Building Material Reuse:

Removing the Roadblocks

Presented by Nathan Benjamin LEED-AP,
PlanetReuse - Principal + Founder
Q: Why don’t we use more (or any) reused materials to design and build new commercial projects?

• How do we overcome road blocks and misperceptions?

• What are these road blocks?
Road Block 1: How do I find the exact material I’m looking for while I’m working to hit design deadlines?

- Additional team member to source materials, running in parallel with the design team
- Early involvement in the design process, not just during the CD phase or construction
- Technology
- Networking
Road Block 2: Aren’t reclaimed materials expensive? How can I justify using them when we are trying to cut costs, not add them?

- Not always “one-off” originals, common items
- Expanding network of national resources
- Competitive market
- Finding a new home prior to removal to reduce double-handling
- LEED MR3.1 and 3.2 credits
Road Block 3: Habitat ReStores and other not-for-profit outlets don’t carry commercial material, so where do I find it?

• Creating a demand
• Finding a new home for materials before removal
• Commercial reuse is not competition
  • More job opportunities
  • New revenue stream
  • Tax deductions
Road Block 4: It’s a lot of work, and I can’t even reach the 5 percent goals for just one MR credit.

- Any percentage is a good percentage
- More than just wood; you name it, it can probably be reclaimed
  - Steel
  - Commercial doors
  - Cisterns
  - Brick and masonry
  - Office furniture
  - Access flooring
  - Solid surfaces
  - Carpet tile
  - Accessories
  - Light fixtures
Kansas / Missouri Projects:

- Greensburg School
- Greensburg Streetscape
Kansas / Missouri Projects:

• Johnny’s Tavern
  • Union Station Flooring
• Tyler Residence
  • Sinker Cypress
Omega Center for Spiritual Living
Rhinebeck, NY
Only 6 to 8% of all LEED Certified Projects have achieved Reuse Credits
thank you

Nathan Benjamin
nbenjamin@planetreuse.com
www.planetreuse.com

Office: 816-298-7947