

DETAILING APPRENTICES

I have done detailing re-work for one of the fabricators mentioned in your article “Steel Business Group Members Travel to Romania to Secure Detailing Resources” (July 2002). I enjoyed working for them and they paid their bill, and after reading your article I now know why the re-work was needed, and why the original drawings were board drawings—they probably were originally outsourced to an off-shore detailer. But because it cost them extra money to have me finish the job properly, I wonder if they actually had any savings.

I won't begrudge anyone saving money on a job. But Romania is not the answer. What is needed is some apprenticeship programs where younger drafters could learn some of the finer points of detailing from older ones, so we can get projects out that don't have 100 extra hours of field correction for the fabricator to complain about.

I've interviewed several younger people for detailing work, they know computers and some know engineering. However, few are willing to get out in the field and touch the steel they're working with or to spend several days in a hot, sweaty shop seeing how the steel is put together.

I still believe the American and Canadian detailers are the best in the world because we have more regulations (i.e., OSHA) to contend with in our drawings than others.

*TuSeas
via email*

RECOMMENDED READING

Today got a chance to read the May issue of *Modern Steel Construction*. In it, I was saddened to read of the passing of Ken Iverson. I never met him, so I really can't add anything to the well-written column about him. However, for anyone inter-

ested in learning more about Mr. Iverson and Nucor-Yamato, I would highly recommend reading *American Steel: Hot metal men and the resurrection of the Rust Belt* by Richard Preston. It's an in-depth yet entertaining narrative about the people responsible for the creation of modern Nucor—a great American story about ingenuity, persistence and ambition (and steel). I think it's out of print, but used copies can still be found.

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Modern Steel Construction welcomes reader feedback. Contact either Scott Melnick (melnick@modernsteel.com) or Keith Grubb (grubb@modernsteel.com) with your comments or concerns.