Exceeding Expectations
Academy ‘89

It took a lot of hard work and a year of planning but it all paid off when Academy ‘89 premiered in St. Louis last fall. Attracting over 100 participants, Academy ‘89 was one of the most successful mid-year educational programs ever sponsored by the Association of the Wall and Ceiling Industries-International (AWCI). The Academy program is developed annually by AWCI members on the Academy Council, the association’s education committee.

This year’s program included business, technical and a “hands-on” sessions; all designed to make participants better at what they do.

Getting Down to Business

Steve Wilders of the Jackson-Wilders Group, a management consulting firm specializing in construction, was the featured speaker in the business sessions of Academy. Steve covered everything from pre-job planning to recordkeeping to motivating your employees. One participant from Georgia noted, “I got a lot out of this session. I am challenged to become more organized and to have better guidelines for myself and my employees.”

Technically Speaking

The technical session line-up included, fireproofing, exterior insulation and finish systems, drywall assemblies and welding for light gauge steel framing. Session participants walked away with information they could take back and use on the job immediately.

“This session made me more aware of how important small details can be in the application of exterior insulation systems,” said one participant from California.

Clockwise from top left, getting started in the hands-on segment; the “hands on” session turns into a contest . . . which is faster, hand taping?; . . . concentrating during the session on fireproofing; Steve Wilders discussing employee motivation; Leroy Goode of John Wagner & Associates listens in at the Opening General Session.
Having a Hand In It

One of the most popular sessions during this three-day educational event was the just introduced “hands-on” training. The participants in this session built a model unit beginning with the layout and framing and ending with painting wallcovering application and several other finishing options.

“This was a great session. The information covered was helpful from the beginner to the man in the field. I liked everything about it.” said a participant from New Jersey.

An Overall View

“For me, Academy ‘89 was a fantastic experience,” said Glenn Modesitt, chairman of the Academy Council. “The sessions were concise, accurate and thorough. A person with any level of construction experience had the perfect opportunity to see top notch mechanics (carpenters and plasterers) at work and learn from working right with them. The commentary and input from Academy Council member Duane Feldner of McNulty Bros. Company, Chicago, Illinois, enhanced the new “hands-on” portion of the program beyond all expectations.”

“I am certain that most attending Academy left with fresh and energetic attitudes toward their work. All in all, this was my most rewarding Academy. We had happy people who wanted to learn but were also willing to share their experience and knowledge,” commented Modesitt.

Academy ‘90 will be held during November in Chicago. The dates for this meeting will be announced shortly.