

G4: Industry insiders talk glass

Name three factors that have resulted in significant changes to your industry within the past five years.

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COMMERCIAL, RETAIL, AUTO, FABRICATION : TRENDS & ANALYSIS

COMMERCIAL

Bill John, president InterClad, Minneapolis

*We have seen a significant increase in consultants and in field testing on standard product projects. Currently, on two projects we have three consultants -one for the contractor, one for the owner's representative and one for the owner. The difficulties that this presents when you can't get [consultants] to all agree on how to go forward, and the time spent responding, is staggering.

*The increase in hospital and clinic work has resulted in a need for higher thermal performance due to the higher humidity levels needed. Hospitals are understandably concerned with moisture and the mold that can go with it being present in operating rooms and emergency rooms.

*Condominium work boomed and then went bust. Trying to combine a homeowner's expectations with commercial industry standards was difficult. Industry standards on imperfections on coated glass can be difficult for a homeowner to accept or understand. We tried our best to educate the architect and project teams in the submittal stage and create reasonable expectations for both sides. Trends for the next 10 years should be interesting. Green building is increasing, and certain national contractors are using/requiring BIM and 3D modeling on their projects. Those of us who are baby boomers will need our more tech-savvy youngsters to lead us into that new technology."

