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THE JOURNAL OF LIGHT
CONSTRUCTION

ANNIVERSARY

Dear JLC Readers,

The first issue of our magazine was published ten years ago on a kitchen table in the town of East Haven, a hardscrabble town in northern Vermont. The issue was 16 pages long and contained articles on new affordable housing loans in Maine, steep roof design for snow country, solutions to common callbacks, and salary guidelines for construction staff — all full of practical advice from the field.

The magazine, then called *New England Builder*, was started by building contractor Michael Reitz to give his colleagues in the field a place to learn about the work they were doing, and to share their ideas with one another. As a small contractor, he had discovered that there were few places to go to get solid, unbiased information on light construction — whether about products, techniques, or business skills.

Many small contractors welcomed the arrival of a no-nonsense, practical publication, and with their support it slowly grew. Ten years later, we've grown from a few thousand to over 40,000 readers and from a staff of two to over 20. Our editorial staff consists mostly of tradesmen and contractors who have traded in their hammers and pickup trucks for a word processor. After all, who's going to understand what a contractor needs to know better than another contractor? Our goal remains the same as ever — to deliver the best practical information possible to help builders and remodelers do their jobs better.

For this issue, we've selected some of the most popular articles from our archives, updated the information, and published a full lineup of JLC "practical classics." We hope you like the results. Plus you'll find an index of all the feature articles we've run over the past eight years to make it easier to locate any you may have missed.

Finally, thanks for the support and feedback you've given us over the years. We greatly appreciate the volume of mail we receive telling us what you like and don't like, and what you want to read or write about. In fact, our readers have provided many of our best articles. Your involvement has made JLC more a forum for discussion among colleagues than a soapbox for "experts" to preach from. We think that's the way a professional's magazine ought to be.

We look forward to another ten years of working together with you on *The Journal*.



Steven Bliss
Editorial Director

P.S. Speaking of feedback — if you have the time, please fill out the brief postcard survey in the center of this issue. Thanks again.

