

THE MAGAZINE FOR LEADING CONSTRUCTION EXECUTIVES

USBuildersReview

Bringing landmark projects to new heights around the world

**Buzon Pedestals
International & Buzon USA**



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While many have tried to duplicate the technology around the world, Buzon Pedestals International (Buzon), the parent company of Buzon USA, is the original creator and manufacturer of the first-ever screwjack pedestal. Architects and construction professionals use Buzon pedestals to create unique spaces that inspire, entertain and build community. These unique spaces range from roof decks and balconies to terraces, plazas, water features, green roofs and gardens, pedestrian pathways and walkways to illuminated floors and industrial decking, along with a host of other niche applications.

Since 1987, when Claude Buzon first invented the screwjack pedestal, Buzon has been the leading manufacturer, striving for constant innovation by collaborating with the industry's best architects, specifiers, designers and construction professionals. To date, Buzon pedestals have been installed in more than 35 countries worldwide, from public spaces to commercial and industrial buildings, private residences and green rooftops.

"At 42 years old, my father lost his job as a technical director and electronic engineer," recounts Laurent. "From 1982 to 1984, he sold materials for building systems for terraces and started to formulate the makings of Buzon. At first, he was on his own, but quickly recruited his family to work with him as he was developing and beginning to market and sell the screwjack system." The family business now extends throughout the world.

Imitated but never duplicated

In 1990 the Belgium-based company started to grow internationally, entering the U.S. market in 1994. Laurent, who grew



up working for his father, joined the company full-time and started selling products throughout Europe.

“I began traveling outside of Europe and over the five continents, showcasing Buzon, and as a result, our export business grew steadily,” Laurent shares. “Now, we reach approximately 25 worldwide distributors and cover about 40 countries.”

From the New World Trade Center building to the tallest man-made structure in the world – the Burj Khalifa in Dubai – Buzon is still raising landmark projects to new heights. “My father, who’s now 76, still manages the company,” adds Laurent. “He likes to be on the jobsite and he still works as hard as he did when he started Buzon.”

The Buzon difference

Made out of 80 percent recycled high-density polypropylene, 100 percent recyclable, green and lead product a single screwjack pedestal holds over 2,200 pounds. Available in various, easily adjustable heights, from a minimum of one-half-inch to 41 inches, Buzon pedestals help create accessible, barrier-free exterior walking surfaces on terraces or roof gardens.

“But the thing contractors love the most is our slope-correction system that allows pedestals to be leveled in 10 seconds without shimming,” adds Erik Nelson, director of Buzon USA West. “The one-of-a-kind slope level tool combined with the BC PH5 slope corrector is the world’s fastest and most accurate slope corrector system.”

“It allowed us to be incredibly efficient on our labor and increased our profit margins,” details Jon Aguilar of Heritage



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Earth and Stone. “Because it so accurate, Heritage even offers a five-year installation warranty that other installers using competitive systems don’t offer.”

Buzon offers a complete line of screwjack pedestals, suited for large and small installation; the DPH, PB and the new BC series are all height adjustable and integrate easily into a full range of surface materials, including stone, wood pavers and board-decking, porcelain pavers and even glass, which result in inviting private decks and patios, as well as hallmark walkways and urban spaces.

“Even in the instance of sloped roofing membranes – Buzon pedestals are adjustable so they can rise to the perfect level,” explains Laurent. In 2008, Buzon released the third generation of BC pedestals. “This system allows of an expanded number of creative solutions using non-dimensional materials on uneven surfaces with varied slopes using our slope corrector system,” he continues.

According to Laurent, the U.S. and internationally-patented slope-correction system was invented and developed by Claude in 1999. Due to its ease and speed of use, cost-effectiveness, light-weight and other factors, Buzon’s pedestals are increasingly replacing traditional cement screed in the construction of accessible terraces on flat roofs.

Green from the inside out

Not only is a Buzon product 100 percent recyclable, but the functional ease of the adjustable screwjack pedestal makes an ideal candidate for installing a green roofs and gardens; in fact there are thousands of Buzon roofs around the world. “Each is unique and there are many variations depending on the designer and architect,” notes Laurent.

The versatility of the BC series has attracted architects and builders around the world, allowing for more creativity in designing plazas, green roofs, water features or any non-dimensional material where the slope is greater than 5 percent. In fact, it can be used in situations where slopes range from 0 percent to 15 percent.

Buzon USA West client Capital Lumber pairs its pipe pavers and board-decking with Buzon pedestals on projects. “Capital Lumber saw a need for rooftop living solutions in the San Francisco market and after interviewing contractors, architects and retail lumber yards we were confident that Buzon Pedestal systems were the clear choice because of their versatility and ease of install,” explains Craig Smalley of Capital Lumber. Since teaming up with Buzon countless contractors and architects have made the switch to Buzon for rooftops, pool living spaces and even common backyard decks.

The Kentfield, Calif., 1,300-square-foot porcelain tile job had challenges due to the fact the finished height needed to



be 27 inches off the ground and over 1,300 square feet of 24-inch by 24-inch porcelain tiles. The project's contractor finished in three days with only two installers. According to Laurent, the product was supplied by Golden State Lumber in San Rafael, Calif.

Also in California, the company finished an 800-square-foot patio deck in San Francisco; this was the companies' first time working together. "After a quick 30 minute training by Capital Specialist, the installers breezed through the install in just two days; 3 days earlier than estimated," Laurent details. "They installed 24-inch by 24-inch Pau Lope Ipe deck tiles, which were supplied by Burgess Lumber in Santa Rosa, Calif.

"Buzon USA West has been a pleasure to work with," Craig Smalley, who handles architectural sales for Capital Lumber, says. "From CAD services, to one on one training and phone field support, they are always there when we need them."

Contractors use the DPH Series pedestals to install a deck over a waterproof membrane to add a balcony or roof deck. The DPH

COMPANY AT A GLANCE

ESTABLISHED : 1987

FOUNDER : CLAUDE BUZON

EMPLOYEES : 100

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Series is especially suited for installing hydra-pressed concrete and other heavy materials. Pedestals can also be used to fix problems or perform in harsh industrial environment.

Buzon USA is a proud partner of Buzon, with offices located in Portland, Ore., and New York. "With backgrounds in design and

construction, the owners of Buzon USA West and Buzon USA East speak your language when it comes to estimating, consulting and suggesting constructive solutions, as well as providing ready access to samples, technical support, and on-site training," Nelson adds. "With every order, Buzon USA produces a color-coded CAD drawing that not only makes the take-off and order easy to read and understand, but also provides the contractor with a map that helps stage and expedite the installation."

With the support of Buzon Pedestals International, Buzon USA's screwjack pedestals raise landmark projects to new heights, adding that finishing touch that makes a space more inviting, livable and enjoyable.





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