MCN Metal Construction News

January 2026
VOLUME 48 | NO. 1

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For subscription inquiries or changes of address, go to www.metalconstructionnews.com or contact Mei Hong at mhong@kenilworth.com. Subscriptions are free for those in the metal construction industry in the United States. For those outside the industry, the subscription price is $90 per year, in the United States; $120, in Canada and Mexico; and $195 per year, in all other countries.

METAL CONSTRUCTION NEWS (ISSN-8756-2014) is published monthly by Kenilworth Media Inc., 30 Leek Crescent, Suite 201, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 4N4. Distributed in the U.S. by Kenilworth Media Services Corp., 750 Commerce Dr. #1, Gulf Shores, AL 36542. Periodicals class postage paid at Gulf Shores, AL, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Address service requested. METAL CONSTRUCTION NEWS, P.O. Box 2267, Gulf Shores, AL 36547.

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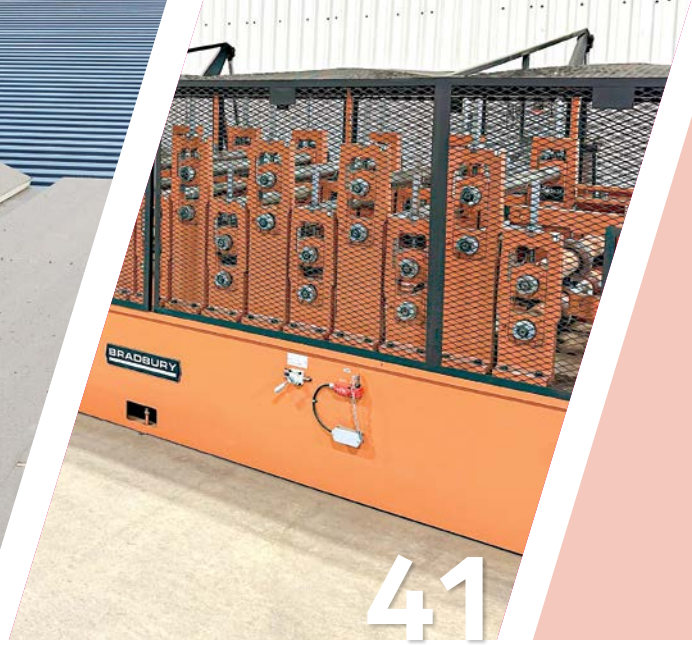

Product Tech:
Metalforming Equipment

Departments

On the Cover

This residential home in Florida was fitted with metal roofing to combat the often extreme weather conditions of the Sunshine State, a growing trend in the industry.

PHOTO COURTESY DREXEL METALS

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Here's To Big Things in 2026

Every January, I take a moment to reflect on where the industry has been and where it's headed, and this year, that reflection feels especially meaningful. The metal construction community has always been resilient and innovative. Still, lately, I've been struck by how quickly we're adapting, problem-solving, and finding new ways to move the industry forward. It fills me with excitement for the year ahead and gratitude to be part of this industry alongside all of you.

In this issue, we're kicking off the year with stories that highlight that spirit of evolution. Our feature on batten seam roof systems (on Page 14) reminds me how far roofing design has come. These designs blend time-tested craftsmanship with modern materials and fabrication methods, delivering a distinctive architectural profile along with exceptional durability and weather performance.

We also explore innovation in roof clamps (on Page 24), which may come with some surprises. Today's most effective innovations are not created in isolation but through direct engagement with installers, roofers, and engineers who highlight the challenges slowing down real projects.

On the fabrication side, I've heard from many shops that the pace of technological change can be both overwhelming and incredibly rewarding. Our article on optimizing sheet metal workflows addresses this challenge and can be found on Page 44. Many long-established shops are realizing that their layouts weren't built for today's equipment or production demands. Change takes commitment, but the payoff is real. As panel spans grow longer and architectural expectations rise, the piece on advanced leveling and CTL technology demonstrates how crucial precision has become for both performance and aesthetics.

One story that stayed with me this month is the Rock Island High School case study (on Page 18), regarding the updating of a 1937 Art Deco building with modern smoke vent technology, which required care, creativity, and teamwork. It's the kind of project that reminds me why this industry matters—because our work doesn't just construct buildings; it protects them, preserves them, and helps them evolve with time.

We're also sharing insights on how business owners can successfully delegate responsibility in Profit Building with George Hedley and standout educational facilities in our Project Focus section.

As we begin this new year together, I would like to thank you for reading, for building, and for continuing to drive the industry forward. I'm looking forward to sharing another year of growth, ideas, and inspiration with you.

Melanie Kowal

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Does Your Business Work Without You?

By George Hedley

George Hedley CPBC is a certified professional construction business BIZCOACH, consultant, and popular speaker. He helps contractors build better businesses; grow, profit, and develop leaders; improve estimating and field production; and get their companies to work. He is the best-selling author of Get Your Construction Business To Always Make A Profit, available on Amazon.com. To schedule a free introductory coaching session, get his monthly Hardhat Hedlines BIZ-TIPS e-newsletter, download his templates and tools, or watch his webinars or online video courses at Hardhat BIZSCHOOL online university for contractors, visit HardhatBizcoach.com or e-mail GH@HardhatBizcoach.com.

Ever feel like the more work you do yourself, the less you get done? Most construction business owners work far too hard for the return they get. They have too many details to handle and not enough time to focus on what generates the most revenue. See how you operate by taking this actual false test:

Does my business work without me?

- I make most of the day-to-day business decisions.
- I can't find any accountable or responsible help.
- I approve most of the hiring, firing, purchasing, pricing, and sales.
- I like to be in control and in charge.
- It's easier to do it myself than delegate or train.
- I work more hours than my managers.
- I feel guilty when I leave work early.
- I never seem to have enough time to do what I want to do.
- Customers call me about the most important issues.
- My people don't make decisions without asking me.
- My business wouldn't work without me.

How'd you do? Does your business operate effectively without you making all the decisions and handling all the critical tasks? Each true answer is an area for improvement and an indicator of what you must do differently to get better results. Your employees want to do great work, be accountable, and make good decisions, but something or someone is holding them back. Guess what—it might be you.

Are you getting a return on your energy?

As a business owner or manager, you need to achieve a significant return on your time investment. Every year, my company strived to complete $50 million in commercial construction. I didn't have time to sweat the small stuff. However, to complete everything, you must be able to delegate tasks to others to do the work.

- What activity are you in charge of and should delegate?
- Reviewing and/or preparing estimates.
- Calling subcontractors and suppliers for quotes.
- Project management and job meetings.
- Scheduling crews and subcontractors.
- Negotiating contracts with customers.
- Awarding subcontracts and negotiating change orders.
- Coordinating and submitting shop drawings for approval.
- Purchasing materials, tools, and equipment.
- Approving bills, invoicing, and collecting money.

Look in the mirror!

You name it; if it must be done, you do it, often until the wee hours of the night. Ever realize the more you do, the less you accomplish? Doing everything for everyone stunts your company's growth. Look at the activities you checked. Which areas can you let go of and delegate to others with proper training? Do you need to hire or promote an estimator, project manager, field operations supervisor, and an executive assistant?

Perhaps what's holding your company back is you. Are you the problem because you attempt to make every decision, do too much yourself, and control everything and everybody? Or you won't hire professional, talented, experienced, and in full-charge people? Take a hard look at your management style. Are you holding your people back from accepting responsibility and being accountable? When you make every decision for them, they won't take responsibility. When you fix their problems, they aren't responsible. When you control and lead every meeting, they can't grow. When you make or approve every purchase, contract, and strategy, your people don't have to think or be their best. When you don't take the time to train, help, or manage them, they won't improve.

Don't control, let go

Think about the last time you took a vacation, and your people had to make decisions on their own. Isn't it amazing how things get done without your constant input? When you operate in an environment of high control, you get low performance from your people. And when you trust people to do their best without your constant supervision, using a low-control approach, you achieve high performance. Many controlling and stressed-out business owners and managers often say to employees, "Please handle this, but just don't make any decisions without checking with me first." When you try to delegate like this, you really haven't delegated or let go of any responsibility. You can't be partially responsible. When you solve your people's problems, they bring you more problems to solve. Are you wearing a sign around my neck that says, "Bring me your problems?" This makes you feel large and in charge while overall performance slides backwards.

If in doubt, delegate

When a project owner calls you about a field problem, do you immediately handle it yourself and get back to them right away? Try listening politely and then hand your customer over to your project manager or superintendent to address the situation. When it's time to award a major subcontract or a large material purchase, do you get right into the middle of negotiations? Instead, ask your project manager to review all the bids, analyze the scope of work, discuss any questions they may have with you, and then have them award the order to the lowest qualified and responsible bidder.

When a superintendent or foreman asks you to call a problem subcontractor or supplier who isn't performing on a job, do you make the call for them? When I received a similar request from a field superintendent or foreman, it is an indicator that I have a weak employee who can't get subcontractors to perform without help from their supervisor. This is not acceptable. When you must make tough phone calls to them, you're letting your people off the hook and not holding them accountable for their job responsibilities. By delegating and letting go, your results can be incredible: higher profit while doing less, more loyal customers, and employees who love to work for your company. You can create a great place to work where people can grow, take responsibility, and be accountable for meeting your company's goals. To get started with delegating, email GH@Hardhatbizcoach.com to request your copy of an organizational chart. The only way to grow is to let go. What will you let go of?

METAL ROOFS

Engineered to Withstand the Toughest Weather Conditions

By Brian McLaughlin

PHOTOS COURTESY DREXEL METALS

"The U.S. is Earth's punching bag for nasty weather," said a contributor to PBS News Hour. "Blame geography for the U.S. getting hit by stronger, costlier, more varied, and more frequent extreme weather. Two oceans, the Gulf of Mexico, the Rocky Mountains, jutting peninsulas like Florida, clashing storm fronts, and the jet stream combine to naturally brew the nastiest of weather." Our country's location on the world map, combined with the effects of climate change, means we are experiencing extreme weather events at a rate and intensity like never before.

These natural events add a layer of complexity to roofing projects. After all, a critical part of the building envelope, a roof must withstand whatever Mother Nature throws at it. Metal roofing systems, which are becoming synonymous with sought-after qualities like long-term performance and low total cost of ownership, are engineered to withstand hurricane-force winds, water infiltration, and the damaging effects of UV exposure.

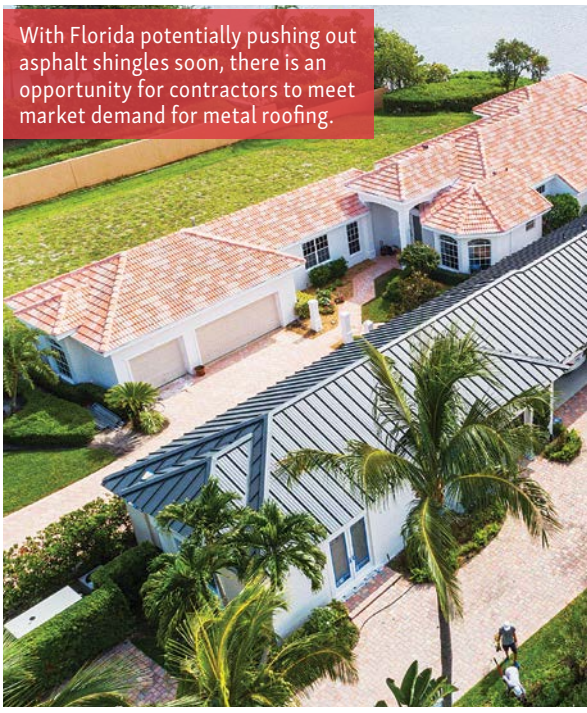
Tested to multiple standards, a metal roof can last roughly two to three times longer than one built with traditional roofing materials, such as asphalt shingles. But here's the thing. According to a 2022 third-party report from Arturo titled "Hurricane Exposure: The State of Gulf Homes," asphalt shingles still cover approximately 70 percent of homes along the Gulf Coast. And while asphalt's affordability and familiarity have made it a longstanding favorite with homeowners and contractors alike, the roofing material's poor track record in extreme weather conditions has been scrutinized. This scrutiny makes sense, mainly as devastating hurricanes along the Gulf Coast have dominated the news cycle over the last several years. In fact, Florida's top insurance commissioner recently suggested removing asphalt shingles completely in reroofing and new construction projects throughout the Sunshine State. With Florida potentially pushing out asphalt shingles soon, there is an opportunity for contractors to meet market demand for a better-performing roofing option. This does not just apply to contractors who work in Florida but in any part of the country that experiences harsh weather conditions.

Metal roofs serve up premium wind resistance

Metal roofs can provide wind resistance of up to 193 kph (120 mph), an ideal solution for any market with high winds. Select systems are certified to wind-resistance testing standards such as: *UL 580 Wind Uplift, TAS 125 Wind Uplift, UL 1897 Extended Phase Wind Uplift, ASTM E1592 Uniform Static Pressure Uplift,* and *ASTM E1680 Air Infiltration*.

Due to its material makeup and construction, a metal roof can stand firm during wind events. Unlike asphalt shingles, panelized metal roofing systems extend from eave to ridge and interlock with adjacent panels to minimize the points where wind gusts can lift and damage the roof. Metal also has a substantial strength-to-weight

A metal roof's weathertight performance can be enhanced with a proper underlayment and an advanced coating or paint finish.



With Florida potentially pushing out asphalt shingles soon, there is an opportunity for contractors to meet market demand for metal roofing.

A metal roof's resilience is why it can last up to three times longer than traditional roofing materials.

ratio. This means individual panels can withstand direct wind without increasing the overall weight of a roof.

For example, wind resistance was a key consideration for the roof renovation of the main clubhouse at the Medalist Golf Club, a championship course in Hobe Sound, Fla. The engineered metal roofing system used to cover the project resists the damaging effects of the region's severe coastal weather events. In addition to the premium wind resistance, the broadwidth seam panel system lends the clubhouse a quiet luxury aesthetic with its low-gloss, dark charcoal gray finish. The system uses a snap lock installation and free-floating clips, allowing thermal movement to preserve the smooth roof surface and uninterrupted profile lines.

Durable substrates and advanced finishes resist rain and hail

Wind and uplift are not the only aspects of extreme weather that metal roofs are designed to endure. They also provide overhead protection from rain and hail. Metal roofing offers reliable wet-weather performance due to its inherently durable substrate, which is impervious to moisture. Underscoring this quality, metal roofing systems are certified to *ASTM E1646 Water Infiltration* standards.

Building on its resistance to moisture intrusion, assemblies from industry-leading metal roofing manufacturers can achieve the *TAS 100 Wind-Driven Rain* designation. This testing standard establishes resistance to wind-driven rain by spraying water on the metal roof panels at a rate of 224 mm per hour (8.8 in. per hour) while a wind machine generates wind speeds up to 177 km/h (110 mph). Metal roof panels that pass this test will not exhibit water infiltration through the deck sheathing. A metal roof's weathertight performance can be enhanced with a proper underlayment and an advanced coating or paint finish.

Further, these systems can be certified to *UL 2218*, which tests their impact resistance and ranks them on a class system (from one to four). Metal roofs rank highest with a class four rating, ensuring maximum protection from hail. Both rain and hail protection support more resilient roofing systems throughout the country, including hard-hit coastal areas.

High-performance metal roofing finishes protect against damaging UV rays

Metal roofing can deliver tested performance in today's extreme weather scenarios, but its ability to provide function and form truly sets it apart from other roofing systems. Most metal roofing fabricators will use a high-performance finish like polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) to ensure customers receive a metal roofing system's full longevity and beauty. A type of resin, PVDF's strong chemical bonds resist the damaging effects

Wind resistance was a key consideration for the roof renovation of the main clubhouse at the Medalist Golf Club, a championship course in Hobe Sound, Fla.

of long-term sun exposure, making it possible for a roof to maintain its original color over its service life. A metal roof's fade resistance is bolstered by PVDF's ability to curb long-term chalking, which refers to the appearance of a powdery white residue on the surface of a coating. This phenomenon happens when resins in coatings break down and degrade after years of exposure to harmful UV rays. The loss of the protective layer will dull the roof color and compromise the integrity of the metal underneath.

Metal roofs ensure long-term protection against Mother Nature

Tested to withstand high winds, moisture absorption, and the effects of harmful UV rays, a metal roof's resilience is why it can last up to three times longer than traditional roofing materials, like the asphalt shingles still sitting on top of many Gulf Coast homes. Because metal roofs provide long-term protection against the elements, they are considered more cost-effective long-term than asphalt shingles. Expect to see asphalt shingles phased out in Gulf Coast states and beyond and replaced with metal roofing systems that use high-quality metal substrates. Contractors who embrace this shift in the roofing industry can safeguard their legacy of work and ultimately increase their bottom lines. MCN

__Brian McLaughlin,__ director of associations at Carlisle Architectural Metals, is a Temple University graduate with more than 15 years of experience in the metal roofing industry. McLaughlin drives advancement through key contractor relationships. Throughout his career, he has held various leadership roles at Drexel Metals and is widely recognized as a trusted expert on metal roofing and walls.

Batten Seam Roofing

Traditional Craft Meets Modern Metal

By Lee Ann M. Slattery

PHOTOS COURTESY ATAS INTERNATIONAL

Once a staple of historic handcrafted European architecture, batten seam metal roofing is reemerging as a fashionable choice in today's construction market. Blending time-tested craftsmanship with modern materials and fabrication methods, this roofing style delivers a distinctive architectural profile along with exceptional durability and weather performance. Contractors and architects are rediscovering their ability to add character and depth to both traditional and contemporary designs while benefiting from the precision and efficiency of today's engineered metal systems.

Although standing seam metal roofing is the most popular style of metal roofing and holds the largest market share, the demand for other metal roofing profiles, including batten seam metal roofing and metal shingles, continues to grow.

Standing seam vs. Batten seam

Both batten and standing seam are considered architectural metal roofing systems. They feature long, continuous panels running vertically, with raised seams or battens that help channel water away from the roof.

Standing seam metal roofing consists of panels with upturned vertical seams that interlock with adjacent panels, creating a seamless appearance. The seams can be snapped together or mechanically seamed, which will conceal the fasteners and any clips under the panels. The mechanically seamed panels are well-suited for low-slope applications, whereas the snap-seamed panels are more common in higher-slope applications. There are also standing seam systems available that do not have an integral seam. Those systems have three components: the pan, clips, and a separate seam, and should be installed over a solid substrate, as they are not structural systems.

Aesthetically, standing seam metal roofs offer a streamlined look. Their narrow seams and flat pans emphasize long, uninterrupted lines, making them popular

Batten seam metal roofing contributes to sustainability goals by using metal with recycled content, cool roof coatings, and a long service life.

for modern commercial, institutional, and residential buildings. The minimalistic profile also contributes to their popularity in contemporary architecture.

Batten seam metal roofing uses raised battens to create a more defined joint between the panels and is often used in steep-slope applications. The battens can be an integral part of a metal

The bold ridges of batten seam metal roofing stand out as a distinctive feature of the building's design.

Painted finishes using high-performance polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) coatings are common for modern projects, offering excellent color retention and corrosion resistance.

roofing panel where the panels interlock with each other, or can be a separate cap that joins two panels together. With both types of batten seam metal roofing, like the standing seam systems, the fasteners and any clips will be concealed under the panels. The integrated system enables one-piece installation, reducing on-site labor costs and eliminating the need for additional batten caps. Additionally, no special equipment is required to zip or seam the panels together.

Bold ridges of batten seam metal roofing stand out as a distinctive feature of the building's design. They are often used on historic structures, churches, civic buildings, and high-end custom homes where a traditional or old-world aesthetic is desired. The larger seam height and visible cap add depth and texture to the roof.

Batten seams: Not only for roofs

In addition to being used for metal roofing, metal wall panels featuring batten seams are gaining popularity due to their combination of classic aesthetics, modern durability, and minimal maintenance requirements. They offer a timeless board-and-batten look that can be enhanced with a wide range of colors and finishes, while the metal material provides long-lasting protection against moisture, fire, and pests. Batten seam metal wall panels offer visual depth and versatile design possibilities.

Materials and finishes

The majority of batten seam metal roofing is made of aluminum or steel, although the aesthetic can also be achieved with copper or zinc. These materials are often selected for batten seam roofs to enhance their traditional look and allow natural patina to develop over time.

Painted finishes using high-performance polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) coatings are common for modern projects, offering excellent color retention and corrosion resistance.

Labor considerations

Both batten seam and standing seam metal roof panels are similar in labor costs for the integral seam systems. For the systems where the seam is a separate component, those will incur more labor costs due to the installation of multiple components. Also, batten seam systems

do not require special equipment to mechanically seam the panels, which also saves on time and labor.

Sustainability

Batten seam metal roofing contributes to sustainability goals by using metal with recycled content, cool roof coatings, and a long service life. At the end of their life, they are 100 percent recyclable and can be reused to create new products without being disposed of in a landfill. Unlike traditional asphalt shingles, which create millions of tons of landfill waste, metal roofing offers a virtually zero-waste alternative. This benefit of being fully recyclable makes it a closed-loop material, from its initial manufacturing to its final use and recycling. Metal roofing can contribute to green building certifications, such as LEED, due to its sustainable attributes.

The future of batten seam metal roofing

As the construction industry continues to balance aesthetics, performance, and longevity, batten seam metal roofing stands out as a system that bridges tradition and innovation. Its distinctive raised profile and adaptable design options allow it to complement both historic restorations and cutting-edge architecture. With modern metals, advanced coatings, and refined installation methods enhancing its time-honored form, batten seam roofing offers contractors, architects, and building owners a proven solution that delivers craftsmanship, durability, and enduring visual appeal, making its comeback both timely and well deserved.

***Lee Ann Slattery** is the sales support manager for ATAS International and the treasurer for the Metal Construction Association (MCA). She has 30 years of experience in sales and marketing within the architectural building products industry. She served as the director of the Middle Atlantic Region Institute on the board of the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) for four years and was elevated to Fellowship within CSI in 2020. She currently serves on the education committee for National Women in Roofing (NWIR) and is a director for the Lehigh Valley Let's Build Construction Camp for Girls, founded in 2017. This year, she received the Lehigh Valley Women of Influence and Circle of Excellence awards from Lehigh Valley Business.*

Batten seam metal roofing stands out as a system that bridges tradition and innovation.

Illinois School Leans Into Fire Protection

Acoustical Smoke Vent Reduces Noise and Enhances Safety

By Thomas Renner

PHOTOS BY RICH REDFERN/FLYOVER PRODUCTIONS

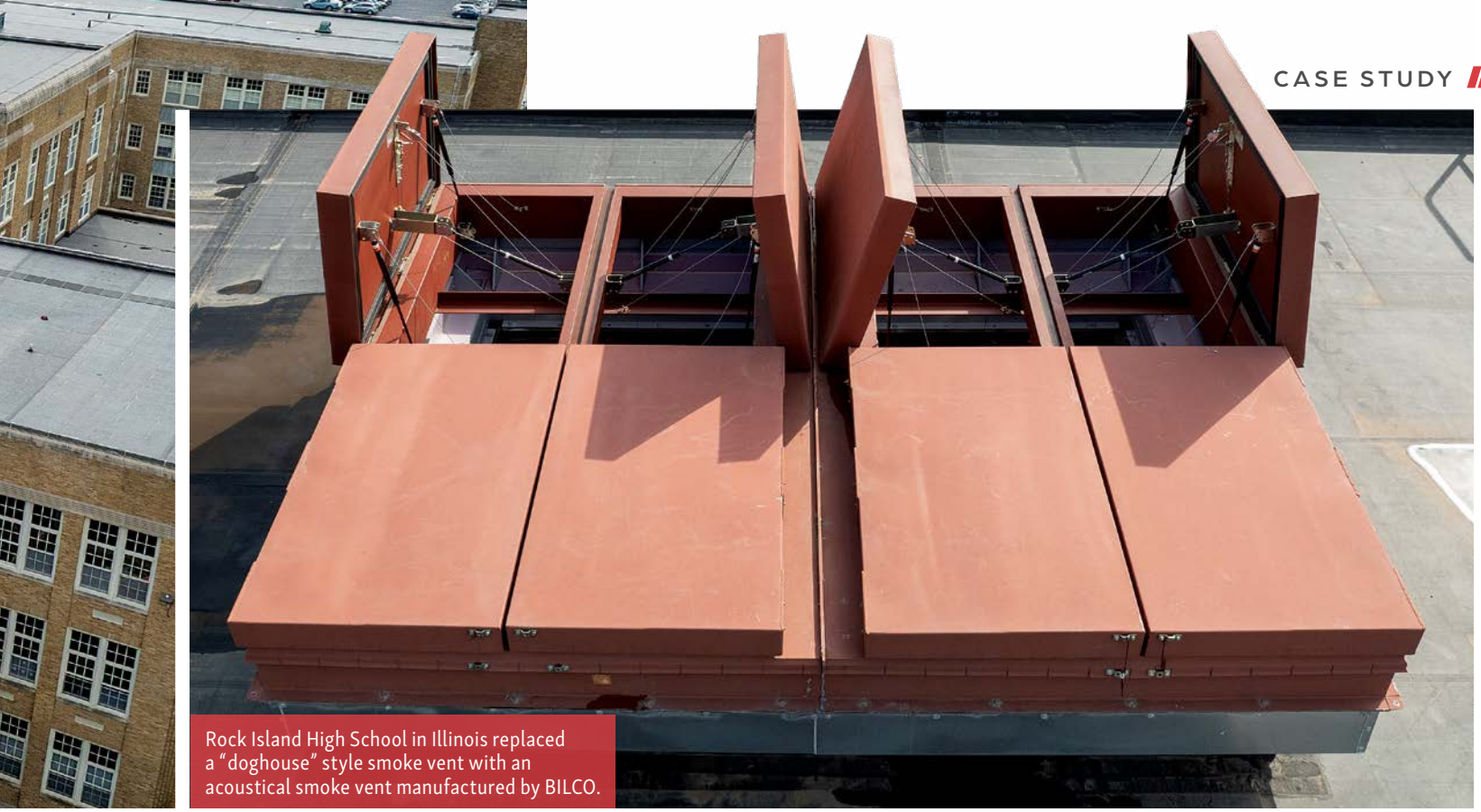
For a building that opened in 1937, there are few blemishes in the history of Rock Island High School in Illinois. A recently completed project enhanced the appearance of the Art Deco-style building, improved its fire protection capabilities, and reduced noise interference.

A team from RTM Engineering Consultants recently removed a "doghouse" style smoke vent that had stood atop the high school for decades. Common decades ago, the aging equipment, likely installed in the 1950s, had outlived its useful life; the vent in place at Rock Island had also reached its end. Leaks around the smoke vent and patchwork repair to maintain functionality could no longer be sustained.

One of the primary challenges facing RTM was dismantling the existing smoke vent. "We had to find the correct areas to cut it apart and dismantle it, but the existing roof needed to be left in place. It had to be removed piece by piece," said RTM project manager Mitchel Boever.

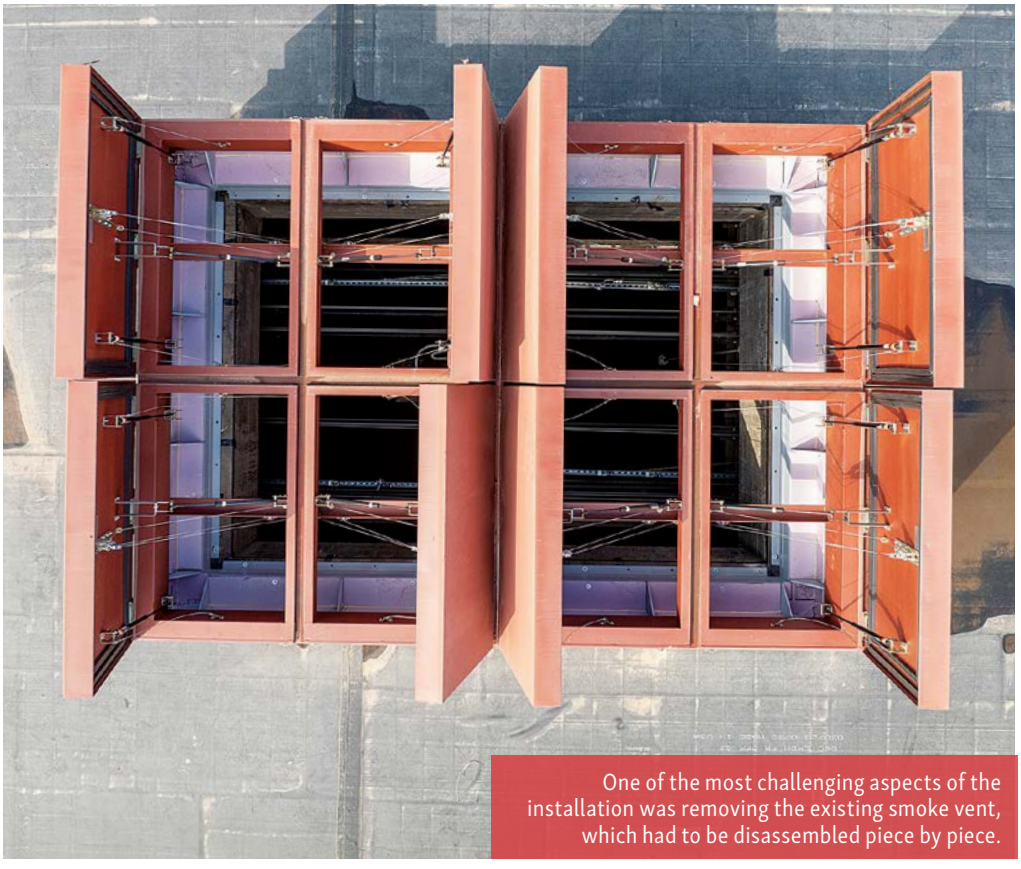
Staying safe

Every student in the United States knows the proper behavior in a routine fire drill: stop immediately, evacuate calmly, listen to instructions, and remain outside until authorities determine it is safe to re-enter the building. Fire drills are vital to keeping students and staff safe.



Rock Island High School in Illinois replaced a "doghouse" style smoke vent with an acoustical smoke vent manufactured by BILCO.

Acoustical smoke vents provide the same functionality as standard smoke vents but also limit noise intrusion.



One of the most challenging aspects of the installation was removing the existing smoke vent, which had to be disassembled piece by piece.

What's less commonly known is the frequency of school fires and their importance as an example of lethality.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), local fire departments responded to an average of 3,230 fires per year between 2014 and 2018. Most of the fires were "confined" fires in chimneys and boilers or caused by cooking equipment. Approximately 43 percent of school fires were intentionally set, according to the NFPA. While fires are common, resultant deaths are rare.

That was not always the case, and a horrific blaze in Chicago—only about 170 miles away from Rock Island—forced dramatic changes in fire protection codes at U.S. schools.

The fire on December 1, 1958, at Our Lady of the Angels School killed 95 people, including 92 students. Smoke, heat, fire, and toxic gases cut off normal means of escape through corridors and stairways. Approximately 1,300 students attended the school, which had passed its fire inspection just two months before the fire.

Investigators found numerous flaws. Extinguishers were mounted 2.1 m (7 ft) off the ground, making them unreachable for all students and most adults. The building had only two pull stations in the south wing of the school, while the blaze originated at the north end. The school was built in 1910 and remodeled in 1958; however, due to a grandfather clause, it did not have automatic fire alarms or a sprinkler system.

In the wake of the tragedy, the NFPA adopted requirements that apply to public occupancies, including schools. Automatic fire sprinkler systems are required in any fire area exceeding 1,858 m^2 (20,000 sf). Classrooms and corridors must be separated by one-hour-rated walls, and stairways and other vertical openings must be enclosed.

Smoke vents are an indispensable component of any fire protection system, as they promote safe building evacuation by removing heat, smoke, and toxic fumes from a burning building.

Acoustical smoke vents serve the same function as standard vents but also offer the added benefit of reducing noise intrusion.

Important code changes

A fire at a General Motors factory in 1953 forever changed fire protection measures and the role of smoke vents in commercial structures.

The blaze at the GM facility in Livonia, Mich., is considered the most destructive fire in America's industrial history. Sparked by a welder's torch, the fire caused an estimated $50 million in damage.

The building spanned more than 139,355 m^2 (1.5 million sf) across 0.4047 h (34.5 acres), and 4,200 employees worked every shift at the massive complex, building automatic transmissions for Cadillacs, Pontiacs, and other vehicles. Several thousand gallons of flammable liquids were confined in the building. Only 20 per cent of the structure had smoke vents, and the roof lacked them. "It was literally raining fire all over the building," according to John Stinson, a construction superintendent for GM.

Six people died and many others were injured because of the fire. It also spurred changes in fire codes. "The major change was the demand for smoke and heat vents," Stinson said.

Following the fire, it became a common practice to install automatic smoke vents

BILCO acoustical smoke vents provide an industry-high OITC-46 and STC-50 sound ratings.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MCCOY AND ASSOCIATES

A "doghouse" smoke vent, likely installed in the 1950s, was removed and replaced with the BILCO acoustical smoke vent.

in large commercial buildings. They are designed to open automatically when excessive heat is detected, releasing smoke and heat from the building.

Out with the old

For the project at Rock Island, the RTM team had to dismantle the existing vent and install an updated model. The "doghouse" style vent—so-called because they resembled small cages for animals—was installed in many buildings during the 1940s and 1950s.

The existing structure of Rock Island High, which opened in 1937 after three previous buildings had been reduced to rubble by fire, was rebuilt again in 1949 due to another fire. Workers completed the rebuild in 1953.

Boever said removing the existing vent posed the most challenging part of the project.

"It was a very intense, lengthy process," he explained. "The doghouse smoke vent was all one piece. We had to make sure it was properly supported and find areas to cut it apart."

Crawford Company was the installing mechanical contractor for the project. The Crawford team replaced the existing unit with an acoustical smoke vent manufactured by BILCO, a maker of specialty access products.

"We wanted to match the same curb area and upgrade it to a new smoke vent," Boever said. "BILCO was able to provide a customized solution, making the roof work minimal, which is a huge cost savings for a public school district."

Acoustical smoke vents serve the same function as standard vents but also offer the added benefit of reducing noise intrusion. The vent for the Rock Island school was installed above the school auditorium, which is used for concerts, theater performances, and other school activities.

"There wasn't an obvious threat from exterior noise," Boever said. "Because it was over a stage, we wanted something that would not impact stage performance."

BILCO's acoustical smoke vents offer an outdoor-indoor transmission council (OITC-46) and sound transmission council (STC-50) sound rating, and are frequently installed in concert halls, theaters, and other applications where outside noise interference could cause distractions.

McCoy and Associates, BILCO's manufacturer's representative in the region, provided the smoke vent and technical support for its installation.

Piece of history

Residents of Rock Island are justifiably proud of their school, which enrolls approximately 1,800 students in grades 9 to 12. The school was designated as one of Rock Island's "100 Most Significant Unprotected Structures" in 2009. The list contains a complete range of architecture representative of Rock Island's history from the 1850s to the 1960s, which are not protected by state historic or national historic landmark designations.

The school is a vital part of the community fabric in Rock Island, and the new smoke vent provides a significant aesthetic and safety upgrade for the venerable structure. MCN

Thomas Renner writes on building, construction, and other trade industry topics for publications throughout the United States.

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How Evolving Roof Clamps Are Reducing Labor Costs

Across the metal construction landscape, contractors face a challenge that no single product can solve: the limited availability of skilled labour.

By Bradford A. Wasley
PHOTOS COURTESY ACECLAMP

Innovation has become one of the most essential drivers of progress in the metal construction industry. As contractors contend with higher labor costs, volatile material pricing, and the lingering effects of tariffs on imported metals, there is a growing recognition that the evolution of roof attachment systems—toward greater efficiency and less installer burden—is the clearest path to controlling both labor and project costs. The products reshaping the market are not just stronger or more durable; they are more innovative, simpler, and purposefully designed to eliminate friction from the installation process.

Efficiency begins with installer-centric design

Traditional clamps and brackets were often built around engineering conventions rather than jobsite realities. Many required torque-specific set screws, multiple loose parts, or tools that added time and complexity—especially in cold or windy conditions where precision is harder to maintain.

The industry's latest wave of innovation reverses that mindset. Manufacturers are now prioritizing systems that make the installer's job faster, safer, and more predictable.

AceClamp's patented push-pin mechanism, for example, replaces set screws entirely. Instead of applying rotational force that could damage panels or require retorquing—both of which can lead to callbacks—the push-pin delivers immediate, consistent engagement while protecting roof finishes. Combined with preassembled, ready-out-of-the-box components, the result is a clamp that shortens the learning curve, reduces installation time, and lowers the risk of error.

This kind of evolution is not just about convenience—it is about maximizing the hours crews have on the roof. When products eliminate steps, reduce tool dependency, and simplify repetitive tasks, the saved time directly translates into lower labor costs and higher productivity.

Why speed matters: Labor savings in a tight workforce

Across the metal construction landscape, contractors face a challenge that no single product can solve: the limited availability of skilled labour. With fewer hands available and more work to be completed, efficiency has become a key competitive advantage.

Modern attachment systems deliver measurable labor savings by:

- Reducing preparation time through preassembled components.
- Eliminating retorque requirements and follow-up visits.

- Providing faster engagements that require minimal or no use of tools.
- Offering universal brackets compatible with multiple roof profiles.
- Maintaining the ability to install even in freezing conditions where dexterity is limited.

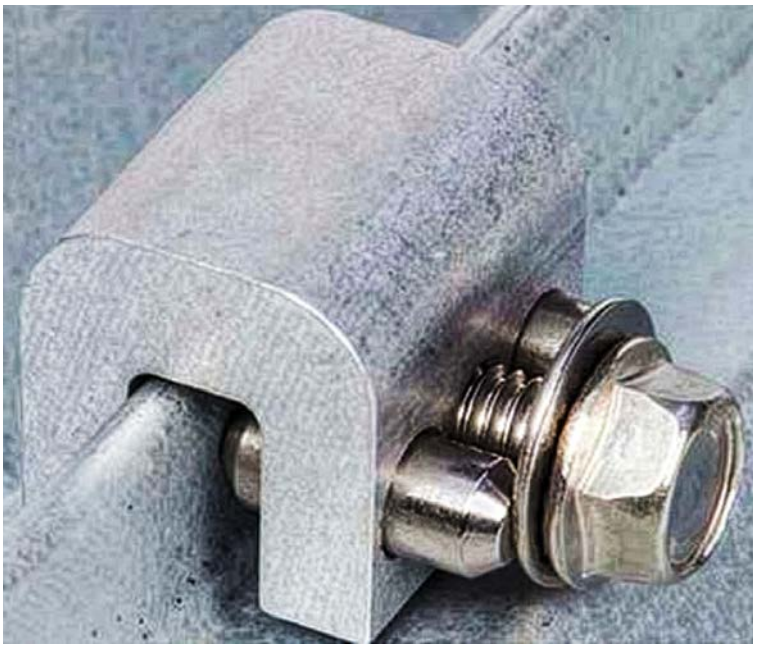
Some of the newest systems on the market are installed in nearly half the time of legacy designs. Over the course of a season, those "saved minutes" can equate to hundreds of reclaimed labor hours—allowing crews to complete more projects without increasing staff. In regions hit hardest by workforce shortages, this added capacity can mean the difference between meeting timelines and falling behind.

Evolving designs without sacrificing performance

As attachment systems evolve to become more efficient, durability and long-term reliability remain central expectations. Speed alone is not enough, especially for installations facing harsh winters, heavy snow loads, or significant wind uplift.

Manufacturers have responded by pairing efficiency with high-performance design elements, such as:

- Non-penetrating attachment methods that preserve panel integrity.
- Corrosion-resistant materials engineered for long life.
- Snap-in rails and toolless ice-clip accessories.
- Self-locking or set-screw-free mechanisms that reduce maintenance.



AceClamp's patented push-pin mechanism replaces set screws entirely. Instead of applying rotational force that could damage panels or require retorquing—both of which can lead to callbacks—the push-pin delivers immediate, consistent engagement while protecting roof finishes.

Snow retention systems demonstrate how ease of installation can coexist with long-term strength. Meanwhile, universal screw-down brackets broaden compatibility to corrugated, exposed fasteners and asphalt roofs—reducing inventory needs for distributors and offering contractors a single, adaptable solution across multiple project types.

The throughline is clear: as products evolve to be more efficient, they simultaneously reduce labor burden and help stabilize project costs—even as material prices fluctuate.

Field-driven innovation: Solving real jobsite challenges

Perhaps the most significant driver of this evolution is the increasing collaboration between manufacturers and the people installing their products. Today's most effective innovations are not created in isolation but through direct engagement with installers, roofers, and engineers who highlight the challenges slowing down real projects.

This feedback loop has resulted in:

- Clamps designed to install without removing gloves.
- Components that create consistent, repeatable results.
- Reduced fatigue during mass installations.
- Improved safety through fewer tool-based steps.

Many of the recent innovations—particularly the push-pin and preassembly—were direct responses to installer requests for faster, less frustrating solutions.

The future: Efficiency as standard practice

As the metal construction industry evolves, one truth has become increasingly clear: products that reduce installer burden and improve efficiency will define the next decade of rooftop attachment solutions. As materials become increasingly expensive and labor becomes harder to source, companies that innovate around simplicity, speed, and reliability will help contractors maintain profitability even in shifting economic conditions.

The evolution of clamps, brackets, and snow retention systems toward more efficient and installer-friendly designs is not just an improvement—it is becoming the new standard.

In a business where every minute matters, the most brilliant innovations are those that give time back to the people on the roof.

Bradford A. Wasley *is vice president of PMC Industries, Inc. and director of Total Quality. Brad is a fourth-generation manufacturer with more than 25 years of experience. AceClamp is the product line he has developed along with the PMC Industries, Inc. engineering team. Wasley can be reached at bwasley@pmcind.com*

Forging a Personal Wealth Plan

What Metal Construction Business Owners Need to Know Now

PHOTO © KLINGSUP / ISTOCK / GETTYIMAGES

By David Stahl

The metal construction and heavy construction sectors are experiencing a wave of interest from strategic buyers and private equity firms. Driven by substantial backlogs, geographic expansion opportunities, and ongoing industry consolidation, many business owners receive unsolicited calls asking, "Are you open to selling?"

At the same time, inflation, rising labor costs, uncertain trade policies, and shifting input prices put pressure on profit margins—and on owners to make wise decisions.

Amid these complex business dynamics, many owners overlook a crucial piece: their financial planning.

Whether considering a sale, eyeing internal succession, or simply reinvesting to grow and stay competitive, aligning your personal wealth strategy with your business plans can give you greater clarity, leverage, and peace of mind.

Five financial planning questions for metal construction business owners

1. Can you afford to walk away?

Before making informed decisions about selling or transitioning your business, you need a clear picture of your financial independence—whether your wealth outside the business is enough to support your lifestyle without relying on the company.

This is a critical and often overlooked question. Business owners in the construction space frequently have a sizable portion of their net worth tied up in their company, sometimes without even realizing it. They may have a profitable business, but do they have sufficient after-tax, liquid assets to retire, launch their next venture, or pursue a passion project?

Understanding what is truly needed to achieve financial security helps to evaluate offers clearly and prevents business owners from selling too early, too late, or on the wrong terms. It also provides valuable insight into how much capital to reinvest into the business or set aside for future generations.

2. Are you prepared for how buyers are structuring deals?

Uncertainty is driving changes in how deals get done. Labor challenges, fluctuating material costs, tariffs, and project-based revenue streams have made buyers more cautious, especially in construction-related industries. As a result, more transactions include structures such as:

- Earnouts: You may agree to a purchase price but only receive part of it upfront. The rest is contingent on future business performance. This keeps you involved post-sale and provides the

If your financials are opaque, you risk lower valuations, tougher negotiations, and longer diligence timelines.

buyer with some downside protection in case profitability dips.

- Indemnifications: A portion of the proceeds might be held in escrow, protecting the buyer if undisclosed liabilities, customer disputes, or tax issues emerge after the transaction.
- Rollover equity: Sellers are often asked to reinvest a percentage of their proceeds back into the business under new ownership. It helps align interests, extends your exposure, and shifts liquidity further into the future.

If you need every last dollar from the transaction to meet your financial goals, these structures might not work for you. On the other hand, if you have already reached financial independence, you may have the flexibility to accept these terms and potentially benefit from them.

3. Are your personal and business finances properly separated?

Many long-time construction business owners have intertwined personal and business finances. It is common to see


PHOTO © ORGANIC MEDIA/GETTY IMAGES

Business owners work hard to build something of value—not just a business, but a legacy.

vehicles, insurance, real estate, or family members' salaries run through the company. While this may have worked for years, it may become an obstacle during a sale or when executing a succession plan.

Buyers, especially institutional ones, expect clean books. If your financials are opaque, you risk lower valuations, tougher negotiations, and longer diligence timelines.

But even if you are not selling soon, separating personal and business finances is a smart move. In the context of personal planning, it gives you a clearer view of what you need personally to support your lifestyle separate from the business, and that clarity better informs estate and succession planning strategies.

4. Are you taking advantage of estate planning opportunities?

If your business and personal assets combined put your net worth near or above $15 million (or $30 million for married couples), you are in a critical window for estate tax planning. Additionally—and this is key—wealth transfer strategies are far more effective when implemented before a business is sold or its value spikes significantly.

Using tools like irrevocable trusts, gifting strategies, and valuation discounts, you can shift appreciation and ownership to the next generation or charitable vehicles while minimizing tax exposure. Waiting until after a transaction occurs could mean exposing your family to a much larger estate tax bill.

Owners may miss this window when focusing solely on the deal, only to discover after the fact that they could have protected millions in generational wealth with estate planning.

5. Are you prepared for the implications of business sales taxes?

A business sale often results in the single biggest tax year of your life. The impact can be significant and will vary widely depending on deal terms. This means the final negotiated details beyond the top-line number lead to differing degrees of capital gain (taxed at lower rates), ordinary income (taxed at higher marginal rates), and, if included, real estate-related tax like depreciation recapture.

A few key strategies to consider with your CPA and financial advisor:

- Timing charitable gifts or contributions to donor-advised funds.
- Offsetting gains with carry-forward losses or strategic deductions.
- Taking advantage of installment sale treatment if appropriate.
- Ensuring proper structure on equity rolled into the new deal to defer the associated gain.
- Pre-loading retirement contributions and/or deferred compensation plans.

The personal side of the business equation

You have worked hard to build something of value—not just a business, but a legacy. As the pace of deal activity heats up and industry dynamics continue to shift, do not let your personal finances become an afterthought.

Whether you are years away from selling or considering an offer right now, taking the time to assess your financial goals, clean up your books, and engage the right advisors can help you move forward with clarity and confidence. MCN

David Stahl *is a wealth management partner at Plante Moran Financial Advisors, where he provides personal financial advisory services to closely held business owners and private equity professionals. He can be reached at david.stahl@plantemoran.com.*

Why Data Centers Need Mission-Critical Roofing Systems

By Robert Pate

PHOTOS COURTESY AMRIZE

The demand for AI, cloud infrastructure, and cold storage is fueling rapid growth in data center and cold storage facility construction. These projects prioritize speed, scale, and uninterrupted operations, driven by aggressive build schedules and heightened performance expectations. Yet despite the high stakes, roofing systems are sometimes an afterthought in the design and specification process. If the roof fails, the consequences are immediate and costly, leading to downtime, interior damage, thermal instability, and compromised product or data reliability.

In mission-critical environments, precision and reliability are paramount. The roof is more than just a structural covering; it must function as a resilient shield capable of withstanding extreme environmental conditions. Getting it right from the start is essential to safeguarding consistent uptime, controlling energy use, and ensuring the long-term performance of the building envelope.

Why roofing matters in high-stakes builds

Data centers are engineered with built-in redundancy to ensure uninterrupted uptime, where 70 percent of facility outage incidents cost $100,000 or more, according to Uptime Institute's Annual Outages Analysis 2023. These facilities house sensitive digital infrastructure that requires tightly controlled environments and maximum operational continuity. Similarly, cold storage facilities demand challenging temperature and humidity regulation to protect perishable inventory, comply with food and pharmaceutical safety standards, and maintain consistent product quality.

In both cases, the roofing system plays a crucial but often underappreciated role. It must be designed to prevent thermal loss, vapor drive, condensation, and moisture intrusion, any of which can compromise performance, safety, or profitability. Whether the priority is protecting critical data servers and cooling systems or preventing heat transfer in cold storage, the roof should be treated as a mission-critical system. With so much at stake, choosing the right roof is critical and depends on a facility's operational priorities, environmental risks, and long-term performance expectations.

The role of metal in mission-critical roofing systems

Metal roofing systems offer long service life, structural strength, and fire resistance, which is particularly important in fire-prone and climate-sensitive environments. In data centers and cold storage facilities, standing seam systems and insulated metal panels (IMPs) provide tailored design flexibility and robust structural performance, with IMPs also enhancing thermal efficiency.

Assemblies incorporating edge metal, insulation, and roofing membranes are ideal. These are engineered to meet seismic requirements and high wind uplift ratings, especially when combined with edge metal for perimeter securement. Using metal means faster installation and seamless system integration, which are essential for high-speed builds such as massive data campuses or refrigerated warehouses.

Metal edge is an essential yet often overlooked component of these systems. As the first line of defense against wind uplift and perimeter failure,

These roofing systems offer exceptional protection against extreme conditions and environments.

PHOTO © VOLKASENGOR/GETTY IMAGES

Cold storage facilities demand challenging temperature and humidity regulation to protect perishable inventory, comply with food and pharmaceutical safety standards, and maintain consistent product quality.

PHOTO COURTESY AMRIZE

particularly in buildings with single-ply membranes, edge metal is vital to the long-term integrity of the roof system. Edge metal must be properly engineered and installed to meet stringent building codes, including ANSI/SPRI ES-1 and FM Global standards. Whether specified as part of a pre-manufactured fascia or a custom-fabricated coping system, secure perimeter metal helps prevent membrane detachment. In mission-critical facilities, even minor breaches can lead to significant consequences.

The shift toward PVC and high-performance membranes

Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) membranes are increasingly specified in fire-prone regions and cold environments due to their fire and chemical resistance and dimensional stability. These attributes make PVC a reliable choice for facilities that demand durability and performance. PVC is also available in a range of colors to meet both energy performance and design needs. For example, white membranes support reflectivity goals in warmer climates, while darker options like charcoal are often chosen in colder regions. In cold storage applications, PVC is especially well-suited for vapor control and helps maintain insulation performance over time, particularly when installed as a fully adhered system, which helps limit membrane movement and air intrusion. Its ability to resist degradation and maintain a consistent barrier helps ensure the building envelope performs reliably.

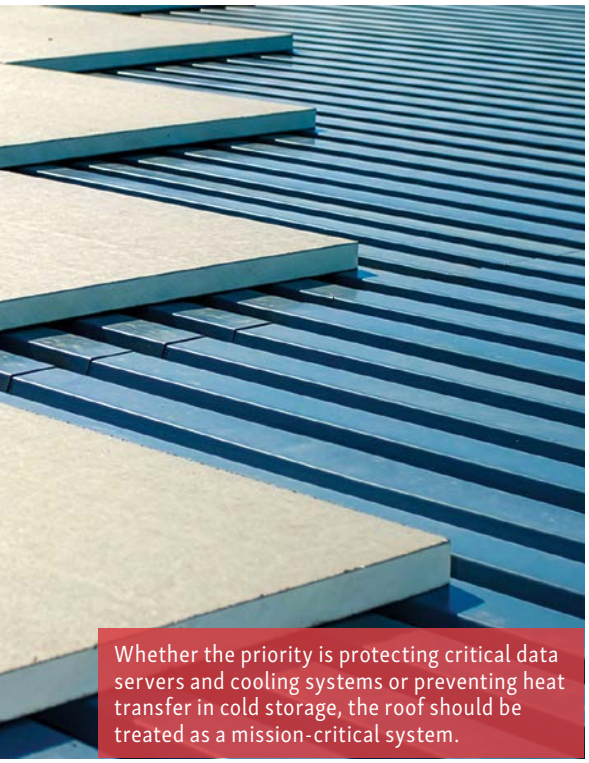
Beyond durability, PVC membranes offer exceptional thermal regulation, waterproofing, and vapor barrier capabilities. In roof assemblies, the membrane acts as a primary vapor barrier, helping prevent warm, humid exterior air from entering the roof system and condensing as it moves toward colder interior spaces. This function becomes even more effective when paired with properly engineered edge metal and strong perimeter systems.

Designing for redundancy and code compliance

Like generators and backup systems, roofing assemblies should be built with layers of defense to mitigate environmental and operational risks. This means incorporating vapor barriers, staggered insulation, and sealed air layers in cold storage facilities to prevent condensation and preserve thermal performance over time. For both cold storage and data center applications, meeting or exceeding FM Global, *UL*, and local building codes is not merely a matter of compliance; it is a strategic approach to ensuring long-term resilience. Engaging manufacturers early in the design process helps ensure that roofing systems are built to spec, fully code-compliant, and tested to perform under each facility's specific conditions.

Post-installation support and long-term performance

Roofing resilience is a long-term investment that depends on certified installation, strong warranty protection, and ongoing technical support. In cold storage environments, maintaining thermal continuity and airtightness is essential; any failure in the roofing system can lead to increased energy costs and heightened risk to temperature-sensitive inventory. To safeguard performance over time, contractors and building owners should reach out to technical teams to schedule inspections and assist with any repairs. Whether adapting to rooftop solar installations, refrigeration system upgrades, or severe weather events,



Whether the priority is protecting critical data servers and cooling systems or preventing heat transfer in cold storage, the roof should be treated as a mission-critical system.

comprehensive post-installation support ensures the roof continues to perform as designed throughout its lifecycle.

Sustainability and thermal efficiency

Data center and cold storage owners emphasize reducing energy use intensity (EUI), driven by environmental, social, and governance (ESG) commitments and evolving regulatory standards. High-performance PVC membranes and high-R-value insulation are crucial in minimizing HVAC and refrigeration loads by improving thermal efficiency. In cold storage specifically, this insulation has demonstrated much better thermal performance than conventional polyiso insulation in cold climates, delivering measurable energy savings and operational cost reductions. Additionally, the recyclability of metal roofing components and membrane materials helps facility owners and managers practice circularity.

Roofs are a strategic infrastructure investment

There is zero margin for failure in data center and cold storage construction; roofs must perform like any other mission-critical system. Resilient, code-compliant, and high-performing roof assemblies protect service reliability, operational continuity, and return on investment. Owners, developers, and specifiers should engage roofing experts early in the project to avoid reactive solutions later. Partnering with the manufacturer during the design phase helps ensure these standards are met. The takeaway is simple: a roof is not just a cap on the building; it is the foundation of reliability from the top down.

***Robert Pate** is a strategic account manager for Amrize, focused on data center solutions for Elevate Commercial Roofing Systems. Pate, who has a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from the University of Alabama, has been with what is now Amrize since 2017.*

PHOTO COURTESY OF HISTLER STUDIOS

Owner: The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, **uiowa.edu**
Architect: Shive-Hattery, **shive-hattery.com**
General contractor: Conlon Construction, **conlonco.com**
Metal façade: EXTECH, Pittsburgh, Pa., **extechinc.com**
Other team members: FormanFord Glass & Glazing, **formanford.com**

University of Iowa Hawkeye Parking Ramp, Iowa City, Iowa

At the heart of the University of Iowa's west campus, the new Hawkeye Parking Ramp provides more than just 983 parking spaces; it establishes a dynamic architectural presence. Designed by Shive-Hattery and built by Conlon Construction, the ramp is distinguished by its custom kinetic façade, engineered and fabricated by EXTECH.

Spanning 266 m^2 (2,860 sf), the KINETICWALL system consists of 48 prefabricated panels made up of 7,560 individual aluminum "flappers" that respond to wind currents throughout the day. The flappers, made of durable 10.2-mm (.04-inch) aluminum and coated in silver metallic Kynar, shimmer and ripple with motion, creating a living, breathing exterior. The panels—each measuring approximately 1.8 m (5.5 ft) wide by 6.5 m (21.4 ft)—are precision pin-mounted to accommodate lateral loads, thermal expansion, and deflection. Behind the kinetic layer, a welded wire mesh, powder-coated black, provides vandal resistance while allowing unobstructed ventilation.

"Achieving natural ventilation is a major challenge in parking design," said Kevin Smith, EXTECH president. "Our kinetic system not only meets airflow requirements passively but also reduces the need for artificial lighting by reflecting and diffusing natural light, supporting energy efficiency and occupant comfort."

This project exemplifies a successful collaborative process between Shive-Hattery, EXTECH, and Conlon Construction, FormanFord Glass & Glazing, and the University of Iowa.

"The design team was invested from the beginning in creating something beautiful and functional. The semi-transparent, wind-moving kinetic façade provided ventilation benefits while also contributing to the visual appeal of the structure. Positive collaboration was a constant mindset," said Victor Ritter, architect at Shive-Hattery. MCN

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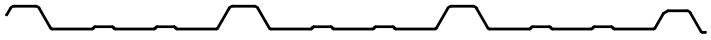
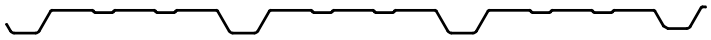
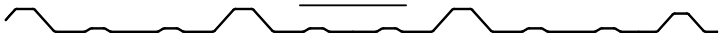


Vertarib

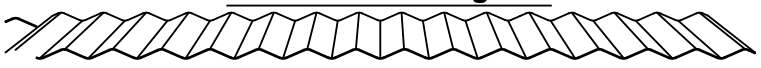


A-Panel

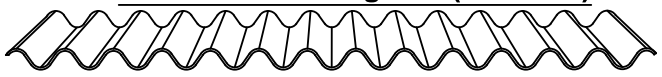
R-Panel



2.67" x 1/2" Corrugated



2.67" x 7/8" Corrugated (3/4" also)



Flex-B-Deck (36") - Roof Deck - Composite Floor Deck - Form Deck

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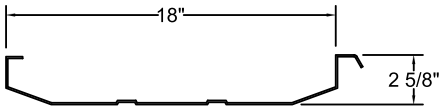
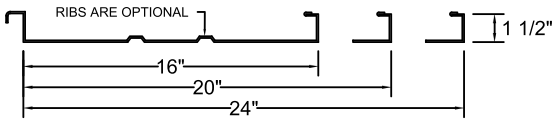
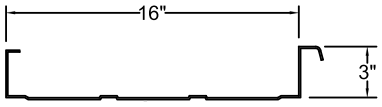
FSS-18 Standing Seam



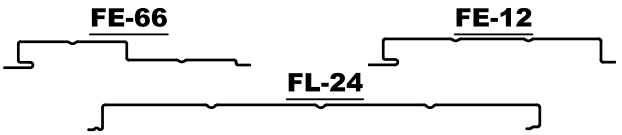
FSS-1.5 Series



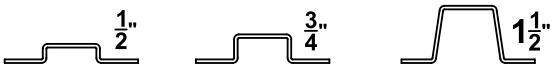
FSS-316 Standing Seam



Architectural Panels



16 & 18 GA. Galv. Subgirts



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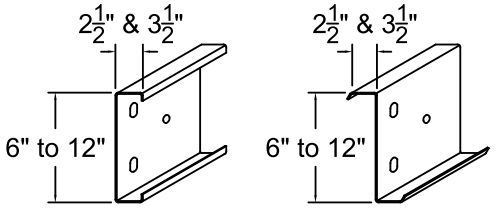

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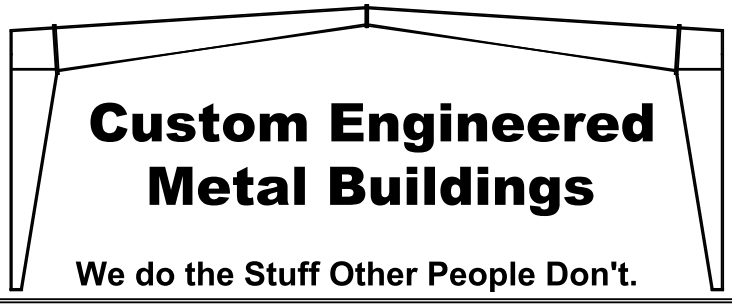

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Metal façade: EXTECH, Pittsburgh, Pa., **extechinc.com**

Marquette University Wellness + Helfaer Recreation Facility, Milwaukee, Wisc.

At Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, EXTECH's KINETICWALL takes on an entirely different expression—as environmental art. Installed in the new Wellness + Helfaer Recreation Facility, the 515 m^2 (5,538-sf) feature wall serves as both a landmark and a healing instrument. Designed in collaboration with renowned environmental artist Ned Kahn, the kinetic façade seeks to reconnect people with nature through light, air, and motion.

In a recent interview with *Marquette Today*, Kahn said, "What if the entire building could function as a healing instrument for the university and the community? Visually connecting people to the mysterious and beautiful air that we breathe … transforming the entire building into a healing, fluid environment."

EXTECH fabricated the feature wall from 152 mm x 152 mm (6 x 6 in.) aluminum kinetic elements, spaced 25 mm (1 in.) apart to optimize movement and visual effect. Each flapper is coated in a calming blue Kynar finish, chosen to evoke the shimmering surface of nearby Lake Michigan. Pre-assembled into panels measuring approximately 1.78 m (5.83 ft) wide by 3.35 m (11 ft) tall, the system was installed in three vertical tiers to form a seamless animated surface. The kinetic movement of the wall creates an ever-changing mosaic of light and texture, reflecting wind patterns and the surrounding environment.

The kinetic design continues inside the building, where four smaller kinetic tile arrays echo the exterior theme and extend the sensory experience to interior spaces. The result is a space that not only serves physical wellness but also inspires mental and emotional clarity.

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Belmont University, Nashville, Tenn.

Across Belmont University's Tennessee campus, Tubelite curtain wall, storefront, and entrance systems help convey a campus-wide aesthetic that complements the functionality and personality of each space. Through a decades-long partnership, glazing contractor Alexander Metals has installed Tubelite products on more than 10 buildings since 2011. These projects range from academic facilities to athletic centers and from performing arts spaces to student residences, all set within a 37.6-hectare (93-acre) area located just 3.12 kilometers (2 miles) from downtown Nashville.

Ensuring every project's architectural vision, performance, and sustainability requirements are upheld, Alexander Metals and Tubelite worked closely with the university, the owner's representative ChaseCo, and the team of architects and contractors. Many of the campus's new and renovated structures, featuring Tubelite aluminum framing systems, were designed by the architectural firm Earl Swensson Associates (ESa) and constructed by R.C. Mathews Contractor. All Tubelite aluminum framing systems were finished by Linetec. Both Tubelite and Linetec are brands of Apogee Architectural Metals.

"It is an absolutely beautiful campus and with a lot of Tubelite framing systems," said Tim Fookes, during a recent tour of the campus with Alexander Metals and Tubelite representative Gary Bowie of G. Bowie & Associates. Fookes serves as vice president of product engineering for Apogee Architectural Metals.

Bowie added, "Our long relationship with ESa's architectural team, as well as our commitment to Alexander Metals as a stellar working partner, continues to make the many projects at Belmont University successful."

Owner: Belmont University; Nashville, Tenn., **belmont.edu**
Owner's representative: ChaseCo; Nashville, Tenn.
Architect: Earl Swensson Associates (ESa); Nashville, Tenn., **esarch.com**
General contractor: R.C. Mathews Contractor; Nashville, Tenn., **rcmathews.com**
Glazing contractor: Alexander Metals, Inc.; Nashville, Tenn., **alexandermetalsinc.com**
Architectural building products' representative: G. Bowie & Associates; Nashville, Tenn., **gbowieandassoc.com**
Storefront, curtainwall, and entrance aluminum framing systems – manufacturer: Tubelite; Wausau, Wisc., **tubeliteusa.com**
Aluminum framing systems – finishing service provider: Linetec; Wausau, Wisc., **linetec.com**

PHOTOS COURTESY SAM SIMPKINS/BELMONT UNIVERSITY

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Zeta Inwood Charter School, Brooklin, N.Y.

Zeta is an expanding New York City charter school education provider. The organization operates four other pre-K, kindergarten elementary, and middle schools in the boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx.

The school's doors and other products were specified with many custom features and finishes.

A striking feature of the GAMCO exterior doors is the unusual custom blue color specified to engage the students. GAMCO finished the doors and surrounding framing with Duranar Blue Lilac Kynar paint. The interior office doors and accompanying framing were finished in a more traditional Pigeon Gray Kynar paint.

For the project, GAMCO supplied seven single and four pair versions of its D500 commercial door. The doors were used in both exterior and interior applications at the building's main entrance, the accompanying entrance vestibule, to access a rooftop playground, and with the school's main office. The GAMCO D500 is a wide-stile door tested structurally to 400.4 kgf/m^2 (82.5 psf) with 127 mm (5 in.) vertical stiles, 127 mm (5 in.) top rails, custom 127 or 254 mm (5 or 10 in.) mid-rails, and 254 mm (10 in.) bottom rails. The office doors differed in that they had no mid-rails and double-stacked 254 mm (10 in.) bottom rails. All the exterior and vestibule doors were fitted with 457 mm (18 in.) offset pull handles, while the interior office doors used keyed lever handle locksets.

As a school, the project specification required an extensive number of door safety-related option components and custom hardware, which GAMCO supplied and factory-installed. All the exterior doors were equipped with fail-safe electric strike magnetic locks as well as traditional key locks. Touch bar exit-only devices were also specified. For access that is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), some of the exterior and vestibule doors were outfitted with electric-powered automatic door operators and hard-wired wall-mounted actuators.

The building's main entrance and vestibule feature two sets of GAMCO pair doors, flanked by four single doors, all finished in a dramatic custom shade of blue. Surrounding the exterior entrance and vestibule doors, and also in the custom blue, is GAMCO's CW250 curtain wall system.

The GAMCO CW250 is an aluminum product with tested performance that meets American Architectural Manufacturers Association (AAMA) and National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC) standards. The framing for the exterior curtain wall used 63.5 mm (2.5 in) by 139.7 mm (5.5 in.) back members. The interior vestibule framing, not exposed to the exterior environment, utilized lighter 63.5 (2.5 in.) by 98.4 mm (3.9 in.) framing components. The GAMCO curtain wall at door openings features an ADA-compliant 12.7-mm (0.5-in.) high saddle.

GAMCO's aluminum FG451 and FG450 storefront glass framing system was used for two rooftop playground entranceways and the interior office space. These systems have also been tested and meet AAMA and NFRC standards. This GAMCO product also has a 12.7-mm (0.5-in.) tall ADA-compliant saddle at door openings.

At the Inwood facility, Zeta provides education from pre-kindergarten through grade 7. The "vertical school" interior spaces include 33 classrooms, a cafeteria, offices, special instruction rooms (*e.g.*, dance, yoga, music), and a gymnasium. The building also features an outdoor 929 m^2 (10,000 sf) rooftop playground, and for younger students, a smaller outdoor playground located atop the setback on the second floor.

PHOTOS COURTESY VISTA SKYWALL SYSTEMS

Owner: Zeta Charter Schools, New York City, **zetaschools.org**
Door and curtain walls: GAMCO, Flushing, N.Y., **gamcocorp.com**
Fenestration system supplier: Vista Skywall Systems, Flushing, N.Y., **vistaskywall.com**

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How Advanced Leveling Technology Raises the Bar for Metal Construction

Article courtesy Bradbury

In the world of metal construction, the stakes for quality and performance are higher than ever. Whether it is long-span architectural panels, high-visibility building facades, or precision-engineered roof systems, panel flatness, structural integrity, and aesthetics all depend on one critical phase of production: proper leveling and cut-to-length (CTL) processing.

Why panel flatness matters

Consider a large architectural wall panel stretching 12.2 m (40 ft) across a building façade or a roof panel exposed to high wind and thermal movement. Suppose the material arrives with coil-set, oil canning/center buckle, crossbow, or edge-wave defects. In that case, the result can be more than just an aesthetic flaw: unlevel panels can lead to poor panel fit-up, water intrusion, accelerated fastener fatigue, and compromised structural performance.

Modern levelers on CTL lines are designed to eliminate coil set, oil canning/center buckle, crossbow, and edge wave, delivering blanks with outstanding flatness and dimensional accuracy. What happens during leveling directly impacts the downstream production throughput, construction quality, turnaround time, and warranty risk.

When providing rollforming equipment for metal building systems, whether for roofing, wall panels, trim, or purlins, the upstream condition of material is a foundational consideration. If the incoming flat sheet is out of spec, even the most advanced rollformer cannot fully compensate. That's where advanced leveling and CTL technology become a strategic advantage.

What happens in a leveler + CTL line?

A typical leveling and CTL line begins with the uncoiler, proceeds through a leveler, then a shear to cut the sheet to length, followed by stacking and packaging. At the heart of this process lies the leveler:

- Roller levelers (4-high, 5-high, or 6-high) flatten material, including ultra high-strength steel (UHSS) and advanced high-strength steel (AHSS), by repeatedly bending it in alternate directions and stretching material to eliminate shape deformation and equalize stress.
- Stretchlevelersapplytensioninthelineallengths

High-precision levelers are the core to CTL lines, and flatness is a fundamental aspect of the final product.

to remove residual stresses and deliver flat sheets even in high-tensile steels.

- After leveling, the shear cuts the sheet to the specified length with precision, often 0.5 mm (0.02 in.) or better.
- The stacker organizes the cut sheets so downstream processes (rollforming, punching, and shipping) handle clean, flat product.

High-precision levelers are the core to CTL lines, and flatness is a fundamental aspect of the final product.

Connecting this to the mission

Investing in high-flatness blanks enables rollformers to consistently achieve tight tolerances, minimize waste, and reduce downstream frustration when panels stack, interlock, or line up on-site.

For example, when a panel rollformer receives coil blanks that are already flat and free from memory, the formed panel is less likely to warp, panel cover widths stay true, and assemblies align cleanly with architectural or structural requirements. That improves on-site fit-up, simplifies installation, and delivers a better result, both functionally and visually.

Key benefits of advanced leveling for metal construction

Structural performance

Flat panels reduce stress concentration, ensure uniform fastening engagement, and support wind/uplift loads as specified.

Aesthetic quality

On long-span panels, especially, visible waviness or deviation in flatness becomes noticeable. A properly leveled blank avoids aesthetic defects.

Formability and yield

When material is flat, rollforming is more efficient, with less scrap, fewer misfeeds, and smoother transitions through the tooling.

Installation efficiency

Builders and erectors receive panels that stack properly, engage seamlessly, and integrate with trim and accessories as intended. Fewer adjustments mean faster build-out.

Warranty and longevity

Panels manufactured from flat, dimensionally accurate blanks are less likely to experience installation-related issues, thereby reducing long-term service risk.

Real–world technology in action

Modern cut-to-length (CTL) and leveling systems are engineered to meet the demanding precision and flexibility requirements of today's construction materials. Heavy-gauge CTL lines can process material up to 25.4 mm (1 in.) thick while utilizing stretch leveling technology to eliminate internal stresses. This ensures panels maintain exceptional flatness and stability, making them

Modern cut-to-length (CTL) and leveling systems are engineered to meet the demanding precision and flexibility requirements of today's construction materials.

The flatter the panel, the more predictable the performance—and the fewer surprises at installation.

ideal for use in heavy structural and architectural applications.

Advanced leveling systems are designed to remove the inherent stresses and "memory" within metal, ensuring panels remain consistently flat and stable. This level of precision yields material that meets the stringent requirements of laser cutting, fabrication, and high-end architectural applications, where surface quality and accuracy are paramount.

This matters to metal building manufacturers who supply long-span panels or architectural wall systems. The flatter the panel, the more predictable the performance—and the fewer surprises at install.

Why this matters to customers

Customers such as rollformer operations and trim shops depend on equipment that can handle a range of tasks, from panel lines to trim shops and down to gutters and accessories. When the upstream material is optimized, several operational benefits follow:

- **Improved throughput:** Flat blanks reduce setup time and misfeeds on the rollformer.
- **Better panel consistency:** Repeatable cover widths and formed profiles promote quality.
- **Reduced rework:** Less warping, less fitting on-site, and fewer callbacks.
- **Optimized production costs:** Less scrap, better yield, and fewer stoppages lead to better ROI for equipment investment.

For example, one of our metal building customers recently attributed their improved sequence throughput and fewer installation surprises to the fact that their material supplier upgraded to a stretch-levelled CTL line. Because the blanks arrived flat, their rollformer ran parts more reliably, and the installed panels aligned better on the building site.

Future trends: What's next in panel–leveling technology?

As demand grows for architectural roofing and wall systems, longer panels, more demanding aesthetics, and higher-performance coatings, the technology behind leveling and CTL lines continues to evolve. Some trends worth tracking:

- **Higher-strength steels and ultra-high-strength materials:** As yield strengths climb, flatness requirements tighten. Levelers must be able to yield higher-strength steels and handle more residual stress removal.
- **Broader alloy use (*e.g.*, aluminum, stainless, coated steel):** Surface-critical materials require leveling that preserves coating, appearance, and tight tolerances.
- **Integration of automation and real-time flatness monitoring:** Sensors enable material condition feedback, reducing defects and enabling predictive adjustments in the leveler.
- **Sustainability and material efficiency:** Better flatness means less waste, fewer rejects, and more efficient material usage, aligning with sustainability goals.
- **End-to-end system optimization:** The leveling and CTL line are becoming a part of a larger ecosystem. Coil-handling, blanking, roll forming, finishing, shipping, and each link must deliver precision to meet the next.

Final thoughts

Failure to address material flatness early in the manufacturing chain can undermine even the best rollforming equipment, trim lines, and panel systems. To achieve exceptional panel quality, both the equipment and the incoming material must work together seamlessly. Consistent, well-prepared blanks are essential to producing panels that meet the highest standards of performance and appearance.

By embracing advanced leveling and CTL technology, manufacturers raise the bar for panel quality, delivering superior structural performance, aesthetic appeal, installation efficiency, and long-term reliability. Ultimately, it is not just about cutting and forming metal; it is about pursuing panel perfection from coil to completion.

For those in the metal construction industry seeking a competitive edge, partnering with a company that understands and leverages material-conditioning technology, alongside equipment purpose-built for panel production, is the path forward. MCN

PHOTO COURTESY METALFORMING

PERFORMANCE AND PROFIT: Optimizing Sheet Metal Workflow

By Chad Rowe

More than 100 years ago, the optimization of workflows led to a revolution in manufacturing. In the early 1900s, Henry Ford revolutionized manufacturing with a fundamental concept: keeping the process moving by reducing time and labor costs, thereby making the Ford car affordable for everyone.

How does your sheet metal shop or central manufacturing factory compare to concepts from the early 1900s? Over the last 30 years, the sheet metal industry has undergone significant changes in technology and equipment, as well as in the interaction between these two factors.

A timeline of innovation

In the early to mid-1980s, the sheet metal industry experienced its first significant change with the introduction of CNC folding technology to the U.S. market. By early 1998, the U.S. market had seen the introduction of the first color graphic control system on a CNC sheet metal folding machine. Early 1999 saw the coil processing market change with the introduction of an affordable slit-to-width and cut-to-length machine. Now, it is possible to outfit a shop with nearly completely hands-free operations. These introductions, along with others, have enabled the sheet metal industry to evolve.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution

The last 30 years have brought about some of the largest technological changes to our everyday lives. This period is often considered the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The Fourth Industrial Revolution revolves around two key elements: key technology, including cyber-physical systems—the Internet of Things—and the second, increased connectivity and intelligence, which blur the lines between physical and digital. When looking at these factors, these questions must be asked:

- How can these advances boost performance and profit?
- How can these advances boost sheet metal workflows?
- Is your company taking advantage of systems developed and designed to increase performance, efficiency, and profitability?

Optimization goes beyond the work floor

Optimizing sheet metal workflow involves more than just the physical flow or movement of goods from their raw material form to a finished product ready for delivery to their intended purpose. The process starts with how an order is entered into a company's system. Many software systems exist today to help with the ease of entering orders, maintaining inventory, and even drawing a desired profile to determine if it is possible to produce the equipment a company owns. These software systems are at the heart of optimizing a company's efficiency. A company's decision to

PHOTO COURTESY METALFORMING

The amount of effort, labor, and lack of efficiency in performance does not lead to profit. Performance must be a combination of all the tools available to maximize profit.

Many software systems exist today to help with the ease of entering orders, maintaining inventory, and even drawing a desired profile to determine if it is possible to produce the equipment a company owns.

transition from a pen-and-paper system or a basic electronic system to a robust enterprise resource planning (ERP) system that uses graphic technology, AI scheduling, and time-to-produce requires discipline and dedication. Today's market is very competitive. How you set your company apart from others begins with the very first interaction. The ease of placing an order with digital details, order confirmations, and schedule updates is one of the benefits of using software systems.

These systems can optimize production schedules, making a shop more efficient and productive. Most of today's equipment can communicate with software systems. Some can even provide feedback on the software systems, such as when a process has started and finished. Real-time production data can be collected to optimize scheduling and determine production times. This information enables a company to determine actual costs, production times, and delivery schedules, which in turn allows for ensuring profitability.

Updating the shop floor

Shop floor layouts must evolve in tandem with the advancements in upgraded equipment technology. Utilizing the shop space to minimize any non-value-added movements must be considered when adding new technology. Systems with built-in automation are only as good as the plan to keep them fed with materials.

However, manually moving materials over a considerable distance is counterproductive. Shop layouts can be a challenge, so to use space in its most effective manner, out-of-the-box thinking is required. At a minimum, change will be


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Shop floor layouts must evolve in tandem with the advancements in upgraded equipment technology.

necessary. Statements such as "this is how we have always done it" and "it's worked well so far" will only keep you exactly where you are—they do not allow you to grow.

Performance and profit

What is performance, and how is it measured? Performance is often tied to profit. The better the profit, the better the performance must be, is a common thought. The amount of effort, labor, and lack of efficiency in performance does not lead to profit. Performance must be a combination of all the tools available to maximize profit.

What is the right combination of tools for a shop? Performance is measured in different ways. Feet per minute, bends per shift, pieces per hour, and hours on a job site are just a few examples. Performance must be considered in relation to the task, past performance, expected performance, and goals. I am often asked to quantify performance based on the speed of a specific machine function. Rarely am I asked what the performance is, what the throughput is, and how that relates to how I am producing my products today. Challenges exist in every aspect of achieving the desired performance, leading to the desired profit. By applying the principles established in the early 1900s in conjunction with current technology, organizations can anticipate improved performance and profitability in the years to come. MCN

Chad Rowe *is the director – business development for MetalForming. Rowe spent the first nine years of his professional career with the US Navy as a nuclear submarine-trained electrician. Joining MetalForming in 1999 as a field service technician, Chad has 25 years in the industry, serving in multiple capacities. He is currently providing customers with the guidance necessary to find the optimum solutions to their architectural sheet metal needs.*

Leading Economist Shares Insights on Moving from Uncertainty to Complexity at METALCON 2025

PHOTO COURTESY NEUBEK PHOTOGRAPHERS

METALCON welcomed economist Alex Chausovsky of The Bundy Group to the keynote stage in Las Vegas for an insightful address focused on navigating the next phase of economic and industrial transformation.

An internationally recognized expert in economics and markets, speaker, and strategy consultant, Chausovsky discussed a shift in mindset from managing uncertainty to embracing complexity under the theme "Connecting Data to Action."

"We've been through similar challenges before," he said, referencing the COVID-19 pandemic. "Now, we can project with confidence that we will figure this out. We can do this together. We have the mindset to get it done."

Economic strength and global context

Chausovsky underscored the continued dominance of the U.S. economy, noting that at $30 trillion, it represents more than a quarter of global GDP and remains one-third larger than China's $20 trillion economy. "We are not going to be overtaken with our economy," he affirmed, adding that even New York and parts of New Jersey together exceed Russia's $2.2 trillion economy.

He highlighted that since 1980, the United States has maintained a consistent 26 percent share of global GDP, reinforcing the nation's enduring economic influence. However, he cautioned that the United States must ensure its global partners do not gain competitive ground.

"Our biggest vulnerability is our allies," said Chausovsky. The concern is that our allies are being pushed closer to our competitors—closer to China and Russia."

Global trade, tariffs, and economic trends

Chausovsky talked about purchasing power parity (PPP) as a key factor in understanding China's internal advantage—its ability to afford more goods and services for the same amount of money. He cautioned that, unless the United States acts strategically, China's production capacity will continue to outpace it.

He addressed trade relations with Canada and ongoing tariff impacts, clarifying misconceptions about an impending recession.

"We are not in a recession; we are not even headed towards one," he emphasized.

According to Chausovsky, while 37 percent of tariffs have been passed to U.S. consumers, 9 percent have been absorbed by companies. The overall economic impact, he said, remains limited, with tariffs typically taking 12 to 18 months to fully take effect.

Looking ahead: 2026 and beyond

Chausovsky forecasted a flat economy for 2026, with minimal growth expected due to restrictive interest rates. He added that pessimism among CEOs is equal to that seen during the COVID-19 pandemic and has persisted since April 2 (Liberation Day)—reflecting neither growth nor contraction.

"You want to be conservative and tighten the belt," he advised. "Unless we can get out of our own way, it will tread."

"The key takeaway for 2026 is to maintain profitability and make sure you have money to reinvest into the business," he said.

Chausovsky then posed the question, "What can you do?" He said, "Increase prices or increase your market share."

He encouraged leaders to:

- Retain employees, as workforce participation remains strong.
- Budget 3 to 4 percent for cost-of-living increases.
- Communicate more frequently with suppliers, ideally moving from quarterly to monthly updates.
- Diversify pricing strategies—either by increasing prices or capturing greater market share.

He also emphasized the importance of legal immigration in sustaining the labor force, warning that without progress, workforce shortages could begin as early as 2027.

Closing his address, Chausovsky reiterated his core message for the metal construction industry: while today's economic landscape is complex, waiting on the sidelines is not an option. He acknowledged concerns that tariffs could push the economy toward recession but affirmed that this is not the case. Instead, he urged industry professionals to stay informed, remain agile, and position their businesses to succeed in an evolving market landscape.

The outlook may be complex, but it remains one that the industry is fully capable of navigating—momentum that will continue as the conversation moves forward at METALCON 2026.

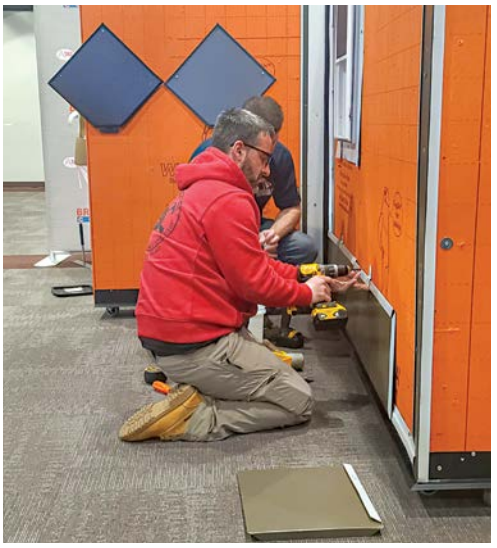

PHOTO COURTESY ATAS INTERNATIONAL

ATAS Announces 2026 Metal Wall Panel Installation Seminar Schedule

ATAS International has announced the 2026 dates for its metal wall panel installation seminars. Classroom learning and hands-on installation practice, along with a factory tour where applicable, are covered during the seminar. Classroom learning includes education on ATAS' specific wall panels, common substrates to which panels are applied, and tools recommended for panel installation. For the hands-on installation portion of the seminar, three different panel applications will be covered: horizontally applied panels over open framing, vertically applied panels over a solid deck, and metal shingles applied over a solid deck.

All seminars will take place from Wednesday to Thursday. Day one begins with lunch at ATAS, followed by training, and ends with a group dinner at a local restaurant. Day two begins with breakfast at ATAS, followed by the balance of the training. The dates and locations for the 2026 seminars are:

Allentown, Pa.
(ATAS headquarters)

- April 8-9
- October 14-15

Mesa, Ariz.

- January 7-8
- November 18-19

University Park, Ill.

- February 11-12
- December 2-3

Classes are taught by industry experts with extensive experience working with metal wall cladding. For more information or to register for a session, please visit www.atas.com/in-person-installation-seminar.

Associated Builders and Contractors Elects Thomas "Murph" Murphy as Board Chair

PHOTO COURTESY ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS (ABC)

Associated Builders and Contractors has announced Thomas "Murph" Murphy, vice president of Power & Construction Group, Scottsville, N.Y., was elected 2026 chair of the ABC National Board of Directors during its meeting at the association's annual Leadership Institute in Marco Island, Fla.

"I am blessed and honored to serve ABC and its members in the role of 2026 national chair," said Murphy. "Starting my construction career in the field and learning the importance of every position on a jobsite makes me appreciate how the merit shop gives everyone the opportunity to rise from laborer to industry leader. I am proud to work alongside the men and women of ABC who are engaged in growing our businesses, upskilling our workforces, and fighting for free and open competition across America. In this role, I look forward to not only advancing ABC's political advocacy to champion free enterprise, defend worker choice, and support small business, but also to growing the prestigious Accredited Quality Contractor credential among elite members for their commitment to corporate responsibility."

"ABC is synonymous with merit in the construction industry, and the contractors who lead our association embody what merit means by building better communities, investing in their workers, and delivering projects that raise the bar for quality, safety, and integrity," said Michael Bellaman, ABC president and CEO. "Congratulations to Murph, chair-elect Brandon Mabile, secretary Lorri Grayson, and every member of the 2026 executive committee for being chosen to build a stronger future for ABC, its members, and its chapters."

The members of ABC's 2026 executive committee, who will take office on January 1, 2026, are:

- **Chair of the ABC Board of Directors:** Thomas "Murph" Murphy, vice president, Power & Construction Group, Scottsville, N.Y.
- **Chair-elect:** Brandon Mabile, corporate business development director, Performance Contractors Inc., Baton Rouge, La.
- **Secretary and Mid-Atlantic region vice chair:** Lorri Grayson, partner and founder, GGA Construction, Middletown, Del.
- **Treasurer:** Kenneth Gardiner, CPA, CCIFP, partner, Dannible & McKee, LLP, Syracuse, N.Y.
- **Immediate past chair:** David Pugh, partner, Bradley LLP, Birmingham, Ala.
- **Mid-America region vice chair:** Ryan Odendahl, president and CEO, Kwest Group, Perrysburg, Ohio
- **Midwest region vice chair:** Jessica Cannizzaro, president and master plumber, Milestone Plumbing Inc., Wauwatosa, Wisc.
- **Mountain West region vice chair:** Steve Grauer, regional vice president, Southwest Region of Hensel Phelps Construction, Phoenix
- **Northeast region vice chair:** Michael Bennett, senior executive vice president, CIANBRO, Pittsfield, Maine
- **Pacific region vice chair:** Greg Gutierrez, president and CEO, Truitt Corp., Bakersfield, Calif.
- **South Central region vice chair:** Christopher Martinez, president and CEO, Central Electric, San Antonio
- **Southeast region vice chair:** Kerrick Whisenant, president, Limestone Building Group LLC, Hartselle, Ala.
- **Chapter presidents' liaison:** Shandon Harbour, president and CEO, ABC San Diego chapter
- **ABC national president and CEO:** Michael Bellaman

Top 3 U.S. Cities for Construction Jobs, Ranked

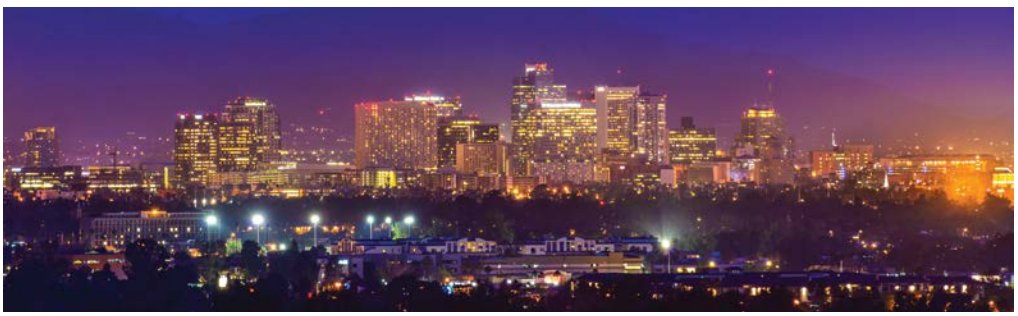

PHOTO © DSZC/GETTY IMAGES

The U.S. construction industry saw total 2025 spending climbing to $2.2 trillion, a 2 percent increase from 2024. Alongside this growth, the job market has expanded marginally, with 96,000 new construction jobs added this year, representing a 1.2 percent increase from the previous year.

Astrak, a global supplier of undercarriage and wear parts for heavy machinery, analyzed which U.S. cities offer the best opportunities for construction workers. These rankings considered several factors, including the share of local employment in construction, year-over-year job growth, the number of new housing units authorized per 1,000 existing homes, and median construction salaries.

Based on these criteria, the top three cities for construction workers are:

Phoenix, Ariz.
Phoenix takes the top spot as the best city for construction employees, with 8.4 percent of its workforce in the industry, tied for the second-highest share overall. The city also leads the nation in year-over-year construction job growth at 6.9 percent, fueled in part by large-scale projects such as the planned $7 billion Halo Vista development. With 21.4 new housing units authorized per 1,000 existing homes and a median construction wage of $55,438, Phoenix offers both opportunity and stability for workers.

Raleigh, N.C.
Ranked second, Raleigh also boasts 8.4 percent of its workforce in construction, tying it with Phoenix for the second-highest percentage. Its construction employment grew 5.5 percent year over year, placing it fifth among U.S. cities, and major projects such as the $1 billion Raleigh Sports and Entertainment District are driving further momentum. Raleigh tops the nation in housing growth with 28.8 new units per 1,000 existing homes, and workers earn a median wage of $50,802.

Austin, Texas
Austin ranks third for construction employees, with 7.7 percent of its workforce in the industry, placing it seventh nationwide. The city recorded a 6.4 percent year-over-year increase in construction jobs, the second highest of any city on the list, driven in part by major initiatives such as the $7.1 billion Project Connect Light Rail. With 28.6 new housing units per 1,000 existing homes, the second highest overall, and a median wage of $50,799, Austin remains a prime destination for construction professionals.

Apple Self Storage facility, Guelph, Ont.

The self-storage industry is experiencing significant growth, with projections indicating that the supply of new self-storage spaces is set to double year-over-year by 2026.

Several other demographic trends are fueling this demand, particularly an aging population, which is increasingly downsizing its living spaces.

Responding to these changes, Apple Self Storage, a self-storage provider, expanded its operations to Guelph, Ont., Canada, in 2025. The new facility was strategically placed in this growing, environmentally conscious urban area, catering to students and working professionals, and offering a modern, sustainable self-storage solution to meet local demands.

The project was designed with sustainability at its core. Every aspect of the project was developed with careful consideration for minimizing environmental impact. Notably, the land required extensive ecological remediation before construction could begin.

Additionally, the facility aims to achieve carbon neutrality, so a strong focus was placed on using environmentally friendly building materials and technologies. To help meet this goal, architects Cspace Architecture Inc. and Rick Brown and Associates Inc. chose Kingspan's insulated metal panels (IMPs) for the facility. Kingspan's K-Roc HF insulated panels are available with multiple aesthetic profiles and a variety of panel thicknesses, providing superior fire protection in sensitive environments while providing architectural flexibility.

The thermal efficiency of these panels plays a key role in helping the facility achieve its carbon-neutral goals. Aesthetic appeal was also a crucial factor in this project, as the design had to adhere to local architectural standards while also presenting a modern and inviting appearance that would complement the surrounding community.

The sleek, modern aesthetic of the 1,658 m² (17,850 sf) K-Roc HF panels in the Shadowline profile, finished in Driftwood colour, allowed the facility to align with local architectural design standards while offering a distinctive, contemporary look.

The project timeline was also a key consideration in construction, as the self-storage market is highly competitive; completing the facility quickly without compromising quality was essential. The prefabricated nature of Kingspan's panels helped to expedite the construction process. Installed quickly by Frost Building Systems Inc., the panels ensured that the facility was "dried-in" much faster than traditional construction methods would have allowed. This quick installation enabled interior work to proceed without delay, helping the project meet deadlines.

The use of Kingspan IMPs not only contributed to the facility's immediate thermal efficiency and aesthetic appeal but also ensured that the building can maintain its performance in the community for years to come. MCNEW

PHOTOS COURTESY TRINA KOSTER

Owner: Canprop Inc., Aurora, Ont., Canada
General contractor: Fieldgate Construction Management Ltd., North York, Ont., Canada, **fieldgateconstruction.com**
Architects: Cspace Architecture Inc., Bolton, Ont., Canada, **cspace.ca**, and Rick Brown and Associates Inc., Mississauga, Ont., Canada,
Management: Apple Self Storage Management Ltd., Aurora, Ont., Canada, **appleselfstorage.com**
Installer: Frost Building Systems Inc., Brantford, Ont., Canada, **frostinc.ca**
Construction manager: Malleum Development Corporation, Toronto, Ont., Canada

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