Magnum Drywall

by Gary Robinson, President and CEO

Magnum Drywall is dedicated to providing customers with the most professional approach to their drywall, acoustical ceiling/T-bar and painting needs. We believe strongly about the four tenets we take to every project: safety, quality, service and efficiency. We strive to accomplish the best quality, the best safety record and the best service on all of our projects. Working together as a team with the general contractor, we believe, and have proven, that even the most difficult schedules can be met.

It's interesting how things turn out sometimes. I began this company in 1991 and continue to serve to this day as president. A cousin got me a part-time job working in drywall while I was in school. It started out as just a way to put myself through college, and I ended up liking the industry. After graduation, two friends and I had $2,000 to start up this "green beret"-style company, and we went for it. Now here we are, 24 years and 150 employees later, with about 510 in the field. I've been asked if I have a knack for the business; I think I've just always been a construction-oriented type of person.

We have some very exciting projects in progress. The Google tech centers have been amazing to work on. There are some nice architectural features involved that we're going to be very proud of once they're up. We're driven by the knowledge that the sooner we help finish them, the sooner the company can continue changing the world. There's also Genentech, the giant pharmaceutical company, which we're doing work for now in South San Francisco, with Webcor Builders as the general contractor. On this project, we're really pushing the envelope with a highly collaborative process; all the subs are in one big room working together, which ensures everyone is on the same page at the same time. We're about halfway through the project, and I'm optimistic about how it's going so far. This creative collaboration is helping everything go smoothly.

As we know, our construction industry can be a difficult one. There's no shortage of challenging, high-quality projects to get done, and highly demanding customers as well. Magnum specializes in doing those it-can't-be-done projects and working with the clients who need to make them happen. In the middle of all this, the greatest challenge seems to be the regulations and billing codes. They change often, and it's easy to wonder if projects are always going to take longer from here on out and cost a lot more. Nevertheless, we are up for that challenge and will meet it with the same spirit and results that have helped make us the organization we are today.

And I have to hand it to the employees of this company. We stand out in the industry for our flexibility, our responsibility, and our people — but the people really are number one here. It's because of their willingness to work together, to not dabble in a lot of interoffice politics or conflicts, that we're able to be efficiency-, safety- and quality-oriented in the way we operate. Our people are very like-minded in that they focus on the job to be done above all else, and our accomplishments reflect that commitment.

Magnum is a good-sized company and a very effective one, so we're able to hold our own in this business. There are advantages, however, to having assistance in the industry, and being a WACA contracting member provides that. It's nice to have that common voice for the industry. It's good to have a say about our issues, particularly to have a voice that advocates for us.

We're getting the art of construction down. I think we've finally made it! At Magnum Drywall, we like to take on the challenges of the wall and ceiling industry, and as a dedicated team, we like to come together to solve them. It's when we're at our best and why we love being a part of this demanding profession.

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