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Tech Innovations

FrameMax New Fire Resistant, Light Gauge Steel Materials

FrameMax, the San Diego-based manufacturer of turnkey steel framing materials, is helping builders fight fire with steel with its new line of fire resistant, light gauge steel building materials. This will raise the height limitations of mid-rise, multihousing construction while meeting stricter building codes for fire protection and seismic standards.

The introduction of the noncombustible metal floor decking, walls and brace frames will enable multihousing builders to construct Type II buildings at a Type III cost, increase structures from six to 10 stories and improve their return on investment on land use through increased density. "FrameMax's patented panelization system and light gauge steel building materials offer builders a whole new level of cost efficiencies that can save builders hundreds of thousands in materials, foundation costs, site labor and general conditions costs, through a faster build time compared to other traditional construction methods," says FrameMax CEO Phil Ellis.

"FrameMax's labeled panels simply screw into place requiring no special training for onsite crews," says Ellis. This ease of assembly saves builders an estimated 50 percent in onsite erecting time compared to traditional "stick" framing.

Eco-conscious builders and homebuyers are attracted to the "Green" aspects of this affordable building option. An average home with wood framing takes approximately one acre of trees to build. FrameMax's steel framing system reduces the use of wood by 90 percent and produces highly durable framing with an average of 65 percent recycled materials.

One application of this new steel is the ModPOD, a prefabricated modular building solution that enables builders to speed the construction of multilevel mixed-use projects.

Similar to the concept behind manufactured housing, ModPOD offers a turnkey building solution for the multihousing market. The modular units are constructed of light gauge steel framing, steel wall panels and metal decking and come in various sizes. Units include preinstalled electrical, plumbing, interior fixtures and finishes. ModPODs are delivered via flatbed truck, lifted into place by crane and secured to other structural units. Onsite construction is reduced to anchoring and connecting electrical and plumbing.

For more information visit framemax.com.

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