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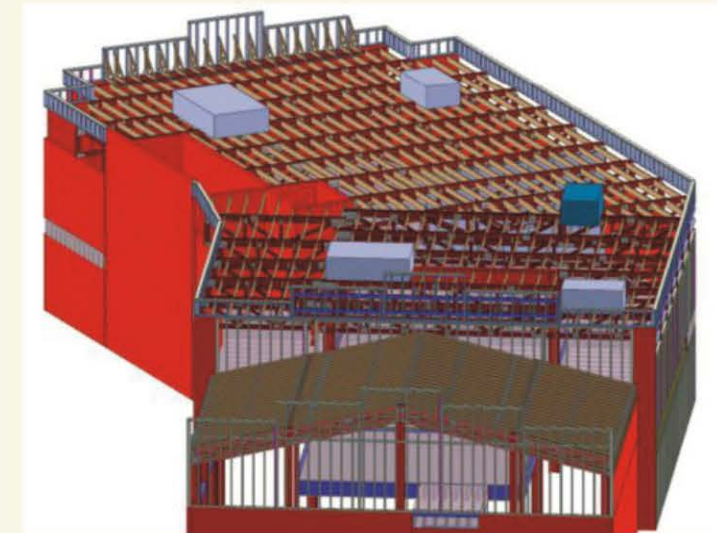


Trusses Create a Vintage Look

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Exterior views of Vintage Brewing Company in Sauk City, Wisconsin. Design of the building began in early 2016 and the building broke ground in November 2016. It was finished in December 2017. (Photos by Tristin Rothwell.)



housed in a large vault area in the basement with walls 16-feet high.

Creating a Vintage Look with Trusses



[Click here for more photos and a time lapse video of the project from the ground up.](#)

IT'S NOT OFTEN that a component manufacturer (CM) is asked to do a project that publicly displays the components they design and manufacture. If done right, these opportunities have the potential to positively represent the industry to the entire community.

One such project fell into the lap of Atlas Components, Inc. of Cherry Valley, Illinois. Mike Karceski, the company's president, says they had recently done some work for general contractor Friede & Associates on a large lake house in central Wisconsin. Pleased with Atlas's work, the GC contacted them when they were contracted to construct a large, complex building for Vintage Brewing

Company in Sauk City, Wisconsin. "They sent this exceedingly complicated plan," Mike recalls. Comparing the project to previous work he had done, Mike says, "It wasn't your modified big custom home, it was like four big custom homes."

The project was a design-build project that required successfully joining numerous and diverse building elements. According to Friede & Associates, the finished structure would include up to 24-foot thick concrete foundation walls, a pre-cast floor system, structural steel framing for the upper two levels, exposed wood trusses, panelized wall framing, masonry elevator shafts and stairwells, EIFS (Exterior Insulation Finishing System), and a metal exterior skin. In addition, there would be a large glass viewing area through which guests could watch the brewing operation,

Scott Truehl, Friede & Associates' executive vice president and partner, says, "When we started talking about marrying all of those elements, it was important for us to be able to work with partners that we've worked with in the past that could help us understand what we were going to be looking for as well as what the finish was going to look like so that we could pass that information on to our suppliers." Scott adds that "working with someone like Mike who we've worked with in the past" made it "easier to explain and talk about the importance of" the finished product.

Part of the challenge was that Vintage wanted a classic industrial look, using exposed trusses to help achieve it. Instead of hiding behind sheathing, Atlas's trusses would be showpieces integral to the overall look and feel that Vintage wanted to create. For such a project that would require both intricate structural design and aesthetic concerns, Friede & Associates felt more confident offering the project to a CM whose work they knew and with whom they felt comfortable communicating.

When offered the project, Atlas knew the bid would have to cover the extra care and resources necessary to make trusses worthy of display. Karl Ropp, an Atlas truss designer

involved with the project, says, "Knowing that we would perhaps want to cull at least some of the lumber for visual appearance, or at least be cognizant of how it looked, that takes extra time and a little more care than we would normally have to do." In addition to potentially more lumber culling, the design also included fire treated lumber (FRT) for the portions of the trusses that would be embedded in the wall. In addition, it was eventually decided that the trusses would be connected with a type of fastener not typically used on such a project: WS3, WS45 and WS6 MiTek screws. These extra material costs would add up. In addition to materials, extra labor costs would need to be accounted for as well, given the care that would need to be taken during production.

Atlas bid to design and manufacture the roof and floor trusses, leaving the walls to another CM. Once their bid was accepted, they assigned the project's oversight to their most meticulous designer, John DeLuna, and let him "run with it," Mike says.

The initial designs went through a number of revisions and requests for information (RFIs), but all the players on the project worked together closely to produce a stunning final project that went up during installation without any issues.

The building positively represents the truss industry and displays how exposed trusses can be used to create an aesthetically pleasing design. "I think it looks good, I really do," says Mike. Vintage includes [numerous images on its website](#) displaying Atlas's trusses in marketing the space as a wedding venue.

"It was incredibly well received right from the beginning," says Scott. In fact, the building will be receiving a Gold Award in the \$2-\$10 million category at the Associated Builder & Contractor (ABC) of Wisconsin's Projects of Distinction banquet in February of 2019.

Read on for more details about some of Atlas's roof and floor design considerations (page 24), the production process (page 27), and the installation and completion of the project (page 28).



Vintage Brewing's banquet hall, displaying exposed trusses, glass viewing area, and steel elements.



Dining area, exposed floor/ceiling trusses, and brewery. (Photos by Tristin Rothwell.)