

IMI New York E-News

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Air Barriers Open Doors

With their potential for saving energy and money, IMI is spreading the word on how air barrier systems can increase building envelope performance. To make sure they also expand work opportunities, the John B. Scola Training Center has hosted a series of air barrier familiarization classes for BAC contractors and members. As agencies like New York City's School Construction Authority increasingly require air barriers, BAC members will be ready.

Public Education

State budgets are so tight that officials are relying more than ever on IMI to fulfill their continuing education needs. In New York, that includes AIA credits for architects and customized programs for engineers and state building inspectors. IMI is working with contractor groups to educate local building officials in Albany and Newburgh, with future stops planned for Buffalo, Binghamton and Rochester. IMI helps everyone see more applications for masonry and to demand quality, which means more work for union contractors.

Green for Green

The first sustainable construction training program for masonry contractors just won approval by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), developer of LEED and the leading source for green building knowledge. IMI's Sustainable Masonry Certification Program (SMCP) is one of the few upper level USGBC courses for contractors. Please visit imiweb.org/pressroom to read the press release. One strategy that benefits masonry is life cycle costing, another selling point made often to New York designers and building officials. NY contractors attending the May session appreciated the added competency in LEED practices, which will "build a greater work base," says Anthony Ferrara from Restoration Specialty Service. To see certified contractors and reviews, go to www.imiweb.org/greenmasonry.

New Product, Classic Skills

Check out the **IMI Case Study** on new Rapid Curing Terrazzo (RCT) used for St. Agnes Church in Manhattan. It shows how the contractor's secret weapon was access to the training and technical resources of IMI, which provided a custom training session for mechanics. IMI's New Products Initiative works closely with manufacturers to connect promising new applications with BAC installers.

Tile Code Victories

IMI spends considerable effort tracking codes and standards, to get contractors as much guidance and opportunity as possible. This year brought notable accomplishments, including:

- Getting **exterior porcelain tile** added to the International Building Code (removing all ambiguity about tile's proper place as an exterior finish).
- Adding language matching **minimum grout joint size to tile size** in ANSI specs.
- Making **membrane manufacturers** responsible when re-locating movement joints.
- New **sloped floor lippage** standards.
- Blocking an attempt to get wallboard back in the IBC as a wet area substrate.

The advocacy continues, with IMI language on floor flatness, large tile running bonds and other changes now on the ballot. Read the full **TILE CODE UPDATE**.

