

TEARING DOWN THE HOUSE



IT WAS A CLOSE RACE but in the end, King Kong couldn't be denied.

"Tearing Down the House" took the win in AISC's annual SteelDay Sculpture Competition. Fourteen sculptures were entered this year, with the top five vote-getters (via "Likes" on AISC's Facebook page) making the trip to this year's NASCC: The Steel Conference in Nashville. There, attendees voted for their favorite, and the gargantuan gorilla came out on top. (For a roundup of this year's show, see page 60.)

So why King Kong? The sculpture's conceptual designer, Adam Burnside of AISC Member fabricator Coastal Steel, Inc., explained that it was a matter of coming up with something that would honor the accomplishments of the steel industry in a fun way and with an instantly recognizable image.

"How do you pay this respect and capture the hearts of the young and old?" asked Burnside. "You find something that strikes a chord and you bring it to life! That is exactly what our design team did by capturing the unforgettable climactic scene from *King Kong*."

"And even without the film reference, the Empire State Building immediately comes to mind as an American cultural icon," he continued. "For over 40 years, she stood as the world's tallest building, admired by everyone, a true testament to the steel industry."

Sculptures must be made only of steel and entirely by the submitting company's staff, and must fit inside a 2-ft x 2-ft x 2-ft box; only AISC full and associate Members can submit sculptures.

Burnside noted that while this size limitation was certainly a challenge, it also mustered a certain giddiness amongst the team.

"We started with a simple sketch and let our imaginations run wild," he recalled. "Trying to cram that much detail and coolness in the designated volume seemed to bring out the kid in each of us."

The Coastal Steel team (led by Burnside) responsible for "Tearing Down the House" consisted of Ryan Alligood, Blane Banse, Scotty Broughton, Zak Burnside, Codie Hyde, Kevin Kondash and Brian Navarre.

To learn more about the SteelDay Sculpture Competition and view all of this year's entries, visit www.steelday.org/sculpturecomp.