

Local Engineering Company Makes Its Presence Known Nationwide!



Naffa International, Inc., a Fresno engineering company specializing in the building codes and software development, is setting out to change the way people get quick, easy and understandable answers to the often complex and mundane building codes. Builders, designers, code officials and even homeowners are all smiles!

The new company was founded by Imad Naffa, P.E., a civil engineer, building code consultant and software developer. Throughout his 18-year career in the Architectural/Engineering/Construction (AEC) industry, Naffa has been able to produce and thrive as a multifaceted specialist who never seems to be tied down to just one field of expertise. Naffa is well versed in the areas of building codes, life and fire safety, training, software development, web applications, e-permitting and online projects collaboration. His mission is to provide resources and tools online to ease the process of obtaining a building permit.

From the time he was an engineering student at Fresno State, up until about three months ago, Naffa was a fixture at CMA, a consulting firm specializing in building codes. Naffa was the

executive vice-president and partner at CMA. While there, along with an eventful career in the building codes consulting, he pursued a number of interesting projects, including building a national building codes portal web site and a developed, highly popular, award-winning software used nationwide called CodeBuddy, www.codebuddy.com. This graphical and interactive software eases the learning, understanding and applying the building codes.

After toying with the idea for years, Naffa finally let the entrepreneurial spirit inside take over. He left CMA to devote his attention solely to his own venture, Naffa International, Inc.

His new company will be providing diverse services under the umbrella of Naffa International. The main thrust will be helping building, engineering and fire departments throughout California, concentrating on the Central Valley, by performing plan review services required by State, Local and Federal laws. Plan review is required as a part of obtaining a building permit in any jurisdiction. Cities and counties use Naffa's expertise in complex code reviews and his fast turnarounds to

keep up with their workloads and demands of the construction industry.

The other functions of the new company will be dealing with continuing development of CodeBuddy software and other web-enabled applications related to the building codes, all of which will be available online soon. Naffa collaborates with ICBO, the publishers of the Uniform Building Code, and provides them with code software products. The new ones will be dealing with the International Building Codes, being slowly adopted by many States.

Naffa explains how the Internet has come to the rescue of contractors, designers, and code officials across the country with the advent of building code help sites. "We are the facilitator. Anytime you provide drawings of the structure for a permit, they have to be reviewed according to the building codes. As architects and engineers, we specialize in the building code arena. Usually, cities and counties adopt a model building code, which is like the Uniform Building Code or the International Building Code. We provide that service for them. We check the plans to make sure that

they meet those codes. Basically, we have a niche in specializing in plan review and contract inspections and help building departments in the process of reviewing plans."

"We also work with designers nationwide when jobs come in. We check those projects for building codes-structural, mechanical, electrical, you name it. We go back and forth with the designers until we get to a stage where we feel that they've taken care of our comments and that is when we approve them; we give them a clearance. At that point the cities or the counties in that case would issue a building permit once they clear other department concerns too," Naffa says. Naffa's website at www.naffainc.com, provides valuable information, resources and training tools regarding building codes and the permit processes in addition to technical forums for building code discussions that encourage collaboration between all parties involved in the permit process.

