



Steven Schaefer Associates, Inc.

CONSULTING STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS

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Want to know more?

[Contact us](#) today for information on our AIA-registered presentation *Understanding and Detailing for Wood Shrinkage*.



Did you know?

Dan Wissman, project manager, has visited 20 major league and 15 minor league baseball stadiums! He and three friends travel each summer to as many parks as they can. It's difficult to pick a favorite - but if pushed, Dan will say that Pittsburgh

Wood as an Economical Option

Wood is an economical construction material - you just have to understand it. **Recognizing the characteristics of wood could be the difference between a successful, lasting, lower cost building - and complications.**

Shrinkage occurs with wood, it's unavoidable. What is avoidable is the extent and impact it has on the building. If your project team can design the structure to minimize the potential shrinkage and identify conditions where differential movement could happen (window locations, floors and plumbing stacks), you can then detail the building to account for the anticipated shrinkage. Use best practices that include details to reduce wood shrinkage, provide flexibility in vertical plumbing chases, and carefully consider window details with brick veneer. And remember to document estimated shrinkage on construction documents, which is a building code requirement.



The Banks Phase 1A

Wood is often the most economical construction type for hotels, multi-story residential structures and commercial structures. But building with wood can be risky - make sure your design team has a reputable knowledge of wood and know how it behaves. We do!

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favorite team is still the Cincinnati Reds. (Photo: A typical Mets fan at Citi Field in New York)

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Beautiful residential pool house designed by architect [Kyle Hinck](#) with structural design by Jim Graham

SIPs is a good option for Commercial Projects



Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs) continue to be a building material to consider for both residential and commercial construction. SIPs are energy efficient, have a high R-value, reduce site waste, and are air tight. One of our recent projects is Silvis Middle School in East Moline, IL. This new school building is 52,000 sq ft with exterior SIPs walls. The roof is SIPs over steel framing and glulam beams. Lateral forces are resisted by a SIP diaphragm, steel braced frames and moment frames. "We went with SIPs at Silvis for a couple of reasons" says Jennifer Hoffman at [BLDD Architects, Inc.](#) "First, we used the Green Globes rating system for the project, so the SIPs allowed us to achieve better R-values for the building envelope than the alternative systems we considered. Additionally, using SIPs was the most cost effective option for the building's exterior envelope."

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