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CONSTRUCTION IN THE CLOUD

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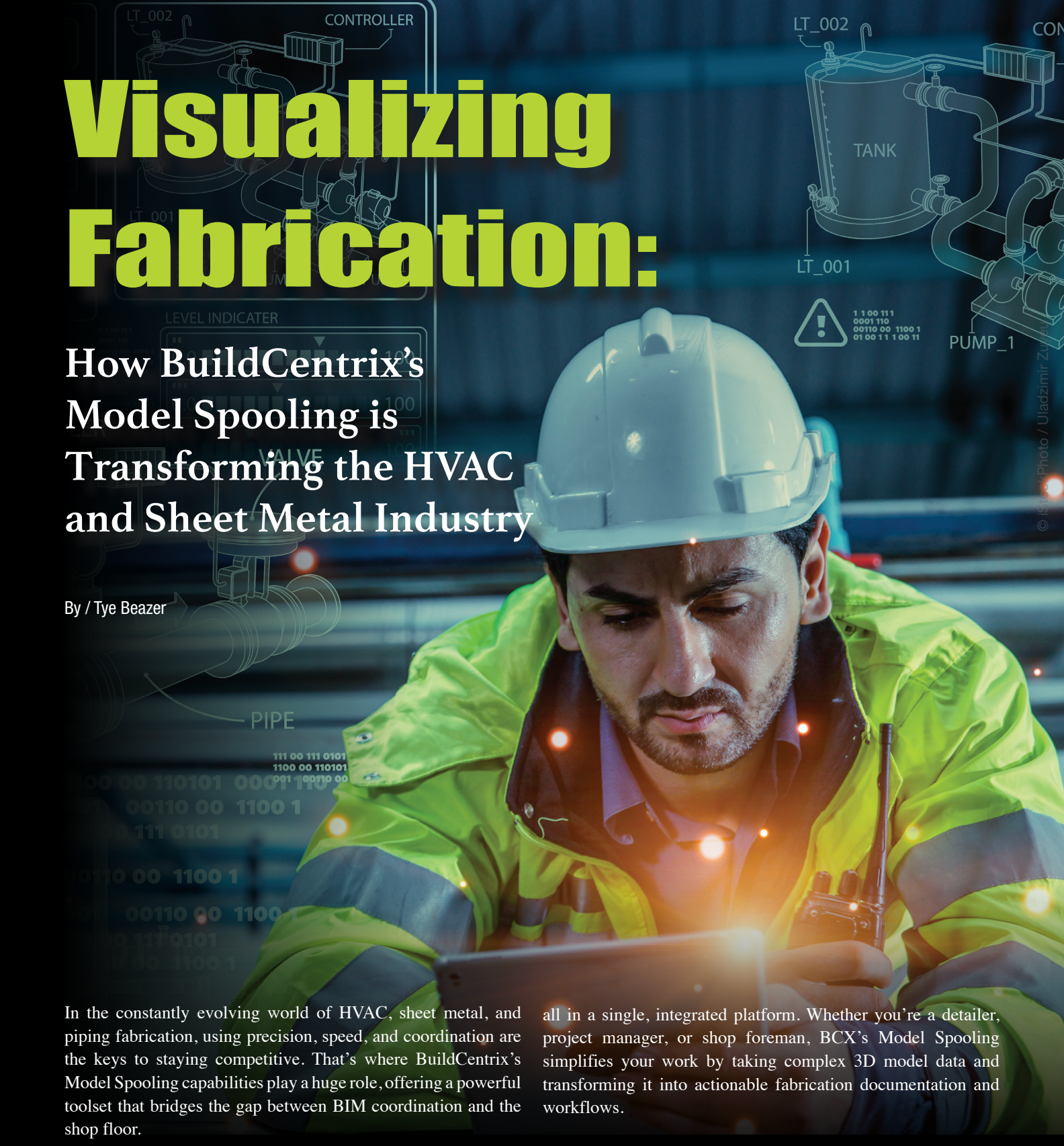
Visualizing Fabrication:

How BuildCentrix's Model Spooling is Transforming the HVAC and Sheet Metal Industry

By / Tye Beazer



In the constantly evolving world of HVAC, sheet metal, and piping fabrication, using precision, speed, and coordination are the keys to staying competitive. That's where BuildCentrix's Model Spooling capabilities play a huge role, offering a powerful toolset that bridges the gap between BIM coordination and the shop floor.

What is BuildCentrix's Model Spooling?

Model Spooling in BuildCentrix is a cloud-based solution that allows fabrication professionals to turn coordinated Revit and CAD models directly into spools, packages, and material orders all in a single, integrated platform. Whether you're a detailer, project manager, or shop foreman, BCX's Model Spooling simplifies your work by taking complex 3D model data and transforming it into actionable fabrication documentation and workflows.

BuildCentrix's spooling system is tightly integrated with Autodesk Revit and other design tools, ensuring seamless compatibility with the models you already use. With just a few clicks, users can spool items from the model, generate labels, assign spools to work orders, and push material lists straight to fabrication, all without leaving the platform.

Key Benefits for HVAC, Sheet Metal, and Piping Professionals

1. Save Time and Reduce Rework

Traditional spooling methods are often manual and disconnected, leading to delays and costly errors. BuildCentrix's Model Spooling eliminates double-entry and manual data transfer by connecting the model directly to fabrication workflows. This dramatically reduces rework and accelerates project timelines.

"Detailers create spool PDFs within Revit, release those to the site, and the field foreman running the work can mark them up and submit them back," says James Beveridge, CEO of BuildCentrix. "The resulting .maj file is then released either via email or within a networked folder for download in the shop."

2. One-Click Material Ordering

A standout feature of BuildCentrix's Model Spooling is the ability to view and order materials directly from the model. Once a spool is created, material lists are automatically generated based on the components selected. This allows users to send accurate bills of materials to purchasing with a single click, helping to avoid shortages, overordering, and wasted material.

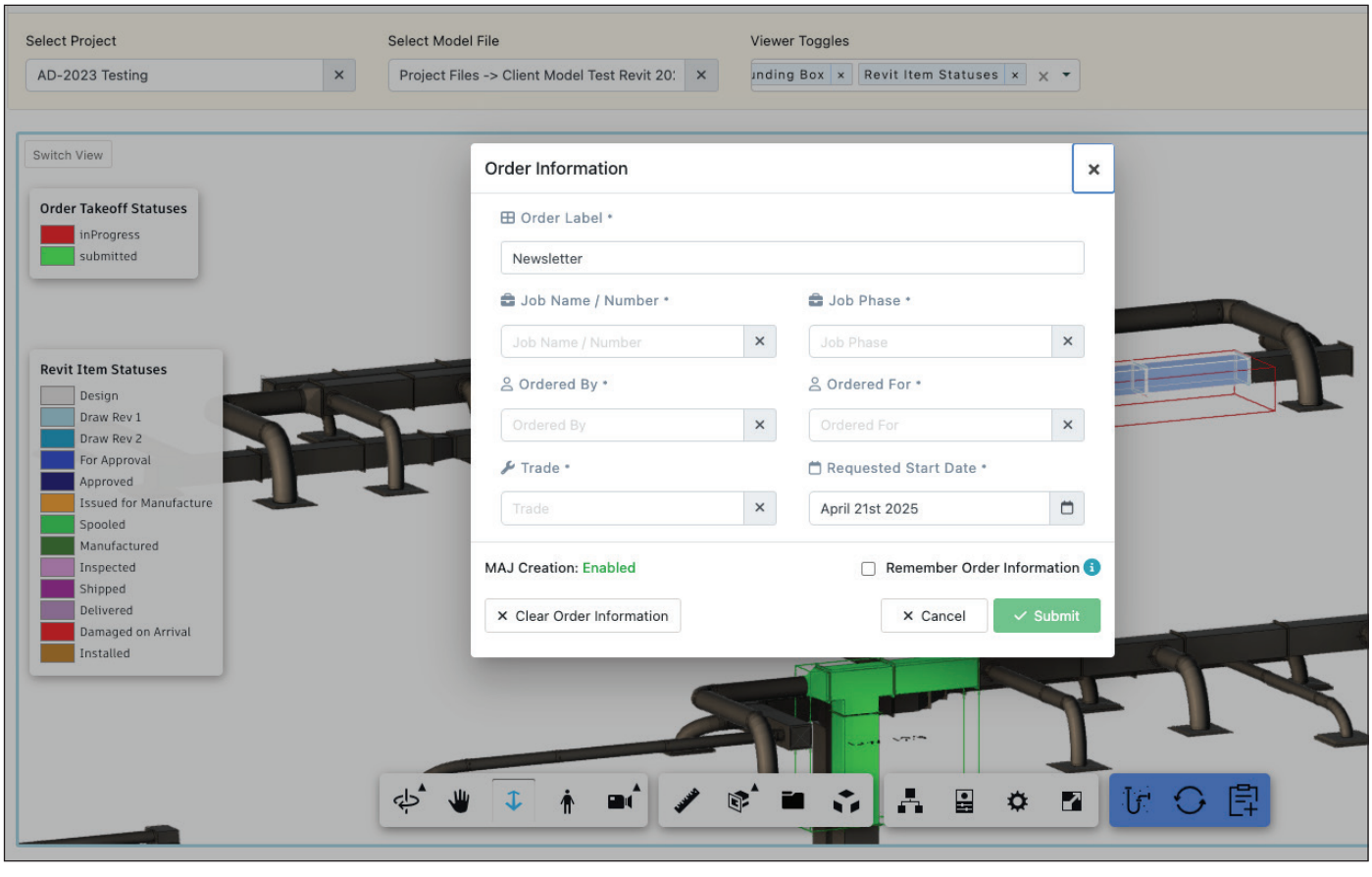
> *"BuildCentrix's spooling system is tightly integrated with Autodesk Revit and other design tools, ensuring seamless compatibility with the models you already use."*

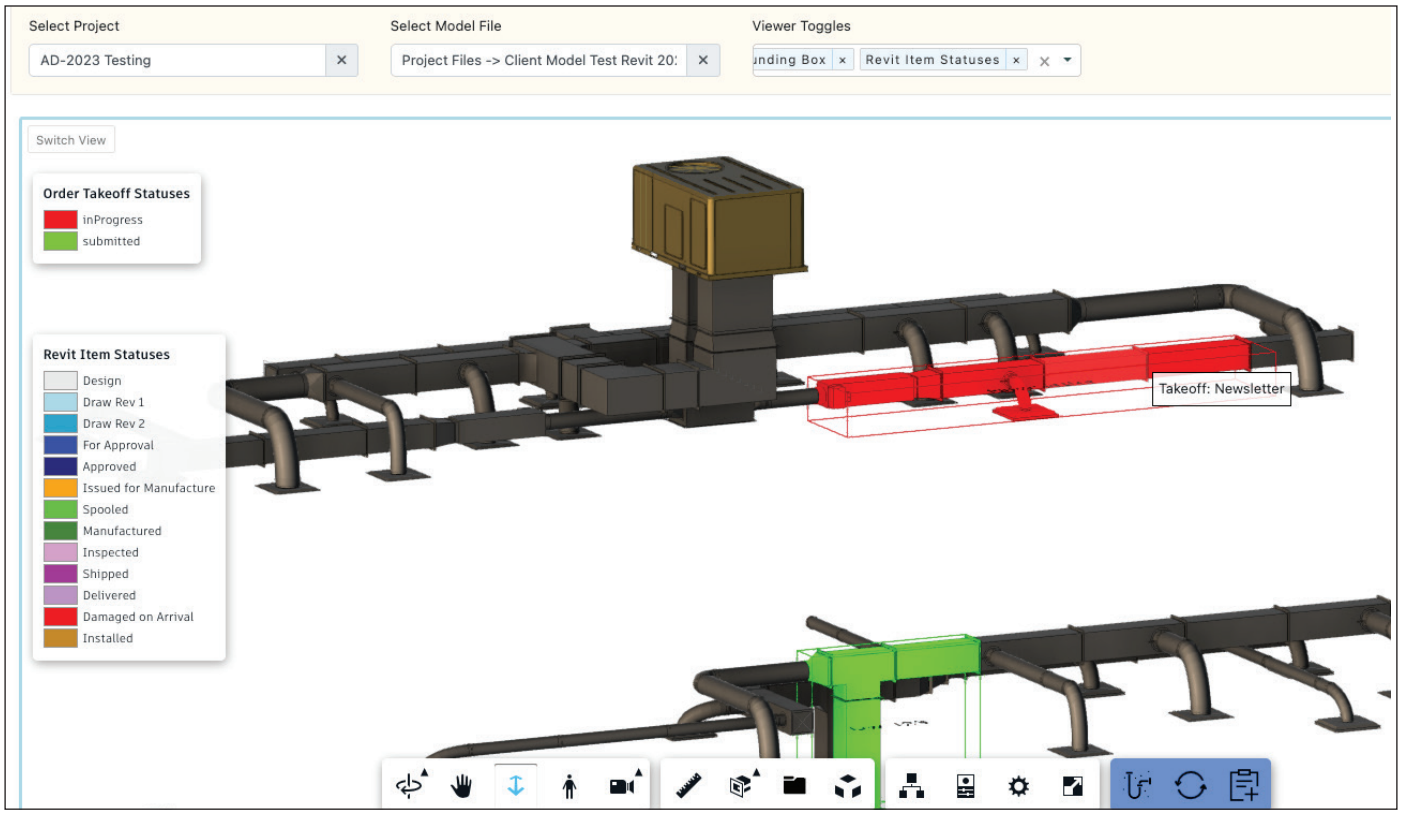
"I think the 'model status' writeback is also very compelling, and the real-time status and updates in the model are very beneficial," Beveridge adds.

3. Integrated with Autodesk Revit

Native integration with Autodesk Revit ensures that spools are always up to date with the latest model revisions. This integration allows users to:

- select model elements directly within Revit or via the BuildCentrix web interface
- create spools and generate fabrication packages instantly
- maintain traceability from model to shop with spool IDs and QR-coded labels





> *"Every spool carries with it a digital paper trail from model to fabrication to installation. This level of visibility enhances collaboration, improves quality control, and creates accountability across every stage of a project."*

This tight integration streamlines communication between BIM teams and fabrication shops, reducing friction and aligning workflows across departments.

4. Real-Time Shop Floor Visibility

Once spools are created, they're automatically routed into the BuildCentrix production dashboard where fabrication teams can assign, track, and complete work orders in real time. This means everyone from detailing, procurement, fabrication, and project management has access to the same updated spool data.

"With the shipping and trucking functionality in BCX it's easy to manage the end-to-end work," Beveridge says. "Real-time notifications keep the site updated on the status of their material and any changes to the fabrication schedule and delivery."

5. Improved Collaboration and Accountability

Every spool carries with it a digital paper trail from model to fabrication to installation. This level of visibility enhances collaboration, improves quality control, and creates accountability across every stage of a project. For larger contractors, this can lead to major gains in scalability and consistency across projects and teams.

The Future of Fabrication is Model-Driven

BuildCentrix's Model Spooling isn't just a tool; it's also a smarter way to build. By combining model data with real-time shop floor tools, automation, and cloud-based collaboration, BuildCentrix empowers contractors to work faster, build smarter, and deliver more on time.

For existing BuildCentrix users, Model Spooling enhances the tools you already rely on. For new clients, it's an entry point into a fully connected fabrication ecosystem that removes silos and replaces outdated processes with a seamless, digital workflow.

Ready to take the next step in fabrication automation?

Explore how Model Spooling can transform your detailing and fabrication workflows by contacting the BuildCentrix team or requesting a personalized demo today.■

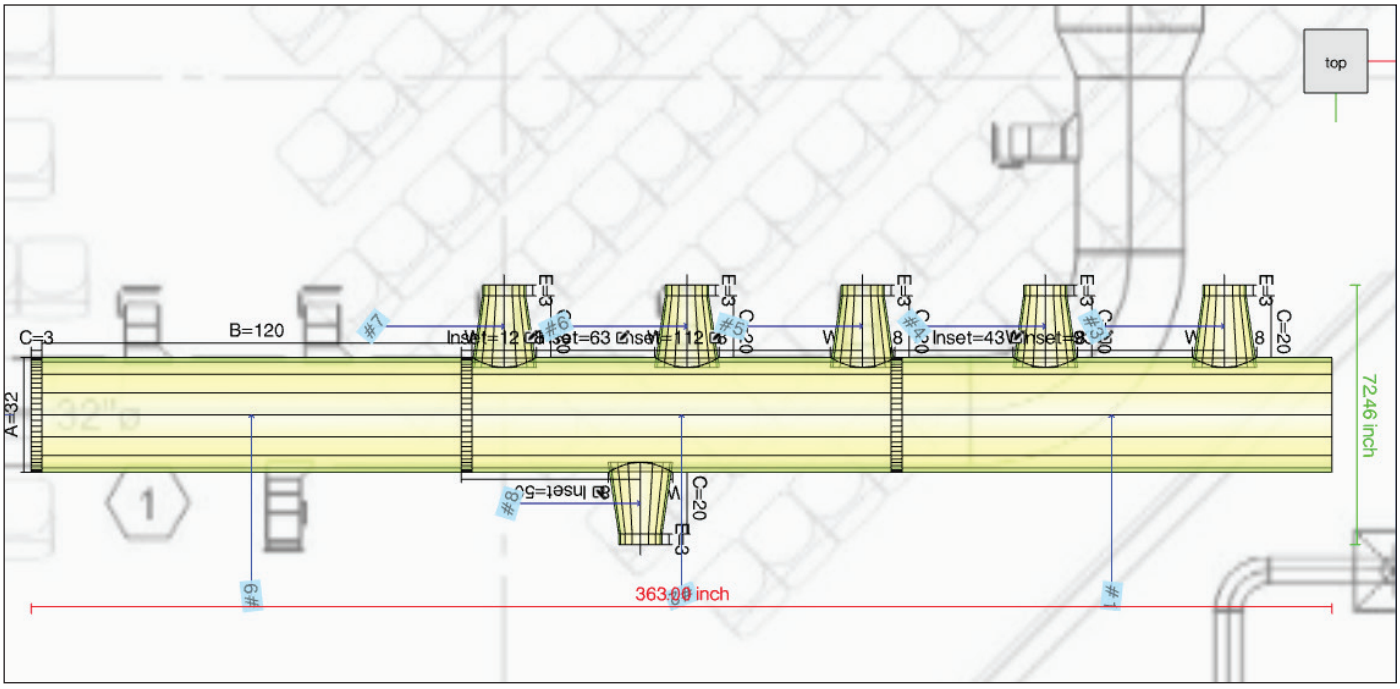
It's a Snap… a "Tap Snap," that is!

As BCX 3D takeoffs and Blueprint takeoffs continue to gain popularity, we've been working hard to make taking off complex blueprints faster and easier.

Getting taps attached to pipe or duct runs can be a hassle since you need a hole to attach a tap to, and there can be a lot of taps on one run of pipe or duct. Our development team has been working hard to make it easy to attach—or "snap"—a tap to a pipe or duct without having to worry about hole data.

We're very pleased to have released the Tap Snap feature to 3D takeoffs. Now, users can simply select a fitting, grab the connector, and slide it along the side of a pipe or duct and snap it in place. Not only will it automatically attach the needed hole data, but also, add in the handy Duplicate button and adding multiple taps is a snap!

If you're keen to get snapping and haven't used the BCX Takeoff Builder, simply contact support@buildcentrix.com and we'll be happy to help you get set up! ▪



Next in the BCX Webinar Series: BCX Spooling—There and back again

May 8, 2025 at 1 pm EST

As a follow up to our feature story on Model Spooling, the next installment of the BCX webinar Series will be an end-to-end demo and Q&A on our powerful Spooling module. In this webinar you will learn how easy it is to integrate your Revit and CAD files directly into your production workflow and then back again into the model.

If you are interested in attending please email support@buildcentrix.com or register online here ▪

Thanks to SMACNA Fab Forum from the BCX Team

The BuildCentrix team wishes to extend a sincere thank you to SMACNA and everyone who helped organize and participated in the SMACNA Fab Forum in Boston in April. It was an incredibly well-run event, and we're grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a dynamic and forward-thinking community.

We especially appreciated the opportunity to host a demonstration booth and connect directly with so many HVAC, mechanical, and piping fabricators from across the country. From shop foremen and BIM coordinators to project managers and executives, it was great to hear firsthand how companies are approaching fabrication challenges and modernizing their workflows. These conversations not only validated the direction we're heading with BuildCentrix, but also gave us valuable insight into what matters most to contractors today.

A big thank you to the SMACNA team for creating a space where collaboration, learning, and networking could thrive. We're excited about the future of fabrication and grateful to be part of a community that shares our commitment to building smarter, faster, and better.

Events like these are vital to growing our industry. We're already looking forward to the next opportunity to connect and share ideas. Until then, thank you again for the warm welcome and the great conversations in Boston! ▪