



The Quantum Quote

Issue 11, April 2013

Yes, after a long (long...) hiatus, the Quantum Quote is Back! For the sake of your office mates, please hold your applause (or groans). A special shout-out to Jeffrey, who reminded me that there really is no good excuse for no newsletter as anticipated.

Here are a few upcoming community events that we're connected to, which we think you should be too!

- Just two days away, the [Burlington Rotary Comedy Night](#) is Friday April 19th at 6pm. Tickets are only \$25 for a nationally recognized comedian!
- The [Island Hospital Foundation](#) 10th Annual Gala of Hope is coming up this Saturday, April 20th. It's a fun event to attend, and supports a great healthcare facility in our community.
- The Skagit Family YMCA is currently in the midst of the annual Step Up campaign, where people like yourself contribute to this vital community resource. Your generous donation helps support programs such as a cancer survivor fitness program (reducing chances of remission and improving quality of life), the Oasis Teen Homeless Shelter (the only emergency homeless shelter for teens in Skagit County), Girls on the Run, Camp Anderson, Early Learning and Childcare programs, and of course, promoting community health through fitness and Aquatics. Did you know that the Y gave away \$123,029 in fitness scholarship programs in 2012? If you are interested in supporting the Y, please contact me.
- For those of you connected to the building industry, the SICBA Annual Golf Tournament is coming up on July 19th. Sponsorships are currently available for SICBA members!

Without further ado,

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*"Living a life is like constructing a building: If you start wrong, you'll end wrong."
- Maya Angelou*

Playhouse 2013

The 2013 SICBA Annual Playhouse Challenge has come and gone. In keeping with

our focus on fun for children, Quantum constructed a castle-themed playhouse this year. We packed as many features as we could into our 6' x 8' floor plan (limited by contest regulations), including a realistic painted stone facade, two floors of fun, a rock climbing wall, slide, dungeon, hidden rear escape door, drawbridge. secret storage, and a dragon windsock to cap it off.

Our charity recipient this year was the [SVH Christmas Fund](#), a local 64 year old "Toys for Tots" type organization that supplies Christmas cheer to over 5000 children and several thousand families at Christmas. The Fund finds donations locally, purchases toys locally, find local volunteers, and of course serves Skagit County Families.

Conceptual design of the castle was done by AHS Junior Maddie Welch (who also helped paint). Lumber and building supplies for the project were generously donated by [Frontier Building Supply](#) of Anacortes, labor by Quantum Construction & employees, and additional hands for painting by the SVH Christmas Fund. Landscaping for the competition, including the moat, was donated and installed by B.E.L.L. Mowing Landscape Services. It take a lot of time, effort and money to put together a project like this, so please patronize our donors when you have the opportunity, and support the SVH Christmas Fund!



Castle at Fairgrounds with Landscaping by B.E.L.L. Mowing Landscape Services. Yes, that's me in front. I had fun with it too!



Playhouse delivered to the winner's home in Stanwood, just in time for an Easter family gathering!

Safety Corner

Forklifts

Today's Safety Corner applies to businesses and any consumers who may be exposed to forklifts, such as when picking up supplies from a warehouse.

Forklifts seem familiar; with four wheels, gas and brake pedals, and a steering wheel, we often (mistakenly) lump their attributes with that of regular cars and trucks. However, there are some very important differences. Most importantly, the size and weight of a forklift can be deceiving. Even a small warehouse forklift can weigh in the neighborhood of 9,000-11,000 lbs. or about **four times** the weight of a passenger sedan. The extra weight allows the forklift to pick up heavy loads without tipping. Coupled with solid tires (for many models), rear steering, large blind spots, and their use in often tight quarters, forklifts can pose a significant hazard unless proper precautions are taken.

Here's a small sample of safety precautions. This list is by no means extensive; consider it a primer. First, businesses should always have a forklift safety program in place. Never operate a forklift unless you have been trained in its use. If you are operating a forklift, always keep your load close to the forklift mast and low to the ground when moving. Use a spotter when necessary for visibility.

If you are a pedestrian near forklifts, never assume that the forklift driver can see you. Forklifts have significant blind spots and the result of a pedestrian/forklift collision is usually irreversible and too often fatal. Other situations to avoid are pinch points between a forklift and immovable object and for potentially run over feet (remember, those back wheels turn!). For more information, a video is available from Washington L&I [here](#). You'll see what a forklift can do to a turkey drumstick!

Sustainable and Efficient

Insulate!

Tired of high heating and cooling costs? You may be exploring options such as upgraded furnaces, solar power, new windows, or other power generation options such as geothermal heat. Each of those are great options, but before you head

down that road, check your insulation.

Insulation (and air sealing) is often the most cost effective and impactful way to keep your home or business warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Quite simply, you're reducing the amount of heating or cooling needed.

A qualified and licensed insulation contractor should be able to help you look at your current insulation and potential upgrades with associated costs.

Under Construction

In response to our last newsletter, one reader asked for an update on projects Quantum is currently building or has recently completed. Here are a few of our recent favorites.



The Stillaguamish Natural Resources Building, designed by Anacortes architect Brooks Middleton, is a 13,000 square foot Natural Resources Department and Water Quality Laboratory for the Stillaguamish Tribe.

Status: Under Construction



Bob's Chowder Bar in Anacortes transformed from a 400 square restaurant (essentially for takeout) to a building nearly four times that size with plenty of indoor seating, ample window space, and a distinctly nautical/fisherman atmosphere.

Status: Complete



This under construction master bathroom will soon house a tiled shower, whirlpool tub and deluxe walk in closet for its 3,765 sf luxury home in Anacortes. With fantastic views of the bay and Mt. Baker, I bet you wouldn't mind living here...and potentially could! The owner is selling the home and you can view the listing [here](#).

Status: Under Construction



Quantum is adding an addition to the Burlington Pacific Woodtech Plant. The Design-Build Project will provide additional manufacturing floor space for this cutting edge engineered wood product company.

Status: Under Construction



We've also completed numerous projects of smaller scope in the last 6 months, including concrete repair and ADA improvements, a residential remodel, a commercial tenant improvement for a CSA warehouse, a community kitchen and restaurant, and improvements to several restaurant kitchens.

Building, Start to Finish: Part 7

(Editor's note: I'm sure you've noticed that our column has been leaning more towards residential construction and away from commercial. This column has been included in the Skagit Valley Herald and has focused on residential to be most relevant to readers. Next issue, I'll finish up our series by bring it full circle to include differences in commercial construction.)

It's time to bring our Building: Start to Finish series to a close. Painting and landscaping will finish our construction, while a look at punch lists and warranties will round out our paperwork.

Exterior Painting

Your exterior paint is the outermost surface of your home and will take the worst that weather can offer. It's your first layer of protection. After cleaning and prepping, the painter will mask off surfaces that may be accidentally painted. Next, one or two coats of primer will be added, unless the product is pre-primed. Finally, two coats of exterior paint should be applied.

In remodeling, the cleaning and surface preparation is extremely important. It's also vital to kill any mold and mildew, which can actually sprout through the paint. Additionally, any paint before 1980 is assumed to contain lead. Overexposure to lead can lead to serious health problems, even through dust related health hazards after the project is completed. Washington State requires contractors working with lead to receive a special certification.

Tips for Savings

As with interior paint, exterior paint is often viewed as something that handier home owners can do themselves.

Tips for success

High quality exterior paint will usually cover better than budget paint, lowering labor and time costs. Take the time to properly prepare and clean your surface. When you're painting high surfaces, take extra care for fall protection. Falls are a leading cause of construction related injuries and deaths. Check the weather forecast to avoid rain. If your home is on the challenging end, hire a professional.

Landscaping

The first step in landscaping is planning. This can be as simple as a hand drawn sketch with help from a DIY book or a detailed one by a landscape designer. Planning helps you control budget and layout, and looks ahead at maintenance requirements and seasonal displays. Your landscaping can include grass, flower beds, hardscapes (walkways, patios), water features, usable spaces (gazebos, fire pits), trees, hedges, and more. You're only limited by your imagination, climate and budget.

Tips for Savings

Buy items like topsoil in bulk. The bagged version is often double the price. Salvage shops may carry pavers and landscaping wood. Reuse what you already have in your yard, replanting as needed. Finally, get to know your local retailers, who freely dispense advice and may be able to provide discounted prices or better quality.

Tips for Success

Make sure you leave money in your budget for this last, but important step. Consider how your landscaping will grow and mature. If you don't have the time or money to keep up an extensive garden, shy away from high maintenance landscaping. Will you be able to move your lawn mower between patches of grass? Will that tree grow up and block your view? What will your garden look like in winter? Finally, remember to include drainage to ensure that your landscape doesn't turn into a muddy swimming pool!

Punch list

The last thing to complete is a punch list, a To Do list for completion. You and your contractor will walk through the project and establish a single, comprehensive list of items that need to be completed or corrected in order to satisfy the terms of your contract. Items addressed include incorrect installation, damage, and poor craftsmanship. Once the items on this checklist are complete, you'll be done! This process includes receiving the Operations and Maintenance Manuals (O&M's) for equipment and specialty finishes, such as a touch-screen thermostat or hardwired theater system.

Tips for Success

The punch list is only intended to bring the final project in line with your blueprints, correspondence, contract, and proper building practices. Other changes like different colors or light fixtures may cost extra. Allow enough time for a thorough walk through, and take pictures if desired. If you've occupied the space prior to the punch list, wear and tear from your usage is not a punch list item.

Warranty

Your home is complete, the bills are paid, and you're now living there! And then the unthinkable happens. A door sags and stops closing correctly or your furnace suddenly goes out. In truth, neither of these are likely, but you'll want to make sure your contractor provided you with a warranty period in your contract just in case. Often for a period of one year, this warranty provides you a guarantee against any issues.

Tips for Success

If you notice a problem, take pictures and detailed notes. Often the issue may be difficult to recreate, such as a leaky roof on a sunny day. This will assist the contractor in timely resolution of the issue. Manufactured and consumer products, such as windows, mechanical systems, and fixtures are often omitted from the contractor's warranty, as their manufacturer provides a warranty. However, your contractor will usually assist you in obtaining a repair or replacement should anything happen.

You're done! The building process can be long, emotional and hard work. Take time to enjoy your new home!

[Quantum Construction, Inc.](#) is a family-owned general contractor based in Anacortes, WA. Quantum has been building high quality commercial, custom residential and industrial projects since 1984. For information on how we can give you the best building experience, please contact us by [email](#) or by phone at (360) 293-0656.



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