

BUILDING SCENE

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1993

**BUILDING SCENE'S
NAMES &
PLACES**

Contract changes



Several personnel changes have been made recently at Contract Interiors, Southfield. Joan Griffin has joined the office interiors firm as senior project designer for the design and facility services group.

Three project designers also have been hired. They include Laura Weller of Farmington Hills and Janice Barr Miles for the design and facility services group; and Kate Stewart of Plymouth for the recycled office interiors division.



Christine Lints has been promoted to account executive for the health care services group. Eric Meyers and Roy Davis have been named account executives for the business development group. Teresa Jarratt joins the floor covering group as an account executive.



Weller



Miles



Stewart



Meyers



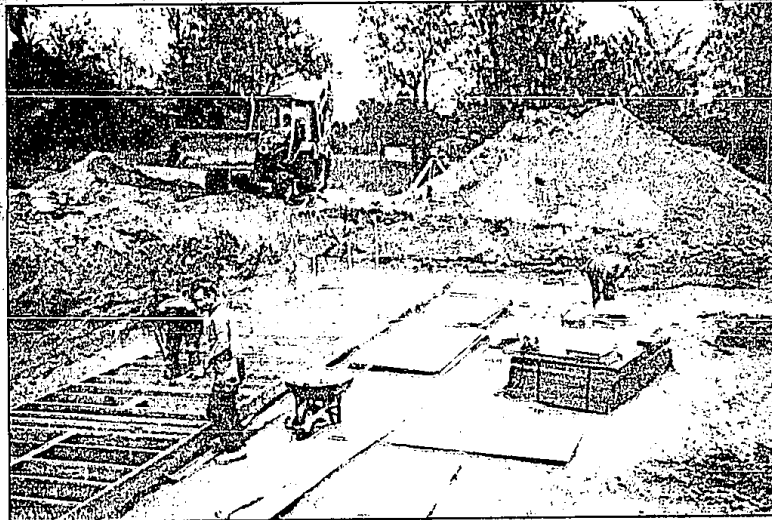
Davis



Jarratt

Vert to Argos

Wayne E. Vert of Birmingham has been named director of commercial facilities at the Argos Group, Southfield. He is a former project manager at Etkin Construction. Argos is a wholly owned subsidiary of Barton Malow Co.



From the bottom up: Carpenters begin at the beginning by preparing the wood basement foundation.

Going underground with wood

While concrete basements still rule the roost, wood has a vocal contingent of backers lauding its strengths.

By CHRIS MCCOSKY
STAFF WRITER

Jim Nawrot has nothing to gain by pushing the virtues of wood basements and foundations. Although the Livonian has built 180 of them in the past, he no longer makes his living as

a builder.

He teaches people how to build now. Nawrot is the person to answer this question: Can you think of anything bad about wood basements? Is there anything that makes them dangerous, unsafe or otherwise unattractive to prospective house builders?

"No," Nawrot said after several moments of reflection. Do they rot or warp? "No," he said. "Water-soaked ground has no ill effect on them."

Are they dry? "Completely. Just like any room in the house. There is no dampness or mustiness like you get in concrete basements."

Are they safe and strong? "Yes." They are completely engineered and designed, and there is no settling or racking with wood foundations. And I truly believe the wood is stronger because it's pliable and has movement. Experts say they will last at least 120 years."

Are they more expensive to build?

"No, they are easier and quicker to build and the cost is about the same. Studies have shown that houses with wood foundations cost about 35 percent less in heating costs than the concrete ones. And with concrete, you have to figure about an extra \$2,000-\$4,000 to prepare it for finishing. Wood basements are ready to finish."

See BASEMENTS, 4F

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