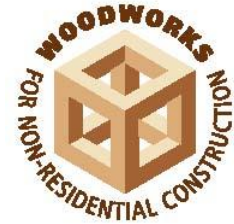


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RISA Engineering Software First to Include Full Range of Wood Features

Update Reflects Growing Interest in Cost, Sustainability Benefits of Non-residential Wood Buildings

TACOMA, Wash. (August 5, 2009) – The Wood Products Council’s WoodWorks initiative and RISA Technologies today announced the Phase II release of RISA’s updated building design software package—including RISAFloor and RISA-3D—which incorporates a full range of wood design features. The update, available beginning August 18, reflects a trend toward increased wood use in non-residential buildings, driven by benefits such as cost and sustainability.

“The updated software can be used to design all-wood buildings or hybrid structures of wood and steel, wood and concrete or wood and masonry,” said Bruce Bates, president of RISA Technologies. “It includes elements that don’t exist in any comparable software, saving engineers hours of calculation time and allowing them to design a complete building with one software package. In a nutshell, it closes a gap for many engineers looking to integrate wood into their designs more quickly and cost-effectively.”

Developed in cooperation with WoodWorks, the update gives engineers greater flexibility in the selection of materials, and helps to more accurately plan and budget a wider range of building types. It covers analysis and design of wood structures for both gravity and lateral forces, including shear wall and diaphragm modeling, analysis and design. It also integrates the current codes—such as the *National Design Specification® for Wood Construction (NDS®)*, *International Building Code 2006* and *California Building Code 2007*.

Wood design features are now included in three related software programs—RISA-2D, RISAFloor and RISA-3D—each of which covers different elements related to building design. RISAFloor and RISA-3D are used in the design of buildings, with RISAFloor providing gravity analysis and design and RISA-3D providing lateral analysis and design. RISA-2D is generally used for two-dimensional analysis and design, including multiple shear walls in one wall line.

“The new wood features within the RISA software suite couldn’t be timelier,” said Dwight Yochim, national director of the WoodWorks program. “There is growing awareness that using more wood in non-residential buildings delivers a host of benefits—related to sustainability, cost, speed of construction, design flexibility, and more. We’re also at a point where governments around the world are looking to

mitigate climate change—many through policies that encourage wood use—and designers are likewise seeking to reduce the carbon footprint of their buildings, which using wood enables them to do.”

In terms of climate change mitigation, wood products contain the carbon absorbed as the trees were growing, while the regenerating forests once again begin to absorb carbon (in the form of carbon dioxide). Wood products can also be substituted for products that require large amounts of fossil fuels to manufacture and residuals from forestry and mill processes can be used to generate clean bioenergy. Wood is also the only major building material that’s renewable and sustainable over the long term, and life cycle assessment studies show that it significantly outperforms other materials in terms of embodied energy, air and water pollution and other environmental impact indicators.

One architect that has recognized these benefits is UK-based Andrew Waugh, who recently completed a nine-story structure in which the top eight floors were constructed entirely in wood. Motivated by environmental concerns, Waugh estimates that, between the emissions avoided by not using steel or concrete and the carbon stored in the wood, he saved the equivalent of about 300 metric tons of carbon, which is the amount the building is projected to emit over 21 years of operation.

Current RISA license holders will receive the update automatically along with information on training. For engineers with non-residential wood projects that could benefit from the RISA update, support is also available in the three regions covered by the WoodWorks program—California, the Southeast (Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina) and the North-central U.S. (Minnesota, Illinois and Wisconsin), For more information, visit www.risa.com or www.woodworks.org.

About WoodWorks

WoodWorks, an initiative of the Wood Products Council, is a cooperative venture of all the major wood associations in North America, as well as research organizations and government agencies. It provides one-stop access to the widest possible range of information on the use of wood in non-residential structures. For more information, call 1-866-966-3448 or visit www.woodworks.org.

About RISA Technologies

RISA Technologies, a California Limited Liability Company, is a leading developer of structural design and optimization software. RISA-3D, the flagship product of RISA Technologies, is the most widely used structural engineering application in the United States. For more information, visit www.risa.com.

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