



this issue

**Standing out with your Deck
and**

Zero Entry Entrances for Homes

Standing out with your Deck

Midwest Engineering Company was formed to provide professional design and owner representation services with a clientele based delivery methodology. We believe that you are more than just a client, you are our neighbor. *Midwest Engineering* offers a variety of services from owner representation to structural engineering design.

Approximately 2.5 million decks are built in the United States a year, making it difficult to stand out with something different. With owners and clients wanting a memorable and functioning deck, structural engineering principles can help bring forward a deck that stands out. The deck to right spans 40' and is on the second story of a farm shed. This allowed the farmer to have functional storage underneath and a place to bring friends that they are sure to remember. The deck to the lower left is a stamped and colored deck on 5' concrete pillars. This deck was designed as a two-way slab and was constructed using temporary wood formwork. Next time you are dreaming about your deck, whether it be wood or concrete, remember that its not difficult to stand out, you just need to know who to talk to!



ME

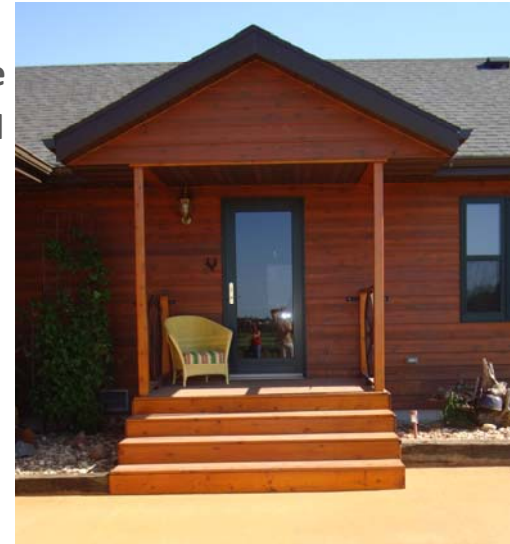
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Robbie Veurink, Midwest Engineering

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Zero Entry Entrances for Homes

When home owners want to build a home, they typically want it all. Tall ceilings in the basement, covered entries with pillars, and more steps, steps everywhere. Maybe not on the steps, which is why we want to help you eliminate a few of them. In order to maintain the basement ceiling height and eliminate the steps at the entry, a combination of tall exterior concrete foundation walls and top chord bearing trusses can be used. The home on the right is what we



typically see with 3-4 steps required to get access to the first floor of the home at the entrance or in the garage. The picture on the left is a combination of top chord bearing floor trusses and tall exterior concrete walls. International Residential Code does not address tall concrete walls or load transfer into the floor trusses and requires a structural engineer to design the foundation system. Having poured concrete walls, built homes, and now calculated out load transfers for tall walls, I would encourage you to reach out to a structural engineer the next time you want to build a zero entry home for yourself or a client.

Robbie Veurink, Midwest Engineering

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We would like to thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. If you have any structural design needs, Midwest Engineering would like to help. Our contact information is on the left side of the page. Check out our website and Facebook page for more discussions and information.

Robbie and Brent