

NATIONAL TRADESMEN DAY



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Q: What are some of the biggest advancements that have taken place in our industry over the course of your career? This could be in the industry as a whole, in your geographic region and/or here at Danforth.

A: I would say the biggest advancement in the industry would be the use of BIM coordination and prefabrication. This has always been around, but it is now more of a mainstay on most projects.

Q: What changes/advancements do you think are next on the horizon?

A: First would be more prefabrication and modularization of HVAC and plumbing systems. It seems the industry is headed this way, and here in NY, I feel we are a little behind the curve. I think this is being pushed so much because of the faster pace everything is these days.

Secondly, would be the push into design build work, again this is another way the end user can speed up the process of getting a project complete with the contractor they would like to partner with.

Q: What are the challenges facing our industry in the near term?

A: I think the biggest challenge we see coming is a labor shortage, and a shortage of good labor. It seems that the trades are not getting the interest that they did 20 or 30 years ago. With that the newer generation work force isn't as "get the job done" oriented as previous generations. They seem to need everything laid out for them, perhaps they rely too much on the CAD that has advanced so greatly.

Next biggest challenge is this industry is going faster and faster, and I don't believe anyone can keep up. This leads to trying to get projects done cheaper and quicker, and at some point, this leads to a loss in profits and poor construction.

Q: How are we – as an industry and as a company – working to recruit, retain and prepare the next generation of tradespeople?

A: I think that the industry needs to improve in this area. As a company, I think we are doing our best to connect with colleges to recruit young talent, but the trades need the talent, which would start at the high school or JR college level.

Q: Other thoughts on the industry and where it is headed, the benefits of working in the trades, etc.

A: I think this is a great industry with a lot of great people to work with which makes it fun to be a part of. On the flip side, with the fast pace, get it done quicker and cheaper, I do have concerns about it as a whole.

