George Bush Airport FIS Building

Let me say that I enjoyed Ruben Martinez’ article on the above-referenced project in your November 2004 issue. It has been a pleasure watching the building reach completion. Unfortunately, there is an incorrect caption on the photograph on page 44 of the article. The building shown is the east pier for Continental’s Terminal E, designed by Corgan Associations, Inc. with structural engineering by Scientech Engineers. The buildings have similar roof forms but are two separate and independently designed projects.

Greg Krebs, Associate
Corgan Associates, Inc.
Dallas, TX

Calatrava Correction

In the October 2004 issue of Modern Steel Construction, Scott Melnick claimed in his article, “Sun Sculpture,” that the Turtle Bay Sundial Bridge, designed by world-renowned Spanish architect and engineer Santiago Calatrava, was the first steel inclined-pylon, cable-stayed bridge in the U.S. In fact, the first of this kind of bridge was near the Milwaukee Art Museum in downtown Milwaukee, and was also designed by Calatrava.

Jamie Jin, P.E., S.E.
KJWW Engineering Consultants
Des Moines, IA

Bid Shopping No Bargain

I always enjoy your publication, and over the years it has given me some good insights into this important part of the construction industry.

I was interested in Scott Melnick’s editorial remarks about Walter Gatti’s reflections on what is, in essence, bid shopping in its worst form. It is hard to see how this pervasive practice can be halted while still giving the owners the benefits of competitive pricing. The American Society of Professional Estimators (ASPE), of which I am a member, has a long-standing policy of working against this practice. Estimators are in the front line of such practices, on both sides. It is one of the ethical issues, in fact, that our chapters stress.

On another topic, I think the conversions of the S.I. measurements in the article “Star Attraction” severely short-changed the size of the Latitude at World Square project in Sydney. With 62,000 m² of space, the building appears to be about 667,000 sq. ft, not 203,000 sq. ft.

Dean Sherwin, C.P.E.
Construction Cost Management
Media, PA

Editor’s Note: Mr. Sherwin is correct about the Latitude at World project featured in our December 2004 issue: our S.I. to U.S. conversions of the area units are incorrect. A corrected version of the article will appear on our web site shortly.

Do you have a comment about something you’ve seen in Modern Steel Construction? We’d like to hear from you! E-mail your comments to Scott Melnick at melnick@modernsteel.com.