

# THE UPDATE

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*The goal of our monthly update is to provide information on timely matters that may impact your practice and professional interests.*



## **HURRICANES MAY ALTER FLORIDA BUILDING CODES**

The Florida Home Builders Association and the Home Builders Association of Metro Orlando have proposed changes to Florida building codes to prevent water damage that plagued many homes during the 2004 hurricane season. Raul Rodriguez, a Miami architect who chairs the Florida Building Commission said the proposed changes would be carefully reviewed and could take up to 18 months to implement .Both the Florida Building Commission and the state Legislature can make changes to the state's building code.



## **LACK OF BONDING CAPACITY LOSSES NOT COVERED**

The California Supreme Court ruled that damages resulting from a contractor's termination for default would not include the loss of profits resulting from loss of bonding capacity. The court concluded that these damages were not recoverable as either general or consequential damages, and the only lost profits that could be awarded would be limited to the contractor's projected profit on the defaulted project.



## **SCIENTISTS DEVELOP FIRST MECHANICAL COCHLEA**

U of M Scientists have developed the first micro-machined, life-sized, mechanical cochlea, the tiny organ responsible for converting acoustic vibrations into electrical signals for the brain to read and interpret as different sounds. Developing this device to stimulate this function in hearing impaired could help some of the estimated 560 million people who will experience hearing loss by the end of this year.



## **EXTENDING VISION BEYOND WHAT CAMERA CAN SEE**

Researchers at Intrigue Technologies Inc, a spin -off of the team's Carnegie Mellon University research are developing a imaging chip that defeats the harmful effects of arbitrary illumination , allowing robotic vision to enter the erratic lighting of the natural world, where cameras often

fail, to monitor dimly lit airports, pilot vehicles in extreme weather and direct unmanned combat vehicles.

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