

# BUILDING BLOCKS

**DESIGNPRO**  
**INSURANCE GROUP**  
*A Wichert Insurance Agency*

## SITE PHOTOGRAPHY

BY: ERIC O. PEMPUS  
FAIA, ESQ., NCARB, ORSA  
DESIGN PRO INSURANCE GROUP

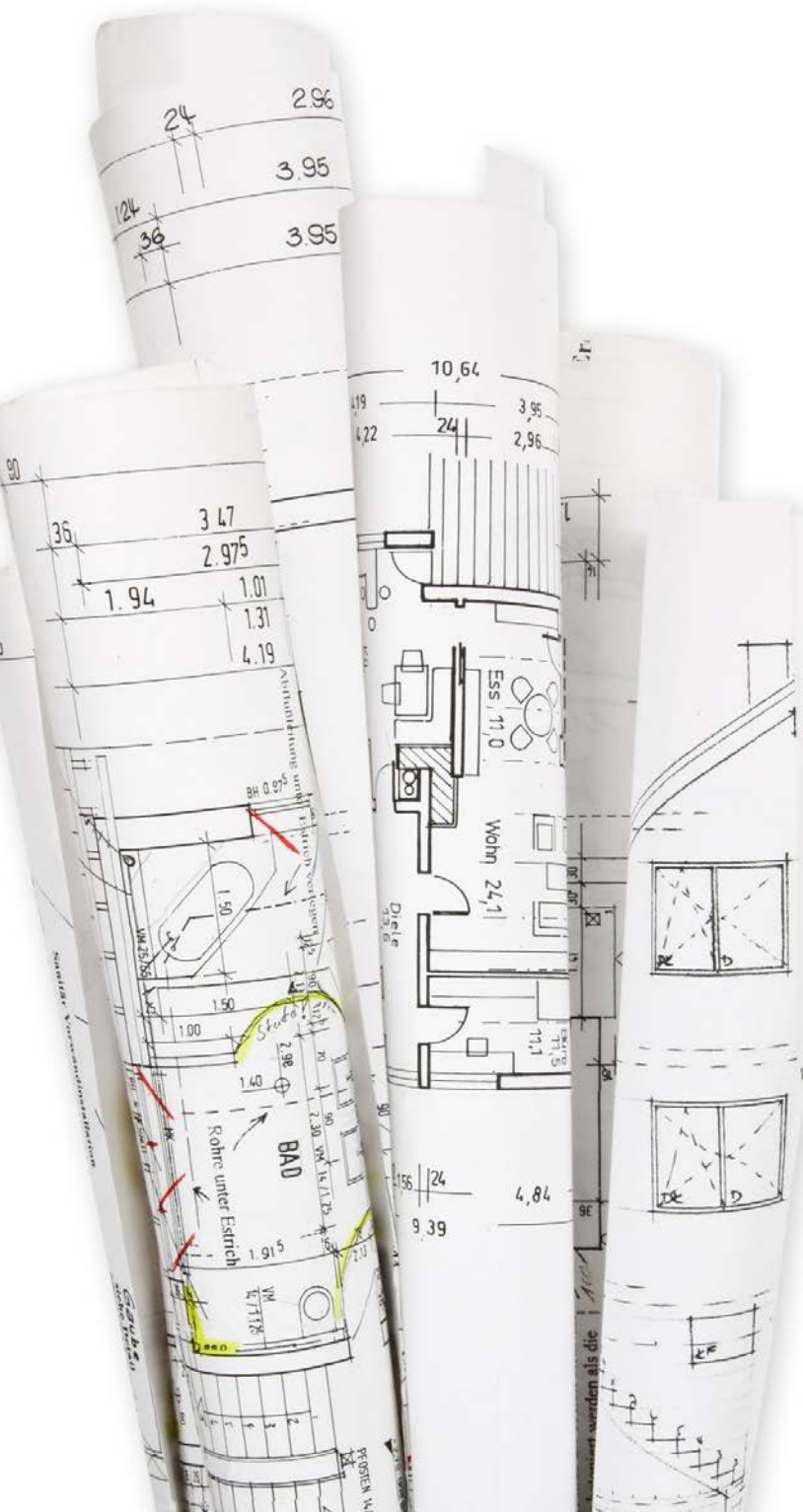
### OWNER-DESIGN PROFESSIONAL AGREEMENT EVALUATIONS OF THE WORK

The Design Professional shall visit the site...to become generally familiar with the progress and quality of the portion of the Work completed, and to determine, in general, if the Work observed is being performed in a manner indicating that the Work, when fully completed, will be in accordance with the Contract Documents.

As they become “generally familiar with the progress and quality of the Work,” Design Professionals customarily, although not required under standard agreements, use photography (either photos or videos) to document work on the site. You can use this photography to satisfy the contractual requirement to “keep the Owner reasonably informed about the progress and quality of

### IN THIS ISSUE:

SITE PHOTOGRAPHY (Page 1-3)  
FEATURED PROJECT: (Page 4)  
*SCHOLLEY CALDWELL ARCHITECTS*  
*LeVEQUE TOWER*  
FUN FACT (Page 5)  
MEET OUR PEOPLE (Page 6)





the Work.” The ever-evolving technology of photography is irrelevant to this discussion. We will instead talk about what to photograph and what photographic format to use.

## WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

Appropriate subjects for site photography fall into three categories: (1) deviations from the Contract Documents, (2) specific areas where significant construction progress has been

made since the previous visit, and (3) the overall progress of the construction. Each category has its own guidelines.

**(1) Deviations:** You should document deviations, including defective work, with photographs, from as many angles as to make the nature of the deviation clear. Stand close to the defective work so the defects can be readily seen in the photos. If showing scale is important, include in the photo either a scale with visible markings in inches or an object with a commonly known size (say, a pen).

**(2) Areas Showing Progress:** On a typical site visit, you will spend most of your time observing work that has been performed since your previous visit. These areas should be photographed to graphically support your field report descriptions of the work. Frame your photos so only the new work is included.

**(3) Overall Progress:** Indiscriminately snapping numerous shots of the site on each visit may not be the best practice. You’ll end up with a lot of photos you will never need, either for your field reports or for your office. However, once these unseen photographs are filed they could be used against you if a dispute arises. For example, if one of these photos shows a defect that you hadn’t identified in your field report. The owner and contractor could claim that you were negligent in not identifying the defect, since you had obviously seen it.

Don’t include the faces of construction workers or others in your photos unless it’s unavoidable. If the photos are used for any reason other than your field report, you may consider blurring people’s faces. If you see a condition that you believe is unsafe, don’t photograph it. Instead, report the condition immediately to the contractor’s superintendent.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC FORMATS

All you need for site photography is a smart phone or a small pocket camera; you’re a design professional, not a professional photographer. These tools can give you still and video records, as well as a flash when needed. Time-lapse photography of the site over a long period of time is usually outside the design professional’s scope.



## IN CONCLUSION

Each photo should be short for a specific purpose, usually to visually support your field report narratives. When used with your professional judgment, photographs can be an effective tool in documenting the construction progress and in helping you produce effective field reports.

### **About the Author**

*Eric O. Pempus, FAIA, Esq., NCARB, ORSA has been a risk manager for the last 12 years with experience in architecture, law and professional liability insurance, and a unique and well-rounded background in the construction industry. He has 25 years of experience in the practice of architecture, and as an adjunct professor teaching professional practice courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels for the last 30 years. As a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and a member of the AIA National Ethics Council, he has demonstrated his impact on architectural profession. He has presented numerous loss prevention and continuing educational programs to design professionals and architectural students in various venues across the United States and Canada.*

**Reprinted by permission from the AIA Construction Contract Administration Knowledge Community - June, 2017**

**Disclaimer:** *The viewpoints expressed in this article are those of the author(s) and are not necessarily approved by, reflective of or edited by other individual, group, or institution. This article is an expression by the author(s) to generate discussion and interest in this topic.*

# FEATURED PROJECT:

## By: Schooley Caldwell Architects

### Project: LeVeque Tower

Schooley Caldwell's work at the LeVeque Tower was completed recently, and the 47-story building has been completely revitalized. The project began in 2011 with repair work on the exterior, which included restoring the terra cotta façade, upgrading the building entrances, installing new windows and storefronts, removal of old awnings, and new lighting. The team also worked with the City of Columbus to expand the sidewalk, add street trees, and create a valet zone.

Interior work was extensive as well; the LeVeque Tower has been rethought and renovated top to bottom. It now features a much more welcoming, vibrant, and historically-appropriate ground level entrance; a soaring lobby for the new Hotel LeVeque, which occupies floors five through ten; high-end, market rate apartments and condominiums on the top 19 floors; ten floors of renovated office space; and a bar, restaurant, and coffee shop for the use of residents and visitors alike.

After six years of design and construction, The LeVeque Tower is now a home for many, a welcoming spot for visitors, and an inspiring, active workplace. The building is well-positioned to remain competitive in a growing marketplace. Perhaps most importantly, it's a place that once again evokes excitement and pride, and it will remain an iconic piece of the skyline.



*If you would like your project featured in our newsletter, please send a short description and several photos of the project to: [brad.designproins@wichert.com](mailto:brad.designproins@wichert.com) for consideration.*



FUN  
FACT:

## LEGO Used to Make Special Bricks for Architects

When Godtfred Kirk Christiansen, son of the LEGO founder, tried to make a Lego model of the house he was building, it didn't come out to scale, because Lego bricks have a 5:6 width-to-height ratio. This led to the creation of Modulex, a much smaller brick that was based on perfect cubes, in 1963. Unfortunately, the bricks were discontinued in the 1970s.



## MEET OUR PEOPLE:



Brad Bush, CPCU, AU  
Principal  
brad.designproins@wichert.com



Eric Pempus  
FAIA, Esq., NCARB, ORSA  
Risk Manager  
eric.designproins@wichert.com



Tracey Heise  
Account Manager  
tracey.designproins@wichert.com



Ken Windle  
Account Executive  
ken@wichert.com



Roger Perry  
Account Executive  
roger.designproins@wichert.com



Tracy Combs  
Risk Manager & Loss Control Specialist  
tracy@wichert.com