residential areas, and some composite or metal profiles designed to mimic traditional shingle or shake



Double Hung Window.
IMAGE COURTESY OF AJ MANUFACTURING

appearances can bridge the gap between durability and familiarity.

Smaller roof details can also contribute to the aesthetic. Dormers, cupolas, and gable vents can break up long ridgelines and introduce residential character, especially when they are scaled and placed intentionally rather than treated as afterthoughts.

Garage Doors: Utility and Aesthetics

Few elements shift perception faster than the overhead door. Traditional post-frame buildings relied heavily on roll-up or ribbed steel doors because they were economical and easy to install. They worked—but they also reinforced an industrial look.

That’s changed. Today’s clients often want garage doors that relate directly

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to the home's front entry. Raised-panel doors—typically in four- or eight-panel configurations—are now common, along with carriage-house styles that introduce depth, shadow lines, and visual interest.

Color has expanded as well. White and almond still dominate, with sandstone and brown close behind, but black doors have gained significant traction over the past several years, especially on

modern or high-contrast designs. Many manufacturers now offer broad color palettes, making it easier to align doors with siding, trim, and roofing.

Material choices influence both performance and perception. Painted galvanized steel remains the workhorse, typically in the 24- to 29-gauge range, with heavier gauges more common in northern climates where insulated, steel-backed

sandwich doors are expected. These insulated assemblies not only improve thermal performance but also give the door a more substantial, residential feel.

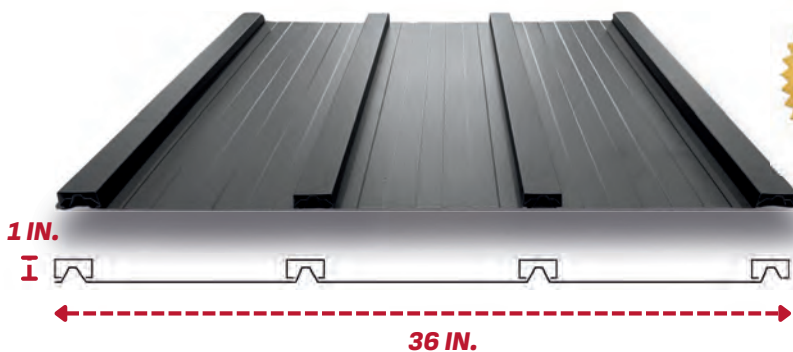
At the higher end, builders are seeing increased interest in specialty doors. Roll-formed steel panels offer a low-maintenance way to introduce warmth, while true wood doors—often custom-built—serve a smaller niche in regions where the aesthetic fits and people are willing to do the maintenance. Aluminum-and-glass doors, with tinted or mirrored panels, are another option, especially in modern designs where clean lines and transparency are part of the look.

Details complete the transition. Windows in overhead doors—whether across the top panel or arranged vertically—can mirror the patterns used elsewhere on the structure. Decorative hardware, including hinges and handles, adds another layer. These elements are often non-functional, but they visually

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Board and batten siding with overhangs definitely says “residential.”
IMAGE COURTESY OF METAL EXTERIORS

reinforce residential styling when used consistently.

Entry Doors and Human-Scale Details

Entry doors are another point where material and design intersect. While wood and composite doors are common in residential construction, durability concerns—especially in exposed post-frame applications—often lead builders toward steel or aluminum systems with thermal breaks.

Modern entry systems offer a wide range of options: multiple panel configurations, embossed textures, integrated glass, sidelites, and transoms. These features allow builders to match or complement the main residence while maintaining long-term performance. Wood-look finishes and fiberglass options expand the design palette without introducing the maintenance demands of real wood.

The entry door and garage door should be in sync. They may not be made of the same material or be exact in style, but they should look like they belong together. The goal is alignment. When entry doors share proportions, colors, and detailing with other openings, they reinforce the residential feel.

Windows: Aligned and Coordinated

If doors set the tone, windows need to carry it. A post-frame structure with minimal or poorly placed windows will almost always read as a shop, regardless of other upgrades.

The key is not just adding windows, but selecting and arranging them in ways that reflect residential design. Double-hung and casement units are common starting points, but the real impact comes from how they’re used. Aligning window head heights across elevations creates visual order. Grouping windows, adding transoms, or incorporating shapes like half-rounds or specialty units introduces architectural character.

Grilles play a role as well. Prairie grids, colonial patterns, or simple divided lites can echo the windows in doors. Even when using standard units, these details help tie the building into its surroundings.

Coordination matters. Garage door glass, entry door lites, and window packages should feel like they belong to the same design “family.” When they do, the building reads as a cohesive residential structure rather than a collection of parts.



Fiberglass 2-panel door.
IMAGE COURTESY OF PLYCO

The Board and Batten Panels Dilemma

By AC Smith, Metal Exteriors

In 2024, 35% of post-frame inquiries from homeowners sought board-and-batten siding. Considering the U.S. pre-engineered metal building market was over \$12.9 billion in 2024, that’s a significant group of customers looking for board and batten solutions.

Traditional metal board and batten panels are typically a 10” coverage and can be quite expensive depending on fit and finish. Most customers were willing to pay more compared to traditional ag panel until they found out they would also need a full underlayment (OSB, plywood, etc.), which can be another \$8-\$15,000 on an average post-frame building.

This underlayment is required for traditional board and batten as it cannot be applied directly to “girts” (exterior horizontal framing

used in post-frame construction). The two layers of extra cost was enough to turn a high percentage of homeowners away from their dream of having a board and batten post-frame building.

Metal Exteriors’ Elite Batten, however, is a 36” hidden fastener board and batten panel that attaches directly to the normal exterior framing of a post-frame building. The base Elite Rib panel is installed normally, then clips are used to screw the panel to the girts and to finish the board and batten look, and “batten strips” snap onto the clips.

This process delivers homeowners the board and batten siding that so many of them desire, without the additional costs of sheathing/underlayment. Additionally, the process yields labor savings as Elite Batten installs in less time than the traditional 10” board and batten panel. **FBN**

Siding, Accents, Material Strategy

Wall systems do a significant amount of visual work. Exposed-fastener steel panels remain common—and cost-effective—but on their own they tend to read agricultural. Builders looking to shift that perception are increasingly mixing materials and profiles.

Horizontal lap siding, board-and-batten, and flush wall panels can all be achieved in steel or composite products, offering residential aesthetics with post-frame durability. Wainscoting, accent walls, and changes in orientation help break up large surfaces and reduce scale.

Wood and wood-look materials are especially effective when used strategically. Roll-formed steel panels that mimic cedar or barn wood are widely available and provide the appearance of natural materials without the associated maintenance concerns. Additionally, new technologies in steel manufacturing, such as digital printing, can produce wood patterns that easily fool the eye. Real wood—whether

rough-sawn cedar, cypress, or reclaimed-style planks adds texture and natural warmth, but builders need to account for exposure, insects, and fire risk.

Accent applications can make a big impact. Entry features, soffits, and select wall sections can introduce wood tones or contrasting materials without committing the entire structure to higher-maintenance products. The posts used to frame the house can be put to use to construct a porch adding a warmly rustic charm. Combining all of these elements with stone or masonry at the base further reinforces a residential look.

Trim: Scale and Finish

Trim is often overlooked, but it plays a critical role in how a building is perceived. Narrow, utilitarian trims are a holdover from agricultural construction. Moving to wider profiles — around 3½ inches or more—immediately shifts the visual scale toward residential.

Modern trim systems also allow for

cleaner installations. Two-piece or snap-together profiles can conceal fasteners and create sharper lines. Wood or composite trim elements can be integrated where appropriate, particularly around doors, windows, and corners.

Consistency is key. Matching trim styles and colors across openings, corners, and rooflines ties the entire design together.

Lighting, Hardware, and Finishing Touches

Small details often carry disproportionate weight. Exterior lighting — whether wall-mounted fixtures, soffit lighting, or post-mounted lanterns — adds both function and residential character. Hardware, even when decorative, reinforces style when it aligns with door and window choices.

These elements are also where regional trends tend to show up first. New styles often emerge in western markets before moving east, but the underlying principle remains the same: consistency across components creates a finished look.



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Every design decision comes back to three factors: function, appearance, and economics. A door that looks right but doesn't perform in the climate or a material that adds maintenance the owner didn't expect creates long-term issues.

Builders are increasingly helping clients think in terms of life-cycle

cost rather than just upfront price. That includes installation, durability, maintenance, and eventual replacement. In many cases, investing in better doors, windows, and finishes up front delivers both improved performance and a more appealing aesthetic.

Putting it All Together

Creating a residential look in post-frame construction isn't about changing

the system—it's about how the system is finished. Garage doors that relate to entry doors, window packages that establish rhythm and proportion, materials that add texture and scale, and trim that reflects residential standards all contribute to the final result.

When those elements pull together, the building stops looking like an outbuilding and starts feeling like a home, a distinction that matters to homeowners. **FBN**

Exposed Fastener and Standing Seam Roofing in Post-Frame Homes: Costs vs. Performance

By Central States

As post-frame construction continues to gain popularity in residential applications, roofing selection has become a critical decision point for homeowners. Metal roofing is the dominant choice for post-frame homes due to its durability, light weight, and compatibility with purlin-based framing. Within metal roofing, the most common options are exposed fastener systems and standing seam systems. While both can perform well, they differ significantly in upfront cost, installation requirements, maintenance expectations, and long-term performance.

Exposed fastener roofing is widely regarded as the most cost effective option. Panels are attached directly to the roof purlins with visible screws and sealing washers, allowing for faster installation and lower labor costs. This system is well suited to post-frame construction, particularly for large roof planes common in residential barndominiums and hybrid homes. When properly installed with correct purlin spacing and fastening patterns, exposed fastener roofs provide strong wind resistance and reliable structural performance.

The primary tradeoff with exposed fastener systems is maintenance and long-term performance. Because fasteners penetrate the panel surface, they are exposed to weather, UV radiation, and thermal movement. Over time, screws may loosen slightly and washers can degrade, requiring periodic inspection and eventually

replacement of the fasteners and washers. Because the fasteners are exposed, proper fastener installation is of utmost importance and extreme care should be taken to ensure fasteners are not installed at an angle or over-driven. Even so, exposed fastener roofs can provide good performance at a lower cost of entry for homeowners.

Standing seam roofing represents a higher end alternative focused on long term performance and reduced maintenance. These systems use concealed fasteners—either clips or snap together seams, so the roof surface remains uninterrupted by exposed screws. This design significantly reduces the risk of leaks related to fastener failure and allows the panels to move independently as temperatures change, minimizing stress on the metal. The standing seam design also typically results in higher wind resistance.

In post frame residential construction, standing seam systems are commonly installed over solid decking or specialized sub framing, increasing both material and labor costs. Some structural standing seam and snap together concealed fastener systems, however, are engineered for installation directly over open purlins when properly specified for spacing and wind loads. While standing seam roofing requires a higher upfront investment, it typically offers lower long term maintenance needs, graceful aging, and strong appeal

for homeowners planning to stay in their homes for decades or located in areas of the country that face frequent severe weather.

Aesthetics also play an important role. Exposed fastener roofs tend to convey a more traditional or utilitarian appearance, which can complement rural or agricultural-style homes. Standing seam roofs, by contrast, are often chosen for their clean lines and architectural look, aligning well with modern residential design and higher end markets.

A roofing alternative that provides the best of both of these other systems is a snap-lock style standing seam roof with a nailable strip. Panels like Horizon-Loc by Central States do not require a clip system, but still provide hidden fasteners for a lower install effort and labor cost of an exposed system, but with the aesthetic and long-term performance benefits of a standing seam system.

Ultimately, the decision between exposed fastener and standing seam roofing comes down to balancing initial cost against long term value. Exposed fastener systems provide affordability and proven performance when maintained properly, while standing seam systems justify their premium through longevity, reduced maintenance, and architectural appeal. With thoughtful specification and realistic expectations, either roofing option can be a successful choice for post frame residential construction. **FBN**

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Construction Lending For Barndominiums

9 Critical Topics Every Post-Frame Builder Should Understand

■ By Chris Miller, First Federal Bank of Kansas City

The post-frame industry continues to gain momentum as more buyers look for flexible, durable, and cost effective ways to build homes, shops, hobby spaces, and Barndominiums. Across the country, builders are seeing increased demand from clients who want the functionality of a post-frame structure combined with the comfort and style of a custom home.

But while demand is growing, one challenge remains constant: financing.

Barndominiums and post-frame homes do not always fit neatly into traditional lending boxes. Builders who align themselves with lending institutions that understand post-frame construction can close more projects, reduce delays, and create a smoother experience for their clients. Here are nine important construction lending topics every builder in the post-frame industry should know.

1. Not All Lenders Understand Post-Frame Construction

Many conventional lenders are familiar with stick-built homes but have limited experience with post-frame structures. That lack of understanding can create unnecessary roadblocks during underwriting, appraisal, and closing.

Builders should seek lending partners who already know the post-frame industry, understand engineered packages, and recognize the value of modern Barndominiums. An experienced lender can identify solutions quickly instead of slowing projects down with avoidable confusion.

The right lender should view post-frame



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as a legitimate housing product, not an exception.

2. True Pre-Approval Matters on the Front End

One of the most valuable ways to protect your time is ensuring the client is truly pre-approved before design work, quoting, or scheduling begins.

There is a major difference between a casual conversation and a fully reviewed borrower who has submitted income, assets, credit, and debts to a lender. Builders, general contractors, and suppliers should prioritize clients who have completed a le-

gitimate pre-approval process.

This helps everyone avoid chasing dreamers, tire kickers, or buyers who simply are not in a financial position to build today.

Qualified buyers move faster, make quicker decisions, and are more likely to reach the finish line.

3. Construction to the Permanent Fixed Rate Loan Mortgage Is the Ideal End Goal

From both the bank's perspective and the client's perspective, the goal should be clear: Complete the project according to

approved plans and transition the borrower into a long term fixed rate permanent mortgage.

The bank's construction loan that underwrites to a permanent loan qualification will simplify the process, minimizing surprises, and giving the client confidence about the long term payment strategy.

Builders benefit when the client has clarity and certainty. A buyer who knows where they are headed financially is easier to work with throughout the construction phase.

4. Understanding the Draw Process Is Essential

Builders who understand funding draws gain a major advantage.

Construction loans are typically funded in stages based on completed work. Funds are released after inspections or progress verification. This means labor, materials, and scheduling should align with draw



timing.

A lender experienced in Barndominiums should communicate clearly on:

- How many draws are available
- What triggers each draw
- Financial Institutions' guidelines on their funding approval process

- Inspection turnaround times
- Retainage requirements (if applicable)
- Final draw procedures

When builders know the draw schedule in advance, they can better manage vendors, subcontractors, and cash flow.

Misunderstanding creates frustration.

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Understanding creates momentum.

5. The Scope of the Build Must Be Marketable

Every custom project is personal to the buyer, but financing also depends on marketability.

Lenders and appraisers must determine whether the completed home and land package will be market supported. Unique features are welcome, but overbuilding for the area, highly specialized layouts, or excessive commercial style components may create valuation concerns.

Builders should help clients balance dream features with resale practicality.

Questions to consider include:

- Does the finish square footage area align with the area?
- Is the finish level appropriate for neighborhood and community values?
- Is the floorplan functional for future buyers?
- Is the land size and utility setup typical for the market?
- Are there comparable homes in the area?

Smart planning on the front end protects financing on the back end.

6. Detailed Plans and Specs Win Loans

Incomplete plans create incomplete approvals.

Lenders need a clear scope of work, budget, plans with elevations and specifications to properly underwrite a construction loan. Appraisers also need detailed documentation to compare the project against market comps.

Builders who provide organized documentation stand out immediately.

Helpful items include:

- Engineered building plans
- Floorplans
- Finish schedules
- Allowance breakdowns
- Detailed cost estimates
- Site improvement budgets
- Contractor agreements

Professional documentation speeds approvals and reflects a professional building operation.

7. Land Equity Can Be a Powerful Tool

Many clients already own land or have significant equity in the property where they plan to build. That equity can often be used toward down payment requirements or overall loan structure.

Builders should encourage buyers to discuss land ownership early in the process. The land may become a major strength in financing rather than an afterthought.

This can improve loan options, reduce cash to close needs and help projects move forward faster.

8. Teamwork Between Builder, Lender, and Client Is Vital

The strongest projects happen when the builder, lender, and

client operate as one team.

Communication should begin early and continue throughout the project. Everyone should understand timelines, budgets, change orders, inspections, and milestones.

A trusted lender can help solve issues before they become delays. A responsive builder can keep construction moving. An informed client can make timely decisions.

When all three parties stay aligned, projects close cleaner and finish stronger.

9. Choose Lending Partners Who Want to Grow With You

The best lending relationships go beyond one transaction.

Builders should seek institutions that value the post-frame industry, understand Barndominium demand, and want to become long term partners. The right lender can become a reliable referral source, a financing educator for your clients, and a growth engine for your business. Rely on your banking partner to educate and Pre-Approve your client while you, the builder, focus on the build.

As Barndominiums continue to rise in popularity nationwide, builders who pair craftsmanship with financing expertise will separate themselves from the competition.

Final Thoughts

Post-frame builders are creating some of the most exciting housing solutions in America today. But great buildings still need great financing.

When builders work with lending institutions that understand construction lending, draw management, marketability, land equity, and true borrower pre-approval, projects become more predictable and profitable.

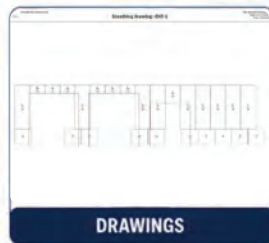
At the end of the day everyone wants the same result — a fully completed Barndominium built to plans and specifications, an excited homeowner, and a smooth transition into a long term lower fixed rate permanent mortgage.

That is how strong strategic partnerships build stronger businesses. **FBN**

Chris Miller - VP, is the Director of Construction Lending for First Federal Bank of Kansas City and The Barndo Loan Pros (www.thebarndoloanpros.com). He has more than 26 years of industry experience in construction loans and operations.



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Find These Problem-Solvers at The 2026 Post-Frame Builder Show

Shield Wall Media trade shows are focused on connecting manufacturers, builders and suppliers and helping them find solutions to their problems and finding the best products and services to meet their needs.

Find these and many other solutions to your business and building challenges at the 2026 Post-Frame Builder Show in York, Pennsylvania, June 10-11.



ASC Machine Tools F&J Trim Rollformer • Booth #821

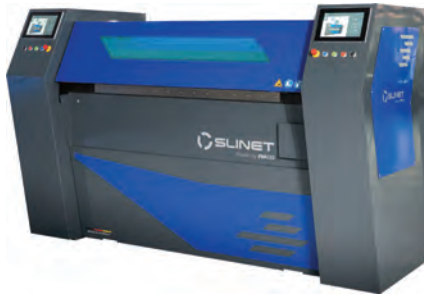
The ASC F&J Trim Rollformer is engineered for precision and versatility, featuring 14 or 16 rollforming stations, depending on the profile shape and size.

The tooling is designed to accommodate soffit panel profile openings of either 1/2" or 7/8", offering flexibility to meet various project requirements.

For operator safety, the machine is equipped with OSHA-compliant swing safety guarding and enhanced by an Allen Bradley GuardMaster light curtain system, providing an added layer of protection during operation.

ASCO USA Slinet S1.0 Compact Slitting Solution • Booth #320

ASCO's SLINET S1.0 is a next-generation slitting and cut-to-length



line designed for precision, speed, and flexibility in coil processing. With up to 8-fold automatic blade adjustment, it minimizes setup time and delivers consistently accurate cuts across a wide range of materials and widths. Featuring intuitive controls and automated positioning, the Slinet S1.0 streamlines production, reduces waste, and boosts efficiency for modern manufacturing operations. This standalone slitting machine has the cutting capacity for 20 ga. steel, 16 ga. aluminum, and 22 ga. stainless steel.



Dripstop Condensation Control • Booth #317

Dripstop™ is a factory-applied condensation control membrane for corrugated/metal roofing used in non-climate-controlled buildings, tried and tested in every climate condition everywhere across the world. Metal roofs cool quickly at night or in cold weather. Warm, moist interior air reaching the dew point condenses on the underside of the

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Dyna-Cut HRB-36 Blades • Booth #513

Now offering board and batten blades for the Dyna-Cut HRB-36 shear. These blades enable you to cut board and batten panels to length right on the jobsite. They handle straight cuts up to a 7/12 pitch without changing blade sets, keeping crews working efficiently. For steeper pitches, cuts up to a 12/12 pitch are possible with an additional blade set. Durable and portable, this upgrade saves time and delivers accurate cuts right on the jobsite.



E-Impact Marketing CRM • Booth #700

A customer relationship management

(CRM) platform designed to help builders centralize and manage leads, communications, and sales activity in one place. The system includes a visual sales pipeline for tracking opportunities (leads), integrated email and SMS messaging, and automated follow-up workflows to support consistent lead nurturing. It also offers scheduling tools, reporting, and capabilities for managing quotes, contracts, and payments. Feature availability varies by suite, with different tiers supporting marketing, sales, and operational functionality. The platform integrates with websites, forms, and external tools to streamline lead capture and data management within a single system.

**Forge Machines Single Folder
• Booth #825**

The S Series Single Folder from Forge Machines stands apart as a technologically



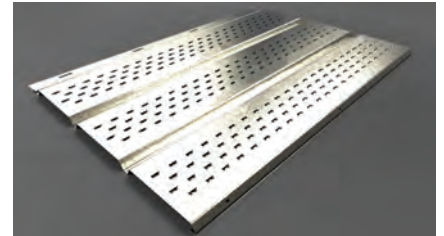
advanced solution in long-folder equipment. Its uniquely engineered clamping beam geometry empowers operators to create complex profiles that are simply unattainable with traditional machines. Designed for versatility and precision, the S Series is available in 14, 21, or 28-foot lengths to meet a wide range of production needs.

Koble Systems ERP • Booth #305

Is your business ready for an ERP? If you are a small business owner, you know what it's like to juggle a thousand moving parts. Hiring, filing, analyzing, reporting, tracking, and ordering are enough to make your head spin, and there just aren't enough hours in the day for all the work

that needs to be done.

And if your business is growing, your systems and processes need to keep up so that you have the information needed to make decisions and keep the top-line growing faster than the bottom-line! Visit Booth #305 to learn how an ERP can help your business.



Metal Rollforming Systems Soffit Line • Booth #507

The MRS Soffit Line was developed through close collaboration with valued customers who use, sell, and install the product, ensuring broad market fit. It



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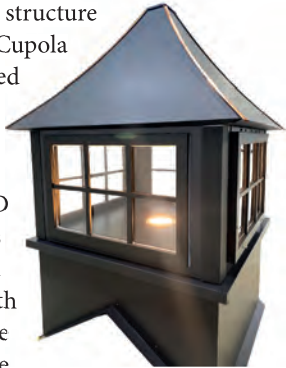
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utilizes industry standard 20.125” coil stock, allowing customers to leverage existing inventory and drastically reduce initial investment costs. Key features include concealed fastener “S lock” lap, standard rib height, and a top rib flat for easy fastening. Innovated changes over standard soffits include nail slots and weep holes for horizontal applications. With class leading speeds over 150 FPM, customers can produce more in less time. Coupled with industry leading service, support, and warranty, the MRS Soffit Line truly stands out.

MWI Components Lighted Cupola
• Booth #417

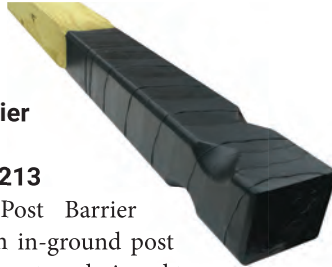
Brighten your structure with the all new Cupola Light Kit, designed specifically for 36” cupolas. This canless, ultra slim LED uplight delivers smooth, even illumination with five temperature settings and three brightness levels—perfect for creating a warm, architectural glow. Engineered with MWI’s Universal Light Base, the kit ensures secure placement, optimal lighting performance, and long lasting durability. Whether installed on barns, garages, or rooftops, the Cupola Light Kit enhances visibility and



elevates curb appeal day or night. Pair it with MWI’s Cupola Access Window or Wind Kit for the ultimate functional, maintenance friendly upgrade.

Planet Saver Green Post Barrier Wrap
• Booth #213

Green Post Barrier Wrap is an in-ground post protection system designed to reduce decay, support treatment retention, and provide uplift restraint. The double-layer wrap is factory heat-sealed to the lumber and supplied ready for installation, with integrated uplift restraint notches. When used with cement, it enhances anchorage and helps resist post withdrawal caused by wind loads. The material is non-toxic, environmentally friendly, and has been tested for termite resistance.



Plyco Entry Doors
• Booth #500

New for 2026, Plyco will be introducing a line of high-quality fiberglass entry doors. We believe the market will appreciate these hybrid doors, which



will be stronger and more durable than traditional composites. The fiberglass doors will be available in two frames: heavy-duty 16 gauge steel, or thermal break aluminum 92. The fiberglass panels will be in smooth and woodgrain embossed profiles in popular designs; some having direct set glass options. The 60 series is in pre-painted white and black frames-doors, while the Designer Series will have more enhancements available to really bring your project to life and add curb appeal.




Post Protector • Booth #705

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PowerLift Hydraulic Doors
• Booth #809


PowerLift hydraulic doors are designed to integrate efficiently with post-frame construction while simplifying the door portion of the project for contractors.




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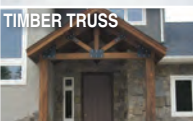




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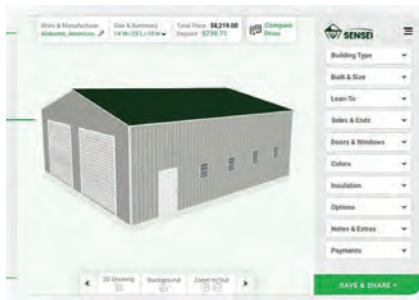
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Sensei Digital Software • Booth #316

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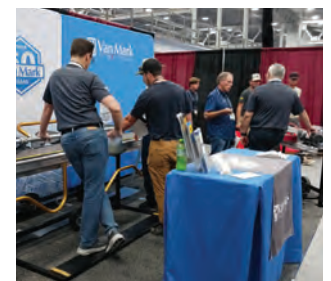
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Meet the Editor at the Show

Going to the Post-Frame Builder Show in York? Let's talk about how your work can get in front of the industry.

I'm Kathleen Riley, the new editor of *Frame Building News*, and I'm actively looking for builders, suppliers, crews, and industry professionals with projects, ideas, and innovations that deserve recognition.

If you've completed a standout building, solved a tough challenge, introduced a smarter process, or developed an idea others can learn from, this is an opportunity to showcase your work to thousands of industry professionals across the country.

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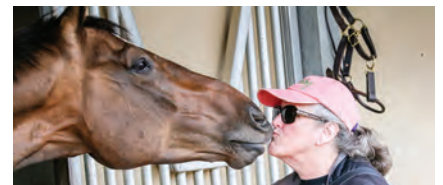
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Some of the best opportunities in this industry start when people see your work in print or online. A feature story can open doors to new connections, new customers, and new business conversations.

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Sometimes the most valuable stories come from lessons learned, creative problem-solving, or unique approaches that help others in the industry improve their own operations.

If you have a project you're proud of, an innovation worth sharing, or a story the industry should hear, I want to meet you at the show. Stop by, introduce yourself, and let's discuss how we can help put your work in the spotlight through *Frame Building News*. **FBN**



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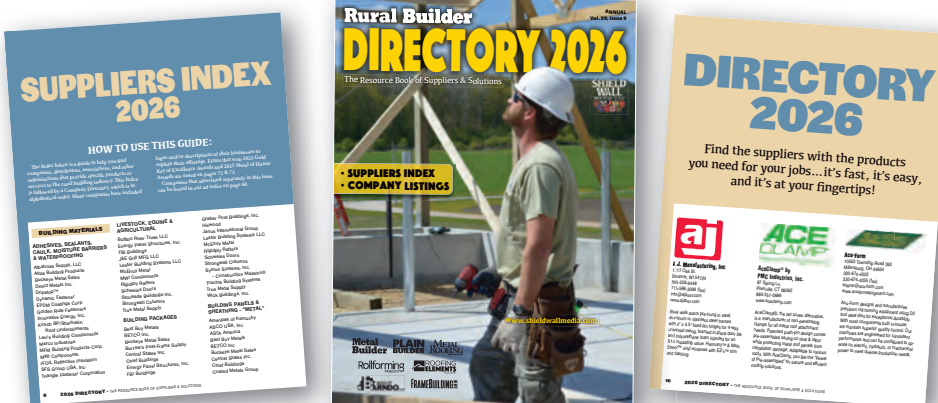


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The Power of Hybrid Mentorship in a Changing Industry

Not long ago I watched an interaction that stuck with me. A seasoned veteran, probably in his early sixties, was explaining how he handled a particular process. He had been doing it the same way for years and, to be fair, it worked. His system was simple, proven, and reliable. The kind of approach that comes from decades in the business.

Standing nearby was a younger guy, maybe mid-twenties. Fairly new to the industry but clearly sharp. As the older gentleman wrapped up his explanation, the younger man pulled out his phone and said something along the lines of, “You know, there are a couple tools that might make this quicker.”

He walked through a few options. A couple apps. A shortcut using technology. Ways to accomplish the same task faster and with fewer steps.

For a moment the older gentleman looked at him with a mixture of curiosity and mild annoyance. You could almost see the thought forming.

“I’ve been doing this for thirty years. Why would I change now?”

But then something interesting happened.

Instead of shutting the conversation down, he leaned in. Asked a few questions. The two of them talked it through. By the end of the exchange, each of them had picked up something useful.

The younger guy gained insight from years of experience.

The seasoned veteran discovered a faster way to handle the same task.

After more than four decades working in this industry, moments like that always catch my attention. They remind me that even in a business built on experience and relationships, there is always something

new to learn.

That moment captured something I believe our industry needs to think more about.

I call it Hybrid Mentorship.

The Mentoring Model Most of Us Grew Up With

For most of my career, mentoring followed a pretty simple pattern.

The experienced person teaches the younger one.

That’s the way it has worked in construction, manufacturing, and supply businesses for generations. A young person enters the business. Someone with years under their belt shows them how things are done. Over time they learn judgment, confidence, and how to handle the unexpected.

That model still matters.

In fact, I would argue it matters more than ever.

There are things you simply cannot learn from a manual or a video. Understanding customers. Reading a room. Navigating a tough conversation. Knowing when to push and when to pause.

Those lessons come from experience.

Anyone who has spent time in the post-frame, metal roofing, or construction supply world understands this. There are instincts that only develop after years of solving problems, building relationships, and occasionally learning the hard way.

Passing that knowledge along is important.

But the world around us has changed.

And that change opens the door to a different way of thinking about mentoring.

The Industry Is Moving Faster

If you’ve been in this business long enough, you’ve watched the pace of

change pick up.

Technology now touches almost every part of what we do. Communication looks different. Marketing looks different. Even the way customers gather information and make decisions has evolved.

Many younger people entering the industry grew up with digital tools, online communication, and instant access to information. To them, using technology to streamline tasks or solve problems feels completely natural.

At the same time, many seasoned veterans built successful careers long before those tools existed.

That doesn’t make one group right and the other wrong.

It simply means each generation brings different strengths to the table.

Which brings us back to the moment I described earlier.

The veteran had experience.

The younger guy had tools.

Both had something valuable.

Introducing Hybrid Mentorship

Hybrid Mentorship is a simple idea.

Experience travels down.

Insight travels up.

In a traditional mentoring relationship, knowledge usually moves in one direction. The veteran teaches the younger person.

In a hybrid mentoring relationship, learning flows both ways.

The seasoned veteran shares the wisdom that comes from years in the field. The younger team member brings perspective, technology, and new ways of approaching certain tasks.

Both people grow.

This doesn’t replace traditional mentoring. It strengthens it.

Why This Matters in Our Industry

Construction and building materials have always been relationship-driven businesses.

Whether we are talking about post-frame builders, metal roofing contractors, manufacturers, or suppliers, trust still carries weight. Experience matters. Reputation matters.

That isn't going away.

But alongside those traditions, new tools and expectations are emerging.

Estimating software. Project management platforms. Digital marketing. Online product research. Multiple communication channels.

Younger people entering the business often understand these tools instinctively.

At the same time, they may still be learning how to build the kind of long-term relationships that keep businesses strong for decades.

That's where Hybrid Mentorship becomes powerful.

The veteran provides guidance that only comes from time in the field. The younger person helps unlock efficiencies and opportunities that come with new technology and fresh thinking.

Together they create a stronger team.

What Hybrid Mentorship Looks Like in Real Life

Hybrid Mentorship doesn't require a formal program.

Most of the time it starts with something much simpler.

Curiosity.

A seasoned veteran willing to say, "Show me how that works."

A younger team member willing to ask, "Why do we do it that way?"

Those conversations can happen anywhere. In an office. On a jobsite. At a trade show. Around a table during a planning meeting.

Sometimes the exchange is practical.

A younger person introduces a tool that saves time on something that used to take much longer. The veteran explains how a customer relationship developed over years and why certain details matter.

Other times the exchange is cultural.

A younger person may offer insight into how a new generation of buyers prefers to communicate or research products. The veteran shares perspective about how trust and credibility are built over time.

Both viewpoints matter.

The Mindset That Makes It Work

For Hybrid Mentorship to work, both sides need the right mindset.

For seasoned veterans, it requires adaptability.

No one likes feeling like they should suddenly change the way they've done things for years. But staying open to learning keeps us sharp.

For younger team members, it requires respect.

Experience matters. The lessons learned through decades of trial and error carry real value.

When both generations recognize what the other brings to the table, something productive happens.

The gap between them becomes a bridge.

Building a Stronger Industry

Our industry is going through a generational transition.

Long-time owners and leaders are gradually passing the torch. At the same time, younger people are stepping into roles with real responsibility.

Transitions like that can create friction if people focus only on what separates them.

Hybrid Mentorship encourages us to focus on what we can learn from each other.

The veteran stays current.

The younger person gains perspective.

The business gets stronger.

And the industry benefits from a blend of experience and innovation.

A Simple Takeaway

When I think back to that moment between the seasoned veteran and the young man with the phone, one thing stands out.

Neither of them had all the answers.

But together, they had more than either one alone.

That's the essence of Hybrid Mentorship.

Experience still matters. In many ways it matters more than ever. The knowledge built from years in this business cannot be rushed.

At the same time, the world continues to move faster. Technology evolves. Communication styles shift. New generations enter the industry with fresh ideas.

The people who thrive long term will be the ones who stay curious enough to learn from every direction.

Sometimes that means mentoring someone younger.

Sometimes it means letting them show you a better way to do something.

Both matter.

That exchange of experience and insight is what I call Hybrid Mentorship, and it reflects something I've been writing and speaking about for years. In my book *Asphalt and Algorithms*, I talk about blending the best of the old school relationship approach with the advantages that modern tools and technology bring to the table.

Hybrid Mentorship is simply another example of that idea in action.

Experience travels down.

Insight travels up.

When both happen at the same time, everyone wins. **FBN**

Randy Chaffee brings four-plus decades of experience to the post-frame and metal roofing industries. Author of #1 Amazon Best Seller "Asphalt and Algorithms," he is a board member for the Buckeye Frame Builders Association and the National Frame Builders Association. Find his podcast at facebook.com/BuildingWins or call (814) 906-0001 at 1 p.m. Eastern on Mondays to listen in.



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NFBA Update

Building Momentum Across the Post-Frame Industry

By Morgan Arwood, The National Frame Building Association

The National Frame Building Association (NFBA) continues to build momentum across the post-frame industry, delivering valuable resources, education, and opportunities for connection that support our members at every stage of their business.

Looking Ahead: 2027 NFBA Annual Conference & Expo

We're already gearing up for the **59th Annual NFBA Conference & Expo**, taking place **February 8-10, 2027, in Columbus, OH**. This event continues to be the premier gathering for the post-frame industry—bringing together builders, suppliers, and industry leaders for a few days of unmatched networking, innovative products, and highly relevant education.

Exhibit space is already selling quickly. Companies interested in showcasing their products and services are encouraged to reserve their booth sooner rather than later to secure a spot on the show floor.

Supporting Safety: A New Member Benefit

Safety remains a cornerstone of the NFBA mission. To further support our members, the **NFBA Safety Manual Template** is now available **free to all members**. With safety programs being a requirement under Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, this template provides an excellent starting point—or enhancement—for companies looking to strengthen their safety programs and protect their workforce.

Investing in the Future: NFBA Foundation

The NFBA is proud to continue expanding its impact through the **NFBA Foundation**, a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to advancing industry education, research, and now—scholarships.

Earlier this year, we awarded our **first scholarships** at the 2026 Conference & Expo in Oklahoma City, marking an exciting milestone in supporting the next



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL FRAME BUILDING ASSOCIATION

generation of industry professionals. Scholarship applications are due **May 1 each year**, and we encourage members to help spread the word to students pursuing careers in construction and related fields.

Foundation Auction Success

A highlight of the Oklahoma City expo was the 2026 **NFBA Foundation Auction**, which brought members together for an evening of fun and philanthropy.

Thanks to the generosity of attendees, more than \$4,800 was raised to support key initiatives, including:

- The new edition of the NFBA Post-Frame Building Design Manual
- Expanded educational programming
- Ongoing industry research

It was a great reminder of what makes

this association special—members coming together not only to connect, but to give back and invest in the future of the industry.

Advancing Industry Knowledge

Work is currently underway on the next edition of the **NFBA Post-Frame Building Design Manual**, a critical resource that continues to set the standard for post-frame construction. This updated version will reflect the latest advancements, best practices, and technical guidance to help builders succeed in an evolving marketplace.

Celebrating Excellence

The **2025 NFBA Building of the Year winners** showcase the very best in post-frame construction—from innovative designs to exceptional craftsmanship. We encourage everyone to visit [NFBA.org](https://www.nfba.org) to explore the winning projects and gain inspiration from the outstanding work being done across the industry.

Connect With Us This Summer

Before we head to Columbus, NFBA will be on the road! We're looking forward to connecting with members and industry professionals at the upcoming **Post-Frame Builder Show in York, Pennsylvania** this June.

Be sure to stop by the NFBA booth to say hello, learn more about membership benefits, and see how we can help support your business.

From safety resources and education to networking and industry advancement, NFBA remains committed to helping our members build stronger businesses and a stronger industry. We look forward to seeing you soon—whether on the road this summer or in Columbus in 2027. **FBN**

Is It a Barn or a Barndo?

When residential intent is treated like a simple shell, structural mismatches, performance issues, and costly problems may be on the horizon.

■ By Mike Gilmore, StruxSure Plans

Barndominiums have brought real momentum to the post-frame industry. They've expanded the customer base, opened new design opportunities, and introduced more people to the speed and versatility of post-frame construction.

They've also brought along a question that doesn't get asked plainly enough early in the process: **Is it a barn or a barndo?**

That question matters more than it may seem.

In some projects, the shell gets approached, priced, specified, permitted, or engineered more like a simple barn, storage building, or low-demand accessory structure, even though the long-term plan is clearly residential. The thinking is familiar. Keep the shell affordable. Get the structure up. Get through inspection. Finish the interior later.

But if the end goal is a home, then sooner or later the project has to answer the question honestly. *Is it a barn or a barndo?* Because those are not the same thing structurally, even if they may look similar in the early stages.

That's where underbuilt barndominiums begin.

Most underbuilt barndominiums don't start with somebody saying, "Let's design this thing to fail." They start when the shell is treated like one kind of project, while the finished building is headed toward something far more demanding. Early on, the owner sees a future home, the builder sees a shell package that has to stay competitive, and the engineer may only see the scope that was handed over. When those views don't line up, the project can end up being priced like a shell, but expected to perform like a home.

In many cases, the intended use isn't hidden at all. The number of windows, the placement of doors, and the overall layout often make it pretty clear that the building is headed toward residential use, even if the shell is still being treated like something simpler.

That's why the question matters. If it plainly looks like a future home, then treating it like a simple barn shell early on can create problems that don't show up until much later.

Post-frame buildings don't respond to labels. Columns, footings, trusses, connections, uplift resistance, and lateral behavior respond to real loads, real use, and real conditions. If a building is expected to serve as a residence, then the structure needs to be evaluated as a residence, not as a shell that only looks economical because some of the eventual demands have been pushed down the road.

That's especially true in the parts of the building that are hardest to revisit later.

Columns may be sized for one set of assumptions and then asked to carry another. Footings may be proportioned for a lighter shell and later expected to support a building with ceilings, insulation, mechanical systems, partition walls, storage loads, loft areas, and higher serviceability expectations. Connection details that seemed adequate for one use may deserve another look under another. Once the shell is complete, those aren't easy corrections.

That's why the phrase shell now, finish later can be a lot more structurally significant than it first sounds.

To be fair, builders aren't always the ones driving this problem. Many are being pressured into it by the market itself. A customer wants the look and long-term use of a home, but pushes for a cheaper path

to get started. The builder understands where the project is headed and may even recognize that the structure is being kept too light. But if he pushes back too hard, he risks losing the job to the next builder who's willing to move forward without asking the same questions.

That puts responsible builders in a tough spot.

They're no longer competing only on quality, communication, schedule, or workmanship. They're also competing against a version of the project that looks cheaper on paper because the full demands of the finished building haven't yet been brought into the conversation. In that kind of market, doing it right can make the builder look expensive, even when he's simply trying to match the structure to the way it's actually going to be used.

There's also a performance issue that often gets overlooked. Many post-frame shells are designed to carry load through diaphragm action and allow some movement under stress. That may work fine in a simpler agricultural or storage building. But once that same shell is expected to perform like a home, the standard changes. Dry-wall doesn't like sway. Neither do tile, trim, doors, windows, and other finish materials. A building can be strong enough to stay standing and still not be rigid enough to perform well as a finished residence. If the end use is residential, the structure should be engineered not just for strength, but for the added rigidity that residential finishes and residential expectations require.

That's not just a comfort issue. It's part of building the right structure for the right use.

It also helps explain why some of these buildings can look fine from the road and still be headed for trouble. The shell may go

up straight. The steel may look clean. The structure may even pass through the early stages without obvious problems. But once the finishes go in and the building starts being used like a home, the expectations change. Homeowners don't just expect the building to stand. They expect doors to shut right, drywall to stay tight, tile not to crack, and the whole structure to feel solid.

That's where the difference between strength and stiffness starts to matter.

A shell that works acceptably as a barn may not perform acceptably as a residence. That doesn't always show up as a dramatic failure. Sometimes it shows up as callbacks, cracks, racking, nagging movement, or finishes that never behave the way the owner expected. Those problems may not make headlines, but they still point back to the same root issue. The building was expected to perform like something it was never fully designed to be.

So again, the question is simple: *Is it a barn or a barndo?*

If it's truly a barn, design it like one. If it's truly a barndo, design it like one. The trouble starts when everybody can see it's headed toward residential use, but the structure is still being evaluated like something simpler.

That's not a healthy way for the post-frame industry to operate.

Some barndominiums are kept too light on purpose. The end use is known from the start, but the project gets moved through early phases under assumptions better suited to a lower-demand structure. Others get there by step-by-step change. A loft becomes occupied space. Interior finishes get heavier. Mechanicals go in. Partition loads increase. What started as a simple shell becomes something much more demanding.

In both cases, the outcome can be the same. The building may look complete, feel solid, and even move through the process without obvious trouble, while still carrying a mismatch between what it was designed to be and what it actually became.

That's why this conversation needs to stay focused on structural intent.

The question isn't whether barndominiums are a good idea. They clearly are, when they're designed and built well. The question is whether the design basis, engineering assumptions, and actual use stay aligned from start to finish.

If a project is truly expected to function as a residence, then

the use classification, loading assumptions, connection details, columns, foundation system, and overall rigidity should reflect that expectation early in the process. Engineering is only as sound as the assumptions behind it. If those assumptions are artificially light, incomplete, or based on a temporary description of the building, then the structure may be carrying more risk than anyone intended.

The good news is that this problem is fixable.

It doesn't require the industry to abandon barndominiums, and it doesn't require a process so complicated that nobody can follow it. What it requires is clearer alignment. Ask the question early. Answer it honestly. Is it a barn or a barndo? Then make sure the structure matches the answer. Material packages should be reviewed against actual engineered intent, not just initial layout convenience. Changes in occupancy, build-out, rigidity expectations, or loading should trigger re-evaluation before they become permanent. And builders shouldn't have to compete against jobs that only appear cheaper because the real demands of the structure have been delayed, disguised, or left undefined.

Post-frame has earned its reputation by being efficient, adaptable, and practical. Those strengths are worth protecting. But efficiency isn't the same as underbuilding, and adaptability shouldn't be confused with structural ambiguity.

A well-designed barndominium can be a durable, high-performing structure that serves its owner for decades. An underbuilt one may look similar from the road, but it isn't the same building.

And in a lot of cases, the difference starts with a question that should've been answered honestly from the start:

Is it a barn or a barndo? **FBN**

Mike Gilmore is the founder of StruxSure Plans and has spent more than two decades in the post-frame industry. He sees how design, engineering, and construction affect one another, and he pushes each of them to work better together. His perspective is shaped by hard-earned experience, high standards, and a simple mantra: Try and Care.



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PROJECT DETAILS

BUILDER: Whitetail Construction, LLC

LOCATION: Montgomery, New York

SIZE: 36'x48'

ROOF PITCH: 8/12

FOUNDATION TYPE: Concrete Footers

TRUSSES: 8/12 pitch scissor trusses
(3/12 pitch ceiling) Triple D Truss, 4' oc

ROOF PANELS: Central States Inc.

Ultra Lifetime 26 ga. Black

WALL PANELS: Central States Inc.

Ultra Lifetime 26 ga Charcoal

FASTENERS: GRK Screws

OVERHEAD DOORS: 2 Clopay 12x10

Canyon Ridge Carriage House Ultra-Grain
Cypress, Walnut finish with Black overlay
with glass

WALK DOORS: J&E Grill Manufacturing
36" Aluminum Powder Coated 6 Lite Jet
Black with Custom Brown X detail

SLIDING DOORS:

(2) 10x10 Split Slider J&E Grill Mfg.

POSTS:

Structural Glulam 3-Ply Laminated Posts

WINDOWS: (5) 3x4 Double Hung Black/
White 7D Industries

VENTILATION: Central States Inc.

Ridge Cap with Univent

SOFFIT: Aluminum full vent soffit

VAPOR BARRIER: DripX on the roof;
Tyvek on the walls

INSULATION:

(Walls) R-19; (Roof) R-38 blown in

CUPOLA: (2) 36" Gray vinyl cupolas with
concave metal roof, Cupola Creations LLC

OTHER DETAILS: 12x48x11 Lean to,
Scissor Trusses, Snow Bars, Tyvek Wrap
on sidewalls, 3x3 Cupola (composite) w/
glass & weathervane, 10x10 (insulated)
aluminum powder coated split slider doors
w/ glass, Jet Black w/ custom Brown X
detail, metal liner panel on sidewalls and
ceiling w/ T&G wainscoting on interior, (2)
3x3 faux bale doors black. Stone wainscot-
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