

CONSTRUCT CANADA



Building on success

BY TOM VENETIS

Construct Canada is quickly shaping up for another successful year

IT'S THE TRADE SHOW THAT JUST KEEPS OUTDOING ITSELF, AND this year is no different. The 27th Annual Construct Canada exhibition, now part of the larger Buildings Show, is fast becoming North America's leader in sourcing, networking and education for the construction, design and real estate communities.

The event will once more be held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre (MTCC), December 2 to 4. As part of The Buildings Show, Construct Canada will be held concurrently with PM Expo, HomeBuilder & Renovator Expo, and the World of Concrete Pavilion, all in the MTCC's South Building. IDEX Canada will be staged in the

North Building. Combined under the umbrella of The Buildings Show, the gathering has become the continent's largest exposition, networking and educational event.

George Przybylowski, vice-president of Informa Canada, is responsible for organizing the colossal event. He says this year's exhibition is once again expected to attract large and enthusiastic crowds as professionals in the targeted industries come to network with their peers, do business, and check out the newest products and services.

Even with global economic uncertainties, the construction industry remains strong in Canada and the show

is expected to pull in large numbers from the sector. In the first and second quarters of 2015, Statistics Canada reported non-residential building construction investment at \$12,945 and \$12,923 million respectively. Build-Force Canada's recent Construction and Maintenance: Looking Forward report found that from 2011 to 2014, the national growth in construction jobs was 62,400 jobs, while gains across a 10-year scenario period – from 2015-2024 – were forecasted to reach some 81,000 jobs.

PUSHING INNOVATION

While the construction industry is not known for its fast pace of change – or its embrace of the new and novel – change is indeed impacting the industry, and Construct Canada provides an excellent forum for brushing up on

all the trends, services and products pushing the industry along into the 21st century. There will be several seminars addressing these changes that Przybylowski expects to be of particular interest to the construction professionals in attendance.

“Construction is an industry that does not have the same kind of rapid and accelerated change that you have in the technology world (where) an Apple product that comes out this year may be out-of-date in eighteen months,” notes Przybylowski. But still, he adds, that does not mean change does not happen.

This year’s exhibitors and seminars at Construct Canada will showcase new ways for construction professionals to be innovative, says Przybylowski. The ultimate goal, he says, is to help contractors and subtrades “do things smarter, better and more cost effectively.”

It looks like things are on track. This year’s Building Show will have over 1,600 exhibits – including more than 100 international exhibitors. Some of the international exhibitors to be featured include big names like Altro, Armtec, 3M, Dow Corning, Masco and Firestone Building Products.

Przybylowski says over 70 per cent of this year’s exhibitors are returning ones, highlighting how important Construct Canada and The Building Show are becoming to the construction, real estate and design communities across North America.

SEMINARS & PRESENTATIONS

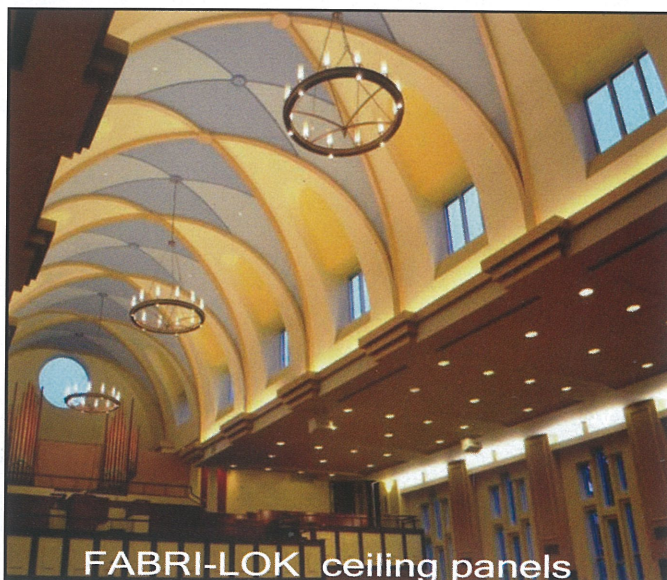
Along with the increasing number of high-profile exhibitors, attendees will have the chance to attend more than 350 seminars, panels and roundtables. Many will feature industry veterans and well-known experts to discuss a range of pressing issues and topics in the construction, design and real estate industries. “This year we will have some excellent keynote speakers dealing with interior design for commercial and residential condominium and apartment buildings,” Pzbylowski says. “We will also have our International Architectural Roundtable that will feature some of the best firms doing work today.”

This year’s International Architectural Roundtable will look at how concrete is transforming design, both now and in the future. It will include Brandon Clifford, principal of Matter

Design; Filippo Gabbiani, co-founder of Kokaistudios; Ronald Rael; CEO and co-founder of Emerging Objects; and Bing Thom, principal of Bing Thom Architects.

Seminars to watch for this year include *BOMA BEST*, which will address how its environmental assessment and certification program for existing building has been updated; *Cost Effective Strategies to Retrofit the Building Envelope of Aging Commercial Buildings*; and *Global Construction Outlook*, which will look at the challenges faced by the construction industry by weakening oil prices, currency volatility and the impact of the U.S. economy.

There will also be sessions dedicated on structural safety, the Building Code, closing out construction projects, taming energy costs, plus maintenance and operating costs, and even a session dedicated to doing business in China – a growing region of interest for Canadian builders. There will also be the annual CEO Power Breakfast, organized in part by TCA, as well as the not-to-be-missed TCA Annual Christmas Luncheon, to be held on the Friday. | **BD**



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