

# 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?

ROAD CLOSED

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-forprofit 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

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