



For more information:

Liz Nicklos

LaBreche

lnicklos@labrechereputations.com

(612) 767-7628

RISA to Announce Phase I Release of New Wood Design Software at
Wood Solutions Fair

*Fair Features Seminars on the Use of Wood in Non-residential Structures and Presentation of the
2008 Wood Design Awards*

(October 28, 2008 - Minneapolis) On November 5, WoodWorks and RISA Technologies will announce the release phase one of an expanded software package for wood design at the Wood Solutions Fair in Minneapolis, MN. The new offering is the result of a partnership agreement to expand RISA's popular design software to incorporate wood design features, giving architects and engineers greater flexibility and choice in the selection of materials for non-residential buildings.

Phase one of the expanded software includes the capability to design segmented wood shear walls. It will be followed by a second release, in early 2009, which incorporates wood diaphragm design as well as shear walls with openings. The software will also incorporate information on building code requirements, gravity design, lateral force design, hybrid design and several other features, and will be Building Information Modeling (BIM) compatible.

“WoodWorks was established to help architects, engineers and others design and build non-residential structures out of wood more easily and at less cost,” said Duane Schantz, regional director of WoodWorks North-central, which includes Minneapolis, Illinois and Wisconsin. “Once completed, this new software from RISA will enable designers to take

advantage of all wood has to offer—such as lower cost, design flexibility and environmental benefits—with even greater ease.”

In addition to the launch of the updated software, the day-long Wood Solutions Fair will feature concurrent seminars on topics such as the cost advantages of using wood, seismic and wind design, and fire protection, as well as exhibits showcasing a wide range of structural and finishing products. Attendees will also have access to wood design experts for additional information or one-on-one support.

As part of the event, WoodWorks North-central will also announce the winners of its 2008 Wood Design Awards. Awards will be presented in four categories, including: engineering, institutional wood design, commercial wood design, and interior beauty of wood.

The WoodWorks program encompasses a full range of non-residential building types, including: retail, offices, hotels, schools, industrial, religious, recreation, public and health care. Field staff are available to discuss specific issues and have the expertise to provide a wide range of architectural, engineering and code support, either in person or through in-house presentations to an entire firm or design team.

About WoodWorks

WoodWorks is an initiative of the Wood Products Council, which is a cooperative venture of all the major wood associations in North America, as well as research organizations and government agencies. For more information, visit www.WoodWorks.org.

###