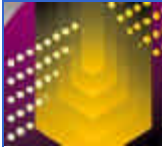


# THE UPDATE

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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.*



## **SEEING LESS GREEN IN LEED CERTIFICATIONS**

*"The Insiders Guide to Green Buildings" recently reported that projects being certified under the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED building rating system most often were found to use only the least-expensive "green" options available. For example, green products e.g. using lower volatile organic compounds (VOC's) are featured in more than 2/3 of the buildings being certified while the more costly to implement "green" options with greater energy savings potential are not being utilized.*



## **CHICAGO TRUMP TOWERS REACHES NEW MILESTONE**

*Donald Trump's new building concrete mat had to support the 92- story tower's massive weight of 360000 tons. Conventional concrete, however, is made to sustain a combined weight up of to 7000 pounds per square inch-not the 10000 pounds per square inch required. Fortunately the project's engineers found a solution . They were able to make the required pour using a specialty concrete mix that was cooler and thicker than normal to do the job- thereby avoiding the terrible YOUR FIRED.*



## **TEXAS LAVATORY MAY BE THE MOST EXPENSIVE EVER?**

*A multi-million dollar restoration project in Brownsville, Texas will expend \$24,000 to reconstruct a "historic toilet" on the first floor of the 1912 Brownsville Courthouse. This is the cost needed to pay for the toilet ,fixtures, plumbing, plaster and mosaic tile that are true to the style of the original 1912 lavatory which was removed during an earlier Courthouse renovation to accommodate the installation of an elevator.*



## **INSURERS JUST GETTING SMARTER**

*New cars are now coming equipped with their own black*

***boxes that can record driving data including how far drivers go, whether brakes are applied or if there is a "belted" collision. The manufacturers stated purpose is to help them improve the safety of today's cars. Insurance carriers hope to use the same data to gauge their premiums. It was recently reported that Progressive Insurance, is now underway with a two-year pilot program in Minnesota to identify the following risk factors: how often are drivers on the road, how far they drive, how fast they drive and how hard they apply their brakes. Progressive hopes to use this data to categorize drivers as either high or low risk before making premium and coverage decisions . Are they treading on possible privacy issues-what do you think?***

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