

structurally sound



THE STRONGEST LINK

CODY BUILDERS SUPPLY wears its motto on its sleeve—or rather on its sculpture.

The sculpture (and motto)—*Steel Is Only as Strong as Those Who Fabricate It*—was the winner of this year's AISC Steel Sculpture Competition. The five finalists were all on display at the 2018 NASCC: The Steel Conference in Baltimore in April, where attendees voted for their favorite (nine sculptures were entered in the competition this year; the only rules for the competition are that entrants must be AISC full or associate members and entries have to fit into a 2-ft by 2-ft by 2-ft box and be made entirely of steel).

The idea for the sculpture was proposed by Cody's operations manager, who coined the motto some 15 years earlier when asked to sort out someone else's failing welds on steel going up on a job site. The concept was taken up by Cody's estates manager, and the idea for the sculpture's base was laid: the strength of people holding up civilization. Six Cody shop employees created the buildings in the sculpture—which represent Austin, Texas, where the AISC member and certified fabricator is located—and the crane portion was masterminded by the Cody's senior fabricator. As a whole, the piece represents the strength of steel construction being supported by those who fabricate it—and was created over multiple lunch breaks. ■