

### Industry Article: Stop Water from Getting into Your Walls During Construction

#### Prevent Costly Failures: Secure the Top of Walls

Properly protecting wall tops is essential to prevent water intrusion that can damage air barriers, leading to costly failures like delamination and loss of adhesion—underscoring the need for clear specifications, pre-construction planning, and temporary safeguards.



[Read the Full Article](#)

### Honoring Years of Dedication, Leadership, and Friendship

Doug Barron, founder of DJ Barron LLC, has been a trusted advisor in the building enclosure industry since 1991. As York's Michigan representative since 2014, his pioneering spirit has been instrumental in the brand's growth for the last 11 years.

**As Doug retires, we recognize his impact and thank him for his dedicated service** including roles with the BEC-Greater Detroit, Masonry Institute of Michigan, and ICRI Michigan Chapter. His passion, integrity, and reliability have left a lasting mark on the industry.

From all of us at York, **we extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes** as you begin your well-earned retirement.



# Will Construction Thrive or Dive Beyond 2025?

The York team recently attended the annual ABAA Building Enclosure Conference in Denver, CO, featuring prominent industry leaders. As part of our commitment to knowledge sharing, we've compiled a **Presentation Snapshot** highlighting key insights from the keynote speaker.

## Where is Construction Headed?

Ken Simonson, Chief Economist with the Associated General Contractors of America, shared his expert insight at the recent ABAA Building Enclosure Conference, offering a **realistic yet cautiously optimistic outlook for the construction industry.**

From job growth trends and sector-specific opportunities to rising risks like tariffs and labor shortages, his snapshot is one you won't want to miss.

[Review the Full Presentation Snapshot](#)

**ABAA Presentation Snapshot**

**Big Idea**  
Title: Will U.S. Construction Thrive or Dive in the Rest of '25?  
Despite ongoing challenges and rising risks, the construction industry shows modest growth potential—particularly in sectors like infrastructure and data centers—though economist Ken Simonson cautions that optimism is fading amid labor shortages, regulatory shifts, and economic uncertainty.

**Key Insights**

- Construction job growth has slowed but still outpaces other sectors, with fewer layoffs overall.
- Multi-family construction has declined for 1.5 years, stabilizing only in hotspots like Nashville and Austin.
- Industry risks include tariffs, supply chain disruptions, and immigration changes affecting labor availability.
- Reduced federal regulations may help accelerate project starts.
- Growth is strongest in data centers, power, and infrastructure; single-family housing shows gradual improvement.
- Medium-term outlook is "moderately positive" but with rising risk of decline; optimism is fading due to inflation and recession concerns.

**Change in construction spending, January 2022-March 2025**

**The wage premium contractors pay to attract craft workers is rising**

**Snapshot Conclusion**  
Overall, the construction industry continues to show resilience despite emerging risks and a slowdown in certain areas. While growth opportunities remain, especially in infrastructure and technology-related projects, caution is warranted as economic uncertainty persists.

**About the ABAA Conference**  
The ABAA Building Enclosure Conference has over 400 professionals from around the world attending and learning from industry-leading companies.

**About the Presenter**  
Ken Simonson is the Chief Economist for the Associated General Contractors of America, providing expert insights on construction activity, materials costs, and employment trends across segments and regions.

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## A Legacy of Excellence



### Roy Schaufele, Emeritus Honoree

At the recent ABAA Building Enclosure Conference, the **Emeritus Award was presented to Roy Schaufele** in recognition of a distinguished career dedicated to advancing the building enclosure industry. This award celebrates decades of leadership, innovation, and meaningful contributions that have left a timeless influence on the field and inspired the next generation of professionals.

## Welcome the 2025 ABAA Fellows

York President **Craig Wetmore** had the honor of standing alongside the newest ABAA Fellows—**Andrew Dunlap, Sarah Flock, and Benjamin Meyer.**

This prestigious recognition is awarded to individuals who have demonstrated exceptional service, technical expertise, and ongoing commitment to advancing the air barrier industry.



## Wagdy Anis Award of Dedication

The Wagdy Anis Award of Dedication honors individuals who demonstrate unwavering commitment to the air barrier industry through mentorship, leadership, and exemplary volunteer service.

At the recent ABAA Building Enclosure

Conference in Denver, this prestigious award was presented to **Brian Stroik** in recognition of his invaluable time, steadfast dedication, and inspiring guidance. This award is like being inducted into the Hall of Fame for the air barrier industry.



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Specializing in transition membranes and through-wall flashing, York has been inventing and producing flashings since 1935. As the leader in commercial and residential flashing industry, York has led the charge to create flashings that are compatible with the air barriers and insulations that populate the cavity wall.

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