

Regarding the February 2003 *Notes from the Editor*: Calling the NASCC "The Steel Show" would de-professionalize a conference which many believe to be the most professional way to maintain design proficiency in steel. Shortening it to "The Steel Conference" keeps professional dignity in the title and avoids a "fun and games" association.

I thoroughly endorse promoting the importance of selecting and consulting a "Structural Steel Specialist" in the design stage, which would materially benefit the finished product.

Calling the steel supplier a subcontractor encourages the practice of issuing subcontracts instead of purchase orders for the structure, saddling the fabricator with "pay when paid" and "retainage" clauses, which hungry fabricators find difficult to refuse.

This said, the small shops which fabricate the vast majority of structural steel must work harder to merit the title of "Structural Steel Specialist."

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