



Insight online

A Newsletter Of The Construction Update
Online Plan Room Powered By iSqFt

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iSqFt and Master Builders of Iowa Reflect on 10 Years of Success

“It’s hard to believe it’s been 10 years, but I guess it has,” says Scott Norvell, President and CEO of Master Builders of Iowa (MBI). “Just a decade ago, back in 2001, we were all using paper, and a lot of it. If a subcontractor needed to get information about a job, he had no choice but to drive down to the plan room. Things have changed.”

Dave Conway, President and CEO of iSqFt, remembers some early meetings that marked the beginning of a revolution for the commercial construction industry. “The world was going digital, and we could see that pretty soon everything would be available online. Music, movies--everything. Everything but jobs and project information. We knew that was a gap that iSqFt could fill.”

“But they would need projects to put online,” says Norvell, “and that was what we were good at. And to this day we’re still the best project information harvesters out there. We’re

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Construction Update Plan Room Network Locations

Master Builders of Iowa – Cedar Rapids

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E-Mail: mbiplanroom-cr@mbionline.com

Master Builders of Iowa/ Construction Update Plan Room

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PO Box 695
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Dubuque Builders Exchange

801 Cedar Cross Road
Dubuque, IA 52003
Phone: 563.583.8459
Fax: 563.582.6113
E-Mail: dubbxplanroom@mbionline.com

Master Builders of Iowa – Omaha Builders Exchange

4255 S. 94th Street
Omaha, NE 68127
Phone: 402.593.6908
Fax: 402.593.6912
E-Mail: omahaplanroom-obe@mbionline.com

Master Builders of Iowa – Rock Island Office

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Master Builders of Iowa – Sioux City Office

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Sioux City, Iowa 51101
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Master Builders of Iowa – Waterloo Office

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Planning News:

cuplanning@mbionline.com

For questions regarding project

information: Please contact Cindy Adams at 515.288.8904 or one of the plan rooms listed above.

For Technical Issues: Contact iSqFt at 888.768.4569. iSqFt also provides online help and support through the **iSqFt Online Help site**. Support Hours are Monday – Friday, 7:30am – 8pm ET (6:30am – 7pm CST)

Click on the Support link in the left-hand navigation pane. See the "FAQ's" and "How To's" for guidance with the commonly requested support topics. In addition, be sure to view the Customer Training schedule of web-based seminars conducted throughout the week for the best chance to learn what our site has to offer.



10 Years of Success *continued from page 1*

absolutely committed to making sure our members know about as many jobs as possible.”

“You’re right,” says Conway. “MBI *is* one of the best, and you shared our vision for changing the way the commercial construction industry works. You saw that a decade ago, which is one of the reasons I think our partnership has worked so well.”

When asked what kinds of changes their partnership and vision have brought to the commercial construction industry, Scott Norvell is quick to point to efficiencies. “There isn’t a doubt in my mind that the time savings iSqFt has to offer our members has reduced the cost of construction. No more driving to plan rooms, access to project documents any time of day, and GCs can invite bids with the click of a button. I honestly can’t imagine trying to do business in today’s economic climate without a resource like iSqFt.”

So what do these two visionaries think is next? “As much as I’d like to say that everyone in the construction industry gets the value of services like iSqFt,” says Conway, “the reality is that we’re only about halfway there. Every day there are still a lot of people driving to plan rooms, printing plans on plotters just to do takeoffs, networking and hoping to find out about private jobs--this is still happening every day. We’ve come a long way, but there’s still a long way to go. We know that.”

“But at the end of the day, these past 10 years have been really productive for MBI, iSqFt, and the commercial construction industry,” says Norvell. “Given our strategic planning effort, I expect the next 10 to be even better.”

Welcome to the iSqFt 10 Learning Center

Over the past several months iSqFt has been telling you that they were making changes based on your feedback, and they’ve been working hard to prove it by making the kinds of improvements you’ve been asking for.

An example of their commitment is in the form of the new [iSqFt Learning Center](#).

Through surveys and conversations, you’ve told iSqFt that you would like options in how you learn about iSqFt 10; that you’d like to discover things on your own, at your pace and on your schedule; and that online videos were your preferred method of training. iSqFt heard you, loud and clear.

In addition to information about recent updates to iSqFt 10 and walkthrough tutorials, the [iSqFt Learning Center](#) contains brief training videos designed to help you use the new application to your advantage, and get you up and running faster. Most videos are under 2:00 minutes in length, and all are task-specific, so you can get the exact help you need, right when you need it.



The screenshot shows the iSqFt 10 Learning Center homepage. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the iSqFt 10 logo and links for 'Create a FREE Profile' and 'Sign in to iSqFt 10'. Below this is a main content area with a large heading 'Welcome to the iSqFt 10 Learning Center!' and a sub-heading 'We'll help you find the answers to some of the common questions you might have.' To the left is a 'Resources' sidebar with links for 'Overview', 'Home', 'New to iSqFt 10?', 'Updates to iSqFt 10', 'Contact Support', 'Home Page', 'Home Page Widgets', 'My Profile', 'Updating Your Profile', 'Managing Your Trades', and 'Managing Your Service Area'. Below the main heading, there are three sections: 'New to iSqFt 10?' with a green arrow pointing left and the text 'Get started by clicking on the links to the left', 'Recent Updates' dated 'May 20, 2011' with a link to 'Export Grids', and a small thumbnail image of a software interface.

The first batch of videos walks through actions in these categories:

- Home Page
- My Profile
- Company Profile
- Project Listings
- Viewing a Project
- Tracked Projects
- Advanced Search

The [iSqFt Learning Center](#) as it is today is a beginning, a down payment on iSqFt’s promise to listen to you and provide you with the tools you need to use iSqFt to your competitive advantage.

MBI Events/Training

- October 5, 2011** – Centennial Leadership Celebration (Des Moines, IA)
- October 7, 2011** – Crane Signal Person & Rigging Applications Training (Omaha, NE)
- October 14, 2011** – Lead-Safe Renovator Training (Sioux City, IA)
- October 17, 2011** – Preparing for Insurance Bidding (Des Moines, IA)
- October 20, 2011** – Competent Person Scaffold Builder and User Training (Little Amana, IA)
- October 25, 2011** – Conduct Your Own Safety Audits (Webinar)
- October 28, 2011** – Lead Safe Renovator Training (Dubuque, IA)
- October 31, 2011** – Field Management Leadership Series: Session I (Cedar Rapids, IA)

For more information on MBI calendar events and training sessions, please visit www.mbionline.com. You can also register for these events through the website.

Welcome New CUonline

WELCOME

- Aerosaw – Iowa City, IA
- All Lines Painting – Ankeny, IA
- AVI-SPL – Tampa, FL
- Blue Waters Services – Ames, IA
- Brandt Construction – Milan, IL
- C & C Demolition – Ankeny, IA
- C & G Painting, Inc – Denver, CO
- Cahoy Well & Pump – Fredericksburg, IA
- CLM Construction – Omaha, NE
- Concrete Products Co – Sioux City, IA
- Conley Spray Foam Insulation – Albia, IA
- Diamond Cleaning Systems – Sioux City, IA
- Dolan Excavating – Manchester, IA
- Drake Construction – Menlo, IA
- Fred's Heating & Air – Omaha, NE
- Hensel Richards Const – Omaha, NE
- HydroServ Inc – Northfield, MN
- Imperial Woodworks, Inc – Waco, TX
- In Like Flynn Acoustics – Council Bluffs, IA
- Interstate Mechanical Corp – Sioux City, IA
- Iowa Concrete Solutions – Indianola, IA
- JRS Excavating – Winterset, IA
- Kondora Plumbing & Heating – Iowa City, IA
- KW Boring – Omaha, NE
- Lundvall Plumbing – Glenwood, IA
- Maxson Masonry – West Branch, IA
- McClure Engineering Co – Ankeny, IA
- Metal Design Systems – Cedar Rapids, IA
- Nebraska Electrical Services – Omaha, NE
- Neumiller Electric – North Liberty, IA
- Pixler Electric – Spencer, IA
- PolishMaxx – Cedar Rapids, IA
- Raccoon Valley Contractors – Waukee, IA
- Signature Cabinets and Closets – Nevada, IA
- Storm Water Supply – Davenport, IA
- Subsurface Constructors – Saint Louis, MO

The Secret of the Advanced Search Are you using this amazing iSqFt 10 tool?

You already know that iSqFt brings our subscribers tons of jobs and nifty filtering, sorting, and searching tools that help them find just the right ones. But have you seen the Advanced Search in iSqFt 10? It seems to be the best-kept--and coolest--secret in the construction industry.

(Before you continue reading, I should tell you that we've created a short video that shows you how to find and use our Advanced Search. You can find it at the top of the Advanced Search page inside iSqFt 10, where you see the question mark icon. Just click and enjoy...)

Under the Projects tab, where you can choose what kinds of jobs you want to view, you'll see Advanced Search toward the bottom. Click on that and you'll be taken to a page that lets you perform really detailed searches by:

- Keyword or phrase (you can actually search for up to five at a time by clicking the green plus sign)
- Date range
- Estimated project value
- Project location
- Project Phase
- Project Class
- Project Category

Oh, and did I mention that once you've set up your super-filter, you can save it and apply it whenever you want? Pretty nifty, huh?

Advanced Search gives you the tools to find not just jobs in your service area and trades; it gives you the power to find the jobs you really want. The next time you're poking around iSqFt 10, take a look at Advanced Search. You'll be glad you did.

Plan Room E-Mail Addresses

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