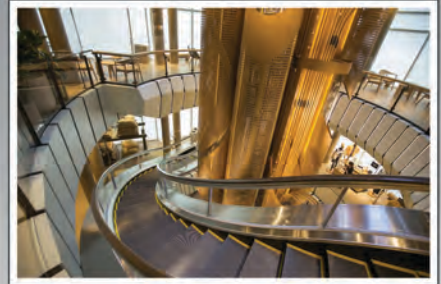


FEATURED PROJECT

Starbucks Reserve Roastery in Chicago



Block Electric recently completed work at a new state-of-the-art Starbucks Reserve Roastery, located at Erie and Michigan Avenue in downtown Chicago on the site that once housed the iconic Crate & Barrel flagship store.

(Continued on page 3)



Celebrating 100 Years of Customer Delight!



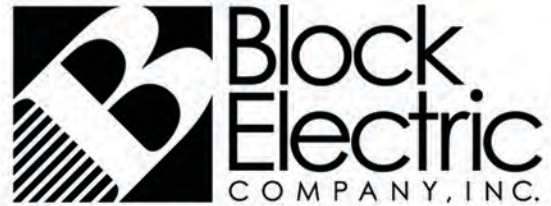
Frank Block



Frank Block (on right)



George, John and Jack Block



Block Electric has officially made it to 100 Years of Customer Delight! We can proudly say that our company is as strong as it ever has been. Throughout our history of 100 years, many other companies have come and gone through various industries. It has been quite a journey through time. For those that do not know, Block Electric was founded in 1920 by Frank Block. He became an electrical contractor, license No. 85, in the City of Chicago.

The work back then consisted mostly of converting homes and apartments to electricity from gas lamps. The easy ones were the homes that were located alongside the CTA tracks. The CTA sold DC power to anyone who wanted to buy it.

Five years later, John Block, joined his brother just before the great depression. Things got pretty tough for them through the next decade as business after business failed. Very few people had the resources to convert to the luxury of electricity.

Frank and John Block overcame the handicap of having little formal education. They saw an industry in its infancy, as electricity was newly invented. Their small contracting business grew without the advantage of the sophistication we have today. They had one goal in mind: do the best job possible, keep their costs in line, and make a profit.

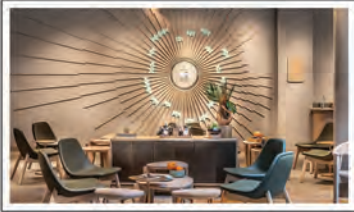
As Block Electric celebrates it's 100th Anniversary in 2020, we look forward to 100 more years. Without each and every one of you, we would not be the company we are today. For that, we thank you.



Michael Block



Scott Block



FEATURED PROJECT

Starbucks Reserve Roastery in Chicago

(Continued from page 1)

The project was a two year endeavor headed by Pepper Construction. Jim Schemmel and Greg Van Dreesse led the Block Electric team at the request of Pepper Construction. Jim and Greg, along with Jesse Geiger and Luke Simpson, coordinated all overhead conduit installations. A large portion of conduits were prefabricated, which made for a very impressive electrical installation.

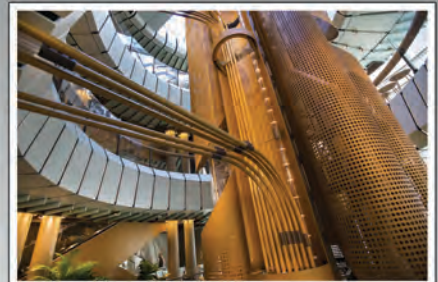
The electrical infrastructure of the Crate & Barrel, which opened in 1990, needed to be completely replaced to meet the requirements of the state-of-the-art roasting, baking and food preparation equipment that was brought in by Starbucks for the Reserve Roastery.

The lighting system and controls were extremely involved and were further complicated because of the architectural ceiling, which is representative of Sun Rays.

Jim Schemmel did an incredible job on this very impressive lighting system, which involved solving the many hurdles that presented themselves once the fixtures arrived on site and had to be coordinated with the architectural ceiling.

The Crew of Connor Haughey, Kevin Neumann, Tom Dimopoulos, Stan Sroka, George Brauneis, Dave Gonzalez, Gary Jones, John Merlak, Kenny Ryan and many others all did a great job making this a successful project for Starbucks's largest roastery in the world.

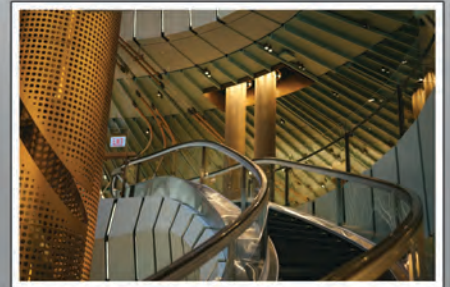
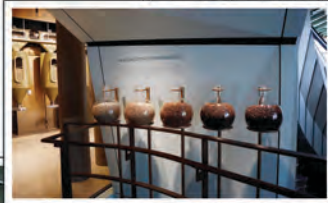
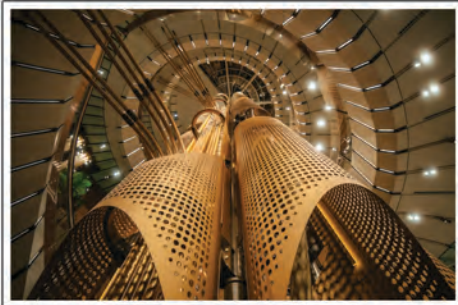
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FEATURED PROJECT Starbucks Reserve Roastery in Chicago





Winter Holiday Safety Tips

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

HOLIDAY DECORATING

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.

A WORD OF CAUTION

- Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
- More than a third of home decoration fires are started by candles!
- Forty-two percent of decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

FOCUS ON SAFETY

Protecting Eyes from Injury

Source: National Safety Council

Typical eye injuries occur by rubbed or abraded foreign matter, such as metal chips, dirt particles and splinters, or by striking the eye. Surface wounds, such as abrasions, scratches and foreign bodies are among the most common types of injuries to the eye. Other hazards include chemicals, adhesives, radiation, tools and equipment.

On-the Job Eye Protection Tips

- Wear appropriate PPE for the job you are completing.
- If you wear prescription eyeglasses, make sure your goggles or spectacles have prescription eyeglass lenses or wear extra protection over your prescription eye glasses such as side shields
- Contact lenses DON'T provide protection from on-the job hazards. Wear eye protection in addition to contact lenses.

What to do in Case of an Emergency

Chemical Splash

- Don't squeeze the eye shut. Hold open with thumb and finger.
- Flood eye with cool, clean water for 15-20 minutes.
- Get medical help as soon as possible.

Blows to the Eyes

- Apply ice to control swelling and relieve the pain.
- Cover both eyes to prevent movement.
- Get medical help as soon as possible.

Flying Particles

- Do not try to remove anything embedded in the eye.
- Do not pull or squeeze the eye.
- Cover both eyes to prevent movement.
- Obtain medical help as soon as possible.

Eyestrain

- Glare & poor lighting can cause eye fatigue, soreness and headaches.
- Improve job-site lighting.
- Give eyes adequate time to rest.

Block Electric's Safety Policy

It is our policy to provide all employees with a safe, healthful, and hazard-free work place. The intent at all times is to comply with the provisions of the Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHA).

Block Electric recognizes that accident prevention and efficient production are interrelated. We further recognize our responsibility to provide adequate training, safeguards and safety equipment for each employee. In turn each employee bears the responsibility to comply with all safety regulations and the use of required safety equipment. The safety and well being of our employees has been and will continue to be of primary importance.

Our EMR is .82 and our Contractor Score is 2390. Phil Casto is our safety director.

Block Electric Announcements

Block Electric Employees Celebrate Milestone Anniversaries:

Congratulations to Jim Strege and Tim Vanderhyden, who recently celebrated milestone anniversaries with Block Electric. Jim celebrated 25 years on November 14, and Tim celebrated 30 years on December 19. Thank you for being part of our company's success over the years. We greatly appreciate and value your hard work and success. Happy Anniversary!

New Journeyman

Congratulations to Scott Scanlan who became a Journeyman on December 10, 2019.

Spotlight On: Howie Ridder

GENERAL FOREMAN

Before becoming an electrician and beginning his career at Block Electric on July 8, 2014, Howie Ridder worked in maintenance at Fair Oaks Farms while he was a student at Purdue. In addition to fixing "anything that the cows broke", Howie did everything from welding cages, changing light bulbs and fixing feed troughs.

"I got started as an electrician by helping the electricians who were working on expanding the dairies at Fair Oaks Farms," Howie said. "They needed a hand and I was assigned to help." After the expansion was complete, Howie accepted a job working for them. Two years later, he applied to the electrical union and was accepted.

Howie said one of the most unique aspects of his job is the range of things he gets to do as an electrician and the "diverse knowledge" he gets to have. The range of work includes everything from the usual bending pipe, pulling wire and hanging fixtures to digging holes, pouring concrete and setting switchgear.

During his career at Block Electric, Howie has worked on a variety of projects, with some of the most recent being the Hines Chiller Plant Replacement, the Hines Boiler Plant, Gwen Hotel and Com Ed in Maywood.

Of his various customer experiences, the most memorable for Howie is the Gwen Hotel, which was an existing 13 story hotel with no generator. "We installed a generator in the loading dock, switchgear in the basement and 12 ATS's," he said. "It was a lot of planning and preparation before we started and finding routes throughout the hotel for the feeders and switching over the loads to be backed up. We had to deal with draka fire rated cable, and a mostly full hotel. The hotel was very thankful



and treated us good. It is a job I'm proud to say I did."

Howie and his wife Olivia live in Highland, Indiana with their two daughters: Grace, who is 6 years old; and Jaclyn, who is 7 months old.

When he's not busy at work, Howie enjoys visiting family members and traveling with his family. They recently visited Cincinnati and are planning a trip to the Canadian Rockies. "Grace keeps us busy with gymnastics and swimming lessons and Jaclyn is 7 months so we are enjoying the time with her," he said.

In his free time Howie enjoys a variety of hobbies, including woodworking, bowling and fishing. Howie usually takes an annual trip to Canada to fish each Summer. He also enjoys going to Southern Indiana to fish and is in a bowling league during the winter. Up until this past Summer Howie also played in a baseball league.

Warmest Wishes for a Beautiful Holiday Season!

During the Holiday Season more than ever, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible.

And in this spirit we say, simply but sincerely:

Thank You and Best Wishes for the Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are looking for fresh and innovative ideas for new products, tools and ongoing prefab assemblies to feature in future issues of the Block Electric newsletter.

In an effort to make our jobs run more efficiently and be more cost-effective, we are looking for your suggestions regarding which tools can be used in your day-to-day work to make your lives easier.

There are no right or wrong answers. We're looking for any and all products and ideas to share with the team.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

If your idea is featured in the Block Electric newsletter, you will receive up to a \$50.00 Visa gift card.

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