NISD Project of the Year Awards for 2008

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The Reasons Why...

A while ago I received a letter from a Member at Large who was unhappy with the two proposed Constitutional amendments from the Board of Directors, which were about to be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

This member held the belief that overseas detailing firms should not be allowed membership in NISD at all, so obviously he was against the amendment to allow formation of Overseas Chapters. He also was against the amendment to make it a mandatory requirement that all NISD Regular Members become certified under the Quality Procedures Program.

His letter stated some reasons for his position on these issues and in reading them I realized that he, along with most all of our members who aren’t on the Board of Directors, did not have the benefit of hearing the lengthy and often heated board discussion on these issues and could not know the rationale behind the Board’s final decision to take the step to propose a Constitutional amendment.

It occurs to me that as editor of the Connection, it is my responsibility to keep members better informed as to, not just what is being proposed as an amendment to the Constitution, but more importantly, what the reasons are for this important step to be taken at all.

On the issue of Overseas Chapters, the Board realizes that whether we like it or not overseas detailers are a reality of life in our market place. We can ignore them but they won’t go away. If we choose to ignore them, we will have no opportunity to influence them to become more responsible competitors. Only if they have to sit across the table from us will they be able to understand how a professional business like steel detailing demands that we operate with respect for our profession, our clients and our fellow detailers.

Regarding the Quality Procedures Program, due to the prevalence of unqualified detailers worldwide, there is a greater need than ever before for this program to succeed, and to be successful it must have full participation of our members. The QP Program is the best chance for qualified detailing firms to be recognized in project specifications and to eliminate the non-qualified detailers who have been invading the detailing market.

In future, when important Board actions arise I will endeavour to give our members the background as to the Board’s thinking on the issues and hope to give members a clear understanding of the reasons to propose any changes or amendments.
I’m very sorry about the terrible time you are all going through. I feel your pain....

It is very difficult to think about anything else when business is so bad that it takes over and occupies all of your thought and attention. It brings down your good moods and leaves you in an unhappy place where it’s hard to do anything but worry and feel bad about it all.

As your President, I feel for all of our NISD members who are struggling through these tough economic times. But we must do whatever it takes to survive. The survival mode we might take is obviously going to be different as each person’s circumstances, personalities, and priorities are different. But here are some basics that should apply to just about everybody:

1) Cut spending as much as possible and have everyone in the company share in the sacrifices (we’re all in it together).
2) Work to improve your customer base. Send out letters to potential new clients. Contact old clients and make sure to remain in close communication with them.
3) Use this time to improve your office and your employees’ knowledge of detailing. Update standards and reference materials. Prepare your employees for the IDC test and prepare your company for its QPP audit. Take any and all steps you can to improve and upgrade your business operations.
4) Keep a positive attitude. It will not change what is happening but it can help make it feel a little better to you. It will help your employees and customers feel better about their own situation and they will also feel better about you and your company.

What can we expect next!

As the world competition is at a click of the mouse now, the lower priced markets will fill up with work and prices will level off at a lower level until demand exceeds the world’s detailing capacity. This will allow the higher prices that we need in North America to sustain a viable business comfort!

There are clues that the 4th quarter will be better...In the mean time, finding a “niche” in what you are best at might bring in enough revenues to keep the doors open! True that everyone with a good 3D software package can deliver some drawings with a minimum quality, but not all operators are seasoned detailers... and fabricators are now a little more cautious with low prices as this might not guarantee the meager profit line they carry now, if any at all!

BIM is on everyone’s lips and minds! This is a trend that started a while ago and the detailers that have taken the 3D train are better prepared to jump on board! BUT there are a lot of problems associated with it; we might not see its application invading the markets as fast as was foreseen! In any case, down in the trenches we still fight the old way. Swords and bayonets are still the tools of warfare when it comes to survival...electronics is not ready to replace knowledge!

I suggest you read/subscribe to Modern Steel Construction, Engineering News Record or Architectural Digest to keep abreast of the trends in construction. In the last few years, due to the fierce competition between materials, we have seen some cool structures being built with materials other than “the material of choice”. It might be heresy but that 3D software can detail just about anything, from concrete to wood to sheet steel framing - if you are a little imaginative at using it!!

In the August 10th issue of ENR, after 6 months, 2009 construction volume was down 36% from a year ago. The non-building construction (-16%) took a lesser hit than non-residential (-41%) and residential construction markets (-46%). So looking at machinery, rides, conveyors, ductwork, and any other structures might be an area that has some potential work for detailers.

In closing, I would like to say that the stress levels at which detailing firms operate can be extremely dangerous to their health. Too much coffee, too many Big Macs, too many beers or worse, and cigarettes can take their toll on your health. So maintaining a proper diet (take the time to eat properly), and doing some physical activities is a must during these hard times. Competitive sports like hockey, baseball, soccer, football, or any racquet sport, biking, (even golf John!) is a good stress relief, both for the mind and the body and it keeps you in shape too! At 58 years old, I still play ice hockey every week, year round...AND most of all the FAMILY must be in focus at all times. They do not need a “grouchy” parent or spouse on top of the already difficult financial times they are living through.

We are extremely sorry about the passing away of our great friend and past President Mario Webber-Rookes. He died at an age when life usually seems to start again. He will be missed dearly!

I wish you a “funtastic” summer or whatever is left of it! Keep smiling!
Fred Tinker – Man of the Year 2009

At the President’s Banquet, President Robert Beauchamp announced that the NISD Man of the Year award for 2009 was going to Fred Tinker, Director of the California Chapter.

Fred was totally surprised when his name was announced, but his wife Barb knew ahead of time and further surprised her unsuspecting husband when all of the family suddenly appeared and joined in to congratulate Fred for his well-deserved award. It was a very touching moment for Fred, who just happens to be one of the finest persons you would ever hope to know.

Fred Tinker has been the driving force that has led the California Chapter to become the largest in the Institute and also one of the most active. He has been highly involved in NISD programs and has unselfishly donated much of his time and talent to further promote the interests of the steel detailing industry.

Fred currently serves as co-chair of the Membership Committee with Terry Devine of the Alberta Chapter. He also chairs the NISD Nominating Committee.

Congratulations Fred!

These events are great ways to stay current on trends and network with others. Join us for any of these events in 2009 and 2010.

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 18, 2009</td>
<td>National Steel Day</td>
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<td>October 24, 2009</td>
<td>NISD Board Meeting – Denver, CO</td>
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<td>March 11-13, 2010</td>
<td>SEAA National Convention &amp; Trade Show – Grand Hyatt, Tampa Bay, FL</td>
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<td>May 11-14, 2010</td>
<td>NASCC – Gaylord Palms Convention Center – Orlando, FL</td>
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<td>May 12-15, 2010</td>
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<td>International Bridge Conference – The David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh, PA</td>
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In Memoriam

Mario Webber-Rookes will be greatly missed by the National Institute of Steel Detailing. He will be missed not only because he was the director of the Southwest Chapter of NISD or because he was our past president. No, Mario will be missed mostly because he was our dear friend.

We, on the board of directors, come from all over North America and we meet several times each year to conduct the business of NISD, and that is where we learn respect for one another. We also have some free time to spend together when not doing business and that is really when the strong bonds of friendship are formed.

We share so much in common with each other on the board, not just because we’re all in the same kind of business but also because we share common concerns about our problems, our families, our friends, our likes and our dislikes, and anything else that might be going on in our life and business, which we can share and discuss with a good friend. Mario was just such a good friend as this.

It’s hard to accept that he has been taken away from life at such an early age. It’s hard to realize that he won’t be with us anymore at board meetings where he held a very large presence. Even though we will miss him greatly, we will continue to work on programs that were important to him and we will always remember Mario, our friend from Texas, and keep his memory dear to our hearts.

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NISD Projects of the Year For 2008

The 2009 Annual Meeting hosted the first ever NISD Project of the Year Awards program. The projects submitted must have been completed in the year 2008.

The Projects Under Consideration Were Judged in Three Different Classes.

There was a four-person panel of judges. This year’s panel was composed of these generous volunteers who gave their time and expertise on our behalf. This year’s judges were Bo Dowswell, Erika Winters-Downey, Duff Zimmerman, and William McEleny.

The winners for this year!

Class I – Structures Up to 500 Tons
NISD Detailer: M.D. Bowers, Inc.
Project: Mountain View Student Center
Fabricator: Structural Fabrications, Inc.
General Contractor: Steele & Freeman

Class II – Structures Over 500 Tons
NISD Detailer: BDS VirCon
Project: The Crystals Mall
Fabricator: Schuff Steel Company
Contractor: Perini Building Company

Class III – Bridge
NISD Detailers: Tenca Steel Detailing, Inc.
John Metcalfe Co.
Project: Triborough Bridge Rehab
Fabricator: Cherubini Metal Works, Ltd.
Contractor: The LiRo Group
Relaxing and Learning in Florida

Our 41st Annual Meeting was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in beautiful Deerfield Beach, Florida.

On Thursday before the Annual Meeting actually began, many attendees enjoyed playing in the annual golf tournament. Others visited some of the many attractions in the Deerfield Beach area. The day’s events were followed in the evening with the Annual Welcome Reception at the hotel.

On Friday, the Annual Meeting began at 8:30AM with a welcome message from President Beauchamp. The remainder of the day was allotted to the 6 speakers addressing the topic of Building Information Modeling, which is covered in more detail on the following pages.

On Saturday at 9:00AM the meeting began with President Beauchamp introducing speaker Chris Moor of AISC who spoke on the subject of Steel Day 2009.

Following Chris Moor, the business session began with the election of officers for the next two-year term. All of the present officers were completing their first term and had been nominated to serve their second and last term. The current slate was voted in by acclimation, as follows:

President Robert Beauchamp
Vice President Mike Bowers
Secretary/Treasurer Paul Crockett

Voting on the proposed Constitutional amendments followed. Voting for the amendment to allow for the formation of Overseas Chapters was as follows:
Yes . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 80 votes
No . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 17 votes
Abstain . . . . . . . . . . . . 24 votes
The amendment passed.

The amendment requiring that all NISD Regular Members must become certified in the Quality Procedures Program was tabled. Jack Metcalfe made the motion to table the vote until a later date. It was seconded and passed with one vote against. All of the rest voted in favor.

Project of the Year Award Winners With President Beauchamp

Class III Bridge:
Richard Anderson
Tenca Steel Detailing, Inc.
Jack Metcalfe
John Metcalfe Co.

Class I Structural:
Chad Bowers
M.D. Bowers, Inc.
Mike Bowers
M.D. Bowers, Inc.

Class II Structural:
Don Engler (not present)
BDS VirCon
This year’s Annual Meeting featured no less than seven speakers. The talks of six of the speakers mainly addressed the topic of Building Information Modeling (BIM). Attendees received extensive and diverse information about the BIM process. The subject was well covered as each speaker’s talk was from their own individual experience and viewpoint. NISD is grateful to the speakers for sharing their knowledge with our NISD members.

Chris Keyack, Steel Segment Product Manager North America, Tekla Structures

Mr. Keyack demonstrated how their software can work in 3D and deliver a BIM model that can be used by other members of the construction team.

Vic O’Mara, AceCad Software

Mr. O’Mara showed off the benefits to the fabricator/erector when using the StruCad 3D modeling software. Their StruWalker software allows the field to have instant access to the model and can select drawings from the model itself.

Michelle Eret, Design Data

Ms. Eret gave an in-depth review of the SDS/2 software capabilities to manage projects using BIM. Presently less than 45% of current projects include some form of BIM, but within 10 years it will be closer to 70%.

William Ikerd, P.E., Founder and Director of the Department of Integrated Project Delivery (IPD) at Raymond L. Goodson, Jr., Inc.

Mr. Ikerd explained that the Department specializes in the process of Building Information Modeling. They assist their clients in utilizing RLG’s engineering services in integrated teams as well as consulting with their clients in utilizing BIM and associated technologies in construction.

Doug Fitzpatrick, P.E.

Mr. Fitzpatrick’s firm has been using Bentley Structural and BIM technologies for more than two years. He defines BIM as the virtual representation of the physical and functional characteristics of a facility. As such it serves as a shared information repository for collaboration throughout a facilities lifecycle. The goal is to promote value-added digital visualization technologies to increase quality and efficiency throughout a project and beyond.

Luke Faulkner, Director, IT Initiatives, American Institute of Steel Construction

Mr. Faulkner gave us the AISC perspective on the fundamentals of the BIM process. The components of BIM are structural data, mechanical data, legal data, geospatial data, architectural design, and specifications. The three recurring issues that come up when considering BIM are cost of software, finding a partner company to share data with, and finding capable users.
In which discipline and category are you certified? Bridge or Structural/Miscellaneous: Senior Detailer/Detailer.

I am certified as a Structural/Miscellaneous Senior Detailer

How many years of detailing experience do you have?

I have over 15 years of detailing experience with structural steel. While I have detailed numerous steel framed structures throughout my career, my specialty has evolved into miscellaneous steel and building renovations.

What influenced you to become a detailer?

During my first semester of college I worked for a local engineering service. Although they offered a variety of engineering services, I was most interested with detailing steel structures. Over the years I have had various job titles. However, the one constant has always been steel design and detailing.

Where did you learn steel detailing?

Steel detailing and design was offered as an elective course for the architectural curriculum, which at that time happened to be my major concentration. My skills were further advanced while attending related AISC seminars, as well as on-the-job training.

Did your exam results offer an accurate assessment of your detailing knowledge?

Yes, the exam provided a good bench mark of my current detailing knowledge.

What were your expectations of the exam? Would you make any changes to the exam?

The study guide provided great insight to the exam; therefore I had clear expectations for what the exam would entail.

In future exams, to increase awareness of the current industry standards, I would include questions regarding the most recent building codes. Additionally, I believe that it would be insightful for examinees to have their scores reflect specific areas of knowledge, thus enabling them to focus on areas of weakness for future applications.

Why would you recommend the IDC program to others?

I highly recommend the exam to anyone in the business of steel detailing. Upon completion of the exam the individual has a better understanding of the steel detailing field. Moreover, the exam will test a broad range of their knowledge as it relates to industry standards.

How has your certification helped you in your job?

Not only has the certification increased my level of confidence, the test has encouraged me to further advance my skills as a steel detailer. The certification also demonstrates to my employer and our customers my commitment to high quality standards and continued pursuance of industrial knowledge and advancement.

What advantage over other detailers do you have by being certified?

Added credentials usually offers a competitive edge. National recognition as a certified structural steel detailer offers the customer reassurance of quality work performed by competent individuals. Furthermore, new customers are willing to work with places of business that are nationally recognized and maintain certified detailers on staff.
National Institute of Steel Detailing
Application for Individual Detailer Certification

Classification:
☐ Senior Detailer – Class I: Minimum 10 years experience including checking
☐ Detailer – Class II: Minimum 5 years experience

Category:
☐ Structural/Miscellaneous  ☐ Bridge

Submit:
• Experience history, and
• Either a letter of recommendation from a steel fabricator, a Certified Class I detailer, or a NISD National Director.

When your application is processed, you will receive a Sample Test

Cost:  
NISD Members – Total fee per category: $300 [in US dollars]
- Non-refundable processing fee due with application: $100
- Remainder of fee due 10 days prior to exam date: $200

Non-Members and Overseas Members
- Total fee per category: $500 + proctor fee [in US dollars]
- Non-refundable processing fee due with application: $200
- Remainder of fee due 10 days prior to exam date: $300

Personal Information:
First Name:_______________________________  Last Name:_______________________________________
NISD Member: yes ☐ no ☐ Last 4 digits of SS# or SIN#__________________________
Home Address:_____________________________________________________________________________
City:_____________________________________  State/Province:____________________________________
Zip/Postal Code:___________________________     Country:_________________________________________
Telephone #:______________________________  E-mail:___________________________________________
Current Employer [if applicable]________________________________________________________________
Business Address:_____________________________________________________________________________
City:_____________________________________   State/Province:____________________________________
Zip/Postal Code:___________________________  Country:_________________________________________
Telephone #:______________________________  E-mail:___________________________________________
Indicate which address [no P.O. Box] is best to receive IDC materials: ☐ Home  ☐ Employer

Method of Payment:  Check ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐

Make check payable & send to: NISD, Inc., 7700 Edgewater Drive, Suite 670
Oakland, CA 94621-3022

Credit Card Information: Credit Card #:_______________________________ Expiration Date: ___________
Name as it appears on card:___________________________________________________________
Signature:___________________________________________________________________________

For more information: Visit our website at www.nisd.org or contact Stephanie Andrew at nisd@sbcglobal.net
Or Mike Bowers, Individual Detailer Certification Committee Chair at mike@mdbowers.com

Re-certification is required every 3 years
California Chapter News
by Fred Tinker, Director

The California Chapter members are reporting many jobs to bid, but few are going ahead into the fabrication and detailing process. The slow-down, some members feel, is caused by owners and developers using bids just to budget projects. Others say the bad economy and loan institutions are not releasing money to go ahead with building. I feel they are all correct. We don’t need to point fingers at anyone to blame for where the construction industry is today. We need to use this time to better our companies and employee skills. By doing this we can be ready when the economy and building industry come back. And believe me, it will come back!!!

This summer the California Chapter elected new officers. The results are as follows:

Fred Tinker . . . . . . . . President
Jim Rowland . . . . . . Vice-President
Greg Daneshvar . . . . Secretary
Richard O. Morrison . . . Treasurer
Fred Tinker . . . . . . NISD Director

We have a new person serving as Vice-President this year. Jim Rowland is President of Pacific Coast Detailing. He has been a NISD and California Chapter member for a number of years. I look forward to serving with him and know he will be a great asset to the chapter. Also I would like to thank Jim Truitt of Air Cad, Inc. for all his help with the chapter as Vice-President for the last four years.

As of this report, a couple of the California Chapter detailers have not renewed their membership; they say due to the poor economy. Seriously, this is the time when we need to all pull together and be a part of an international organization - the only organization that serves the STRUCTURAL STEEL DETAILER.

Pittsburgh Chapter News
by Tom Ayres, President

Hello from Pittsburgh.

If your part of the world is anything like it is in Pittsburgh, then you know how I’m feeling. We had one detailing firm go out of business and I have heard rumours of more to follow. It kind of stinks when you do everything right and you still fear for your economic life.

Personally, our company has done about 10 thousand dollars worth of business since March 1, 2009. Not exactly setting the world on fire. Reports from our chapter are that, unfortunately, I am the norm and not the exception.

We have been doing a lot of bidding but the jobs never seem to be awarded. The other thing that we are seeing is that most of the jobs have 10 to 15 GC’s bidding the job.

Well, on the other hand, President Obama says that he has this economy under control. The second good thing is that we won’t owe much in the way of taxes this year.

Québec Chapter News
by Gérard Barbeau, Director

It is with a lot of emotions that the Québec Chapter members have learned of the tragic passing of Mario Webber-Rookes. Three weeks prior, a long time Québec detailer, Jean Lemieux, passed away suddenly with similar conditions. He had a massive heart attack during a biking weekend. All Québec Chapter members sincerely share the sadness and pain of both families, their friends and colleagues.

Even though the economy is struggling for most all of us in the building trades, the good news is that our chapter had 12 detailers that successfully passed the IDC test. We congratulate them for their efforts to further their detailing knowledge, which helps to improve the steel detailing industry. We also plan to have more IDC applicants by this coming fall.

The one bright spot for us is that transportation infrastructures are a good market for steel construction in Québec. Many bridges need to be rehabilitated or completely renewed.

Summer is almost putting us under water in Québec; it’s been raining every day. But despite the weather people continue to enjoy life day by day in our special corner of the world.

New Publications from NISD...

These reference guides are now available. You can order them online at www.nisd.org
Congratulations!

This regular feature recognizes detailers who have recently taken and passed the IDC test. The listing is by discipline and class.

**Structural/Miscellaneous**

**Senior Detailer – Class I**

Eddie Gutierrez
Pavel Levicek

*Detailed Design Drafting*
*Parksville, BC Canada*

François Pelchat
Sebastien Vachon
Guy Boucher

*Dessin Cadmax, Inc*
*Boisbriand, QC Canada*

Porter Spooner

*Shiebler Design Drafting Services*
*New Boston, NH*

Maurice Desjardins
Stephan McLean

*B.D. Structural Design, Inc.*
*Boucherville, QC Canada*

**Structural/Miscellaneous**

**Detailer – Class II**

Alia Acton
Diosdado Corpuz
Elizabeth Hofman
Francisco Pascual
Harilal Peethambaran
Janet Arnold
Jarid Lacroix
Karunakanth Jainshaw
Krishnakant Dere Girish
Ramon Ramos
Rene Olalia
Reynaldo Bumanglag
Sudha Karan Sanu

*Detailed Design Drafting*
*Parksville, BC Canada*

Chintan Patel

*Sen Consulting Corp.*
*Mineola, NY*

Wilfredo Roman

*The Berlin Construction Group*
*Kensington, CT*

Frederick Goyer
Daniel Veillette
Line Cusson
Bruno Girard

*Dessin Cadmax, Inc*
*Boisbriand, QC Canada*

Stephan Dubeau
Richard Hamelin
Marc Bates

*B.D. Structural Design, Inc.*
*Boucherville QC Canada*

**Québec Chapter**

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85, J. –Armand-Bombardier
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Technyx
11535 1er Avenue Bureau 410
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**New QPP**

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Membership Application

The annual membership cycle runs from June 1st through May 31st

☐ Regular Membership is open to any company that conducts its office in the Americas for, and is regularly engaged in, the business of steel detailing. Such office shall have been conducted for a minimum period of one year. A member in this category may be chapter affiliated or a member-at-large, and has all privileges and benefits of membership including voting and holding office.

Fee Schedule:
- $290 for companies with a gross annual income of less than $250,000 [June-September]
- $200 Prorated dues when joining October-January
- $100 February-May
- $450 for companies with a gross annual income greater than $250,000 [June-September]
- $305 Prorated dues when joining October-January
- $155 February-May

☐ Associate Membership is open to any company, national or regional trade or professional association interested in enhancing the detailing profession or the activities of the NISD, whose primary business is not in structural steel detailing. This category includes all privileges and benefits of membership except those of voting and holding office.

Fee Schedule:
- Annual membership fee is $360 [June-September]
- $245 Prorated dues when joining October-January
- $125 February-May

☐ Individual Associate Membership is open to a steel detailer who does not own a company. This category also includes other persons interested in the future of the steel detailing industry who do not fall in the category of Regular or Associate membership. This category has limited privileges and benefits of membership, which precludes them from voting and holding office.

Fee Schedule:
- Annual membership fee is $65
- Annual dues of $65 are renewable on June 1st

☐ Overseas Membership is open to any company that conducts a regular office for, and is regularly engaged in, the business of steel detailing outside the Americas. Such office shall have been conducted for a minimum period of one year. Members in this category may vote (no proxy votes), but they may not hold national office.

Fee Schedule:
- Annual membership fee is $360 [June-September]
- $245 Prorated dues when joining October-January
- $125 February-May

☐ Member Emeritus Membership is open to any individual who was a former regular member of the NISD and has retired from the competitive field, but wishes to remain active in the NISD. Members in this category may not hold office.

Fee Schedule:
- Annual membership fee is $100
- Annual dues of $100 are renewable on June 1st

The undersigned hereby applies for membership in the National Institute of Steel Detailing, Inc.

Name ___________________________________________ Title ___________________________________________

Company Name__________________________________________________________________________________

Address _________________________________________________________________________________________

City __________________________________ State/Province __________________ Zip/Postal Code____________

Country ________________________________

Telephone __________________________________ Fax ________________________________

E-mail _____________________________ Web site __________________________________

Payment in US Dollars

Membership Fee: US$__________

Postage/handling, add: $24 for Canada $__________

$38 for International $__________

TOTAL ENCLOSED US$__________

Method of Payment

☐ Check, payable to: NISD, Inc.

7700 Edgewater Dr., Suite 670

Oakland, CA 94621-3022

MasterCard Visa

Number: __________________________ Expiration Date: ____________

Signature: __________________________

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