



## *NEW YORK INTERAGENCY ENGINEERING COUNCIL NEWSLETTER*

*Fall '07*

### ***Welcome***

Although the New York Interagency Engineering Council has been around since 1979, this may be its first newsletter. In keeping with our organization's goals, it is intended to be another means of disseminating information to the staff of NYIEC member agencies. You may know us from our annual luncheon and technical conferences, but there is a lot more to us. Hopefully, this quarterly newsletter will fill in the gaps.

### ***Quarterly Meeting Presentations***

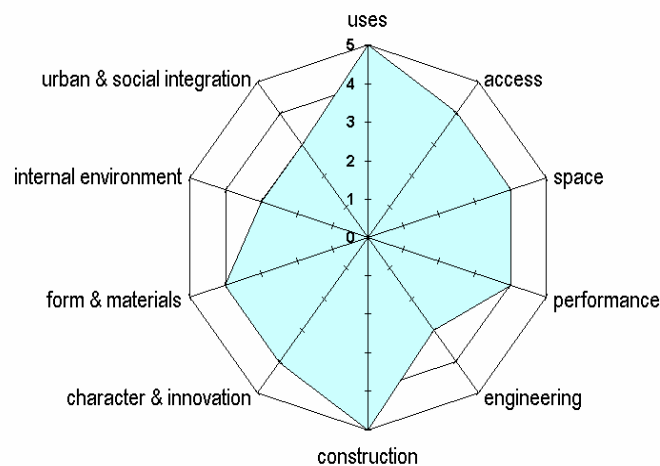
Presentations are given at the start of each quarterly meeting by the host agency. The host for the September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting was the New York City Department of Design & Construction. Commissioner David Burney gave an excellent presentation on the department's initiatives to insure that a high-level of building quality is maintained.

Some of the key points:

- Budget, Schedule and Quality are the three essential aspects of a project.
- Budgets and Schedules are relatively easy to measure. It is harder to measure quality because it is subjective. One technique used to help measure quality is the Design Quality Indicator, which uses a spider diagram to represent Build Quality, Functionality and Impact. These categories can be broken down into subcategories such as access, performance, and innovation. (see **Figure 1**)
- A good design team is crucial to the overall success of a project. Since design costs are a relatively small portion of the overall cost of a project, getting a good design team adds a tremendous amount of value.
- Traditionally, government procurement of design services is fee based; the fee is the overriding consideration in awarding the contract. This can create a disincentive for design firms to adequately staff projects in their quest to reduce the fee associated with their proposal. To address this potential problem, the DDC uses a Quality Based Selection design services procurement method. The department sets the fee schedule for all the bidders of a particular project using a fair and reasonable market based rate. Therefore, the overriding factor is the design team's qualifications and how well they are suited to the particular project.
- DDC has instituted peer reviews at the early design stages of projects. They have found that viewing the project through a different set of eyes helps to identify potential problems so that they can be corrected early.

- DDC is experimenting with a Defined Quantity method of construction contracting. With this method of contracting, an estimating firm performs a complete quantity take-off of the project; the finished product is a project manual that includes a description and a quantity for virtually all the line items of the project. Contractors bidding the project then fill in the unit prices associated with each line item. This method eliminates almost all contingencies and therefore project risk is reduced. The bid ranges also tend to be small and the bids are easier to compare.

Copies of the City of New York Design and Construction Excellence, July 2007 Progress Report were distributed to NYIEC delegates. The report will also be posted on the DDC website.



**Figure 1**

Some of the other quarterly meeting presentations given throughout the year include the following:

- Graphic Information Systems – Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
- Integrated Building Automation Systems – City University of New York
- The Real Cost of Buildings – Dormitory Authority of the State of New York
- The South Ferry Station – New York City Transit Authority
- Executive Order 111: Green and Clean State Buildings - Dormitory Authority of the State of NY

If any of these topics are of interest to you, check with your NYIEC delegate to obtain contact information and or written information on the topic.

### ***Annual Luncheon***

Every year the NYIEC sponsors a luncheon that features a renowned keynote speaker. Past keynote speakers included, Charles Makish, Director of the Lower Manhattan Construction Command Center; Patricia Lancaster, Commissioner of the NYC Department of Buildings; and

David Burney, Commissioner of the NYC Department of Design & Construction. This year the keynote speaker will be Elliot G. Sander, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. From 1994 to 1996, he also served as the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Transportation. The Annual Luncheon will once again be held at the elegant Union League Club. Eight invitations have been mailed to each of the NYIEC delegates for distribution to executives and staff members of their respective agencies. The date of the luncheon is November 13<sup>th</sup>, with an RSVP date of November 1<sup>st</sup>.

### ***Technical Conference***

It's never too early to start planning for the NYIEC Technical Conference. Since the last conference, we have already started kicking some ideas around. The delegates were inspired by the July 14<sup>th</sup> quarterly meeting presentation on Graphic Information Systems (GIS). We thought that it might be a good theme for the next technical conference. Another idea was to devote the next technical conference exclusively to case studies so that the architects and engineers running the projects would be able to explain how specific problems and challenges were overcome. Any suggestions for a theme for our next technical conference? Contact your NYIEC delegate.

### ***NYIEC Website***

The NYIEC web site includes general info about us as well as upcoming events. There is also a section with useful links, but we are looking to upgrade it. What links would you like to see included? What features would like us to add? Let us know. Visit us. The website address is [www.nyiec.org](http://www.nyiec.org)

### ***Know your Delegates***

NYCSCA	Elan Abneri	Michael Dirac	Tim Ng
NYCDCAS	Richard Appelbaum		
NYCTA	Khalid Bajwa		
DASNY	Bennett Carlin		
ESDC	Ed Decatrel	Joe Macaluso	
NYCDOB	Dan Eschanasy		
NYSDOT	Randolph Hunt		
NYCDOT	Larry King		
CUNY	Has Modi		
NYCDDC	Dino Ng	Simon Sauberman	
NYPA	Michael Nash		
PANYNJ	Frank Lombardi	Peter Rinaldi	Cathy Nigro
KeySpan	Tom Amerige		
ConEd	Lou Villani	Robert Heimberg	
USGSA	Karin Reed		