Schimenti Construction Takes a Second Look at Construction Cameras

New generation of Web-enabled cameras keep Kohl’s, Bed Bath & Beyond and Target logged-in

**Challenge:**
Show customers the benefits of ‘next generation’ construction cameras

Like many in their industry, Schimenti Construction Company experimented with construction cameras in the previous decade. While the technology was promising, it often fell short of expectations.

Headquartered in Ridgefield, Connecticut, with offices in New York City, Schimenti has built a strong reputation in the retail construction industry and has developed a solid niche in urban construction. The firm builds retail-shopping environments for some of the nation’s leading retailers, including Kohl’s, REI, Barney’s New York, Target, Banana Republic, Starbucks, Zara and Chipotle.

Schimenti installed its first static cameras in 2005, but they failed to meet the rigorous needs of construction professionals. Early generation cameras were not designed to stand up to the rugged demands of an outdoor environment. They also required landlines, making them problematic on a jobsite and limiting their usefulness in remote or underdeveloped areas. User interfaces were complicated and often required special software.

“In the end, you had very rudimentary views using too many workarounds. It was more effort than it was worth. The learning curve and task of getting connected would be passed on to clients,” said Keith Murley, manager of information systems, Schimenti Construction Company.

**Benefits of OxBlue Construction Cameras & Technology**

- **Complete end-to-end solution** — Camera hardware, cellular data connection, servers, software and professional time-lapse production expertise are all provided in one complete package.

- **Unlimited 24/7 access on a range of computer and mobile devices** — Allows all stakeholders to view progress from wherever they are.

- **Fixed and PTZ (point, tilt, and zoom)** — Cameras are available in 4, 6, 8 and 12 megapixels with a lifetime warranty. No jobsite Internet connection required.
“If you haven’t used construction cameras in the last few years, revisit them and see the value that they can bring,” said Murley. “The technologies have grown by leaps and bounds.”

“It’s definitely a worthwhile investment, especially with project teams more widespread than ever. They help cut travel expenses, provide 24/7 visibility and maintain healthy client-contractor relationships.”

Keith Murley, Manager of Information Systems, Schimenti Construction Company

Today, Schimenti has furthered the deployment of construction cameras on its projects, and they have become an essential part of the standard BIM (building information modeling) process.

“We are fortunate to work with some great companies like Kohl’s and Target that really embrace technology, so they appreciate the value of our OxBlue cameras,” said Murley. “As part of our BIM process, the cameras will allow us to track our actual schedule against the projected BIM model. The real-time visual access means that we can avoid having anyone – us or the client – reacting to something unexpected on the jobsite.”

With OxBlue construction cameras, anyone with an Internet connection via computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone can have 24/7 remote access to any jobsite. Schimenti staff relies on OxBlue cameras to facilitate and expedite project meetings. Whether they’re having a general discussion about day-to-day progress or dealing with scheduling issues, every team member has full visibility into what’s happening – or what has already happened – on the jobsite.

“A side bonus is that we can see atmospheric conditions and make sure they correlate with what we’re hearing about daily field conditions,” said Murley. “Increasing visibility into field operations can help avoid or remediate situations that could otherwise cost time and money. It doesn’t take long for clients to see those benefits. In fact, one senior executive at one of our larger clients has our OxBlue camera live in his office 24/7.”

About OxBlue: OxBlue is a leading construction camera service provider, giving numerous Fortune 500 companies the hardware, connectivity and expertise to enable constant access to jobsites through high-resolution, time-lapse, Web-enabled construction camera images. OxBlue’s cameras connect people on and off site, and help measure variables such as labor, risk, quality and materials. The cameras provide accountability and increase communications between construction companies and clients.