Convention 2009

The 101st TCAA Annual Convention was held in Chicago on September 26-28 and despite the challenges presented by the economy, the turnout was great. Those in attendance enjoyed reconnecting, sharing in lively discussions about their businesses and the industry and were enthusiastic about attending the learning sessions and social functions.

The convention kicked off on Saturday morning with a golf tournament and a Trolley Tour of the city followed by a reception that evening in the ballroom at the downtown Hyatt Regency hotel. Sunday was bustling with activities starting with the “Meet the Suppliers” breakfast followed by the Contractor College sessions. At the Awards Luncheon, Donald W. Schwartz was named the 2009 Carl V. Cesery recipient and five tile contracting companies were introduced as the Project of the Year winners (see photos on page 4).

The winners and projects recognized were:

- **First Place Commercial** was awarded to Premier Tile and Marble for The Oaks Mall.
- **Second Place Commercial** Fischer Tile & Marble for Lincoln City Hall.
- **First Place Residential** was awarded to Lippert Tile Company for the Reilly Residence.
- **Second Place Residential** Selectile of California for 21 Highwater.
- **Technical Merit** went to Eugene G. Sackett Co., Inc. for Constellation Brands High Point.

The Annual Recognition Banquet was held on Sunday evening and was highlighted by the introduction and recognition of the 2009 TCAA Scholarship recipients, Aaron Swiger received the 2009 Architectural Scholarship and Tyler Castro received the 2009 TCAA Family Scholarship. Also recognized were DTI of Illinois, Inc. of Aurora, IL. and V.A.L. Floors, Inc. of Carlstadt, NJ. as the newest recipients of the Trowel of Excellence certification.

On Monday, everyone enjoyed breakfast and morning exhibit visits with the suppliers followed by the annual business meetings. At noon, attendees gathered for a luncheon with Chicago-area architects and designers and then enjoyed the highlight of the day, the Learning Exchange Session. This session “Addressing the Gaps” was a problem-based learning activity and interactive discussion which explored the different phases of a case study project from start to finish.

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President’s Message

Seasons Greetings;

My favorite time of the year! All about family and renewal of faith and hope. It seems like just yesterday our TCAA family had our annual “reunion” convention in Chicago. As many of you know, I have had the extreme pleasure of introducing most of my immediate family at this “reunion” and they truly look forward to attending the next one. We renewed relationships, made some new friends and returned home with hope for the New Year. It was TCAA’s 101st Convention and that really says it all. We should all take tremendous pride in our milestone.

2010 is going to be a challenge that can bring opportunity and I believe that the TCAA family is up to the challenge.

As my term draws to an end, let me take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of you for granting me the honor and privilege of serving as your President. I would like to thank our board members; John Trendell, Ron Schwartz, Jennifer Panning, Mike Maiuri, Scott Erath, Pat Barrett, and Dan Kotel, our excellent staff, Carole Damon and Chris Patavina, and of course my wife and family for the support I have received. I would also like to extend a warm welcome and best wishes to our newest board member, Brian Castro, and a sincere thank you to Mike Maiuri who leaves the board at the end of this year. TCAA has benefitted from his guidance and many years of dedication and we wish him and his family the very best.

I would like to extend congratulations and best wishes to our incoming President, John Trendell along with his wife Mary and their entire family. I know TCAA will be in extremely capable hands with John at the helm and I will continue to be available to assist in whatever way I can.

My family and I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season and prosperous and healthy New Year.

See you all at TCAA’s 102nd Annual Re-union Convention in Naples next year.

Jerry Leva, Sr.
TCAA President

2009 CONVENTION
(Continued from page 1)

Registered as an AIA/CES program, this “standing room only” session was a tremendous success. All of those attending the session came away with a new prospective and understanding of decision making cause and effect related to the project manual, drawings and schedules, shop drawings, contract(s), and related contract administration, identifying the problem areas that create the famous “Excedrin Headache #1” and exploring ways to avoid conflict and gain resolution.

This presentation was moderated by David deBear, National Architectural Service Manager for Custom Building Products and panelists included:

- Steve Dickerhofe, Sr. Principle of Carroll Associates Architects
- Caesar Vitale, Associate & Sr. Specification Writer of RTKL
- Shamus O’Meara, Attorney at Law Johnson & Condon, Minneapolis MN
- John D’Agnolo, Northern Illinois Terrazzo & Tile Co.
- Nick Macrino, Manufacturer’s Rep Architectural Consultant for Custom Building Products

On Monday night, attendees were treated to a wonderful reception at the Daltile showroom in downtown Chicago and then whisked off to a delicious dinner at Riva’s on Navy Pier.

According to many of those who attended, this Annual Convention was one of the best meetings held in recent memory for the education and networking opportunities it presented.

We encourage you to plan on joining us next year as we kick off our first joint conference TOTAL SOLUTIONS EXPO in Naples Beach, Florida, November 4-6. This event is being co-hosted by TCAA, the National Tile Contractors Association, Tile Council of North America and the Ceramic Tile Distributors Association.
3 CHEERS FOR CRAFTSMANSHIP!

The 2009 BAC/IMI International Apprentice Contest was held at the John J. Flynn BAC/IMI International Training Center in Bowie, Maryland, just outside of Washington, D.C., September 28-30. I had the privilege and, it turned out, the difficult task of being one of the judges for the ceramic tile category. I say difficult in the sense that the work performed by the 11 contestants was so well done that it was extremely hard to judge any one standout installation.

The judging, at least for me, was extremely close. There were three judges for each craft. We had a scoring template that awarded up to approximately 150 points for a number of installation categories and another 150 points for the completed installations portion. When I totaled my score cards at the end of the day, without ever having compared any of the numbers during the day, I had my top 5 contestants within less than 15 points of each other!

The Contest Banquet was held at the National Building Museum the evening of September 30th. As the top three places were announced for each craft category a roar would go up from the table at which the individual winner was sitting. The pride and joy was unmistakable in the faces of family, friends, and mentors of the proud recipients.

For me it was a validation that the men and women who are entering the tile trade, even in such a difficult economic environment, have great skills and are ready to provide our contractors with the best trained work force in the country. Congratulations to all the apprentices who gave their very best efforts.

From IMI

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

Union contractors gathering in Chicago this October got to see IMI’s green strategy in action. Along with the custom seminar, “Sustainable Solutions for Tile, Marble, and Terrazzo,” they learned more about IMI sustainability information and education for contractors, craftworkers, designers and other decision makers.

One key objective is to make everyone understand that the greatest green building performance comes from looking beyond simple material selection, to overall outcomes, which can be achieved through systems that include mass materials (such as tile and terrazzo), as well as insulation, air and vapor barriers, flashing and more.

IMI helps union contractors understand how they can contribute to successful LEED projects, through the nation’s first sustainability certification program, launched this summer. The Sustainable Masonry Certification Program takes them through the nuts and bolts of sustainability practices and addresses subcontractor responsibilities, from estimating and project scope to project management and documentation. For more information, email greenmasonry@imiweb.org or go to www.imiweb.org.
2009 PROJECT OF THE YEAR WINNERS

TCAA recognized the following companies for outstanding achievement in ceramic tile installations. Entries were judged by an independent panel of experts on the basis of technical and artistic merit. Awards were presented in two categories as follows:

1ST PLACE COMMERCIAL PROJECT

The Oaks Mall
Premier Tile and Marble
Greg Games, President
798 Monterey Pass Road
Monterey Park, CA  91754
Phone: (323) 264-4009
E-mail: ggames.premier@sbcglobal.net

2ND PLACE COMMERCIAL PROJECT

Lincoln City Hall
Fischer Tile & Marble
Jay Fischer, President
1800 23rd St.
Sacramento, CA  95816-7112
Phone: (808) 537-9916
E-mail: jay@fischertile.com

1ST PLACE RESIDENTIAL PROJECT

Reilly Residence
Lippert Tile Company
Les Lippert, President
N89 W14260 Patrita Drive
Menomonee Falls, WI  53051
Phone: (262) 437-9300
E-mail: lesl@lipperttile.com
Website: www.lipperttile.com

2ND PLACE RESIDENTIAL PROJECT

21 Highwater
Selectile of California
Ron Schwartz, President
12432 Exline Street
El Monte, CA  91732
Phone: (626) 401-9978
E-mail: ron@selectile.com
Website: www.selectile.com

TECHNICAL MERIT

Constellation Brands High Point
Eugene G. Sackett Co., Inc.
Gerard Leva, Sr., CEO
454 Lee Road, P.O. Box 60976
Rochester, NY  14606
Phone: (585) 647-3250
E-mail: senior@egsackett.com
Website: www.egsackett.com

Trowel of Excellence

TCAA contractors who earned the Trowel of Excellence certification in 2009 were recognized at convention. The Trowel of Excellence is recognition that a Tile (stone) installation member company performs the highest level of quality installations and is committed to the betterment of the Tile Industry. The Trowel of Excellence certification program was introduced at the 2005 convention. Two companies completed certification this year. They are:

DTI of Illinois, Inc.

V.A.L. Floors, Inc.

The above companies join an elite group of fellow Trowel of Excellence recipients. They are:

Artisan Tile & Marble Co. of NJ, Inc.
Artisan Tile Inc.
Eugene G. Sackett Co.,Inc.
G.M. Sloan Mosaic & Tile Co.
Lippert Tile Company, Inc.
Port Morris Tile & Marble Corp.
Selectile of California, Inc.
Shores Tile Co., Inc.
Venice Terrazzo & Tile Co.
William Erath & Son, Inc.
Williams Tile & Marble, Inc.
TCAA Elects Officers
And Trustees

At its annual Contractor Business Meeting held during convention, TCAA members re-elected Pat Barrett of Port Morris Tile & Marble (New York) to a second term as director and Brian Castro of DTI of Illinois to a first two-year term as director. Members also elected the following officers: (President-Elect) Ron Schwartz of Selectile of California and (Treasurer) Jennifer Panning of Artisan Tile, Inc. (Michigan). Vincent P. DeLazzero, II of Port Morris Tile & Marble (New York) was elected to a first term as Trustee.

2010 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: John Trendell
Trendell Consulting, LLC. (Ohio)

President-Elect: Ron Schwartz
Selectile of California (California)

Treasurer: Jennifer Panning
Artisan Tile, Inc. (Michigan)

Past President: Jerry Leva, Sr.
E.G. Sackett Co., Inc. (New York)

● Pat Barrett, Port Morris Tile & Marble Corp. (New York)
● Scott Erath, William Erath & Son, Inc. (New York)
● Dan Kotel, G.M. Sloan Mosaic & Tile Co. (Illinois)
● Brian Castro, DTI of Illinois, Inc., (Illinois)

Trustees
Emily Williams, (Missouri)
Les Lippert, Lippert Tile Company (Wisconsin)
Vincent P. DeLazzero, II, Port Morris Tile & Marble (New York)

We extend our thanks to departing Past President, Michael Maiuri for his years of service and support to TCAA.
We would like to thank all of our sponsors who helped make this year’s convention the success it was. We couldn’t do it without your support!

Ceramic Tile Contractors Association of Chicago
Ceramic Tile Promotion Fund of Greater NY/NJ
Crossville
Custom Building Products
Daltile
International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (BAC)
Laticrete International
MAPEI
Noble Company
Port Morris Tile & Marble
TEC Specialty Construction Brands
Schluter Systems

We would also like to express our gratitude to David deBear, National Architectural Services Manager for Custom Building Products, for developing, coordinating and moderating this year’s highly successful Learning Exchange program.

THANK YOU DAVE!

David deBear our moderator in the background with panelists from left: Steve Dickerhofs, Sr. Principle of Carroll Associates Architects; Caesar Vitale, Associate & Sr. Specification Writer of RTKL; Nick Macrino, Manufacturer’s Rep Architectural Consultant for Custom Building Products; John D’Agnolo, Northern Illinois Terrazzo & Tile Co. and Shamus O’Meara, Attorney at Law Johnson & Condon, Minneapolis MN