Why Kodiak?

Kodiak Engineering supports Newman's philosophy and strives to apply our skills and knowledge to benefit the Architect, Consultant, Design Build Contractor, Engineer, General Contractor, Owner and Project Manager…

Excerpt from
Metal Building Systems: Design and Specifications
2nd Edition 2004, Alexander Newman
PREFACE

There was a time when architectural decision making concerning pre-engineered metal buildings was confined to a choice among shades of beige. Those days are gone. Now metal building systems can accommodate a variety of floor plan requirements and are offered in a rainbow of exterior finishes. More and more, architects and engineers retained directly by prospective owners conceive and conceptually design these buildings before manufacturers become involved. According to a recent survey by *Metal Construction News,* architects are engaged in over one-half of all metal building contracts.

These professionals need reference material. According to another survey, many architects, contractors, and building owners inexperienced with metal building systems seek information about the systems' performance specifications, energy efficiency, and compliance with building codes. Unfortunately, design schools and textbooks tend to ignore this type of construction, apparently assuming that it belongs in the manufacturer's domain. True, the manufacturers and their trade associations do produce facility planning guides, publish codes of standard practice for the industry, and disseminate a wealth of other literature. These publications are useful for people in the field and those outside it who have an adequate grasp of the critical issues, plus the time and patience to struggle through dozens of three-ring binders filled with glossy brochures, proprietary product names, and specialized jargon. For the rest of us, it may seem that all metal building suppliers are essentially the same and that they would just as soon avoid our meddling or any owner-imposed special criteria.
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The stubborn fact remains, however, that as with any other type of construction, metal buildings can be poorly conceived, specified, designed, and erected, which may result in problems with excessive deflections of structural members, cracking of finishes, building vibrations, and damage from excessive snow accumulation or violent hurricanes. Furthermore, the proprietary nature of the field makes misunderstanding of the design intent by a supplier difficult to detect, unless the specifiers know which questions to ask. Quite often, the manufacturer who offers a seemingly irresistible quote on a project may not end up being selected under more rigorous criteria that consider factors other than price alone and compare "apples to apples."

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