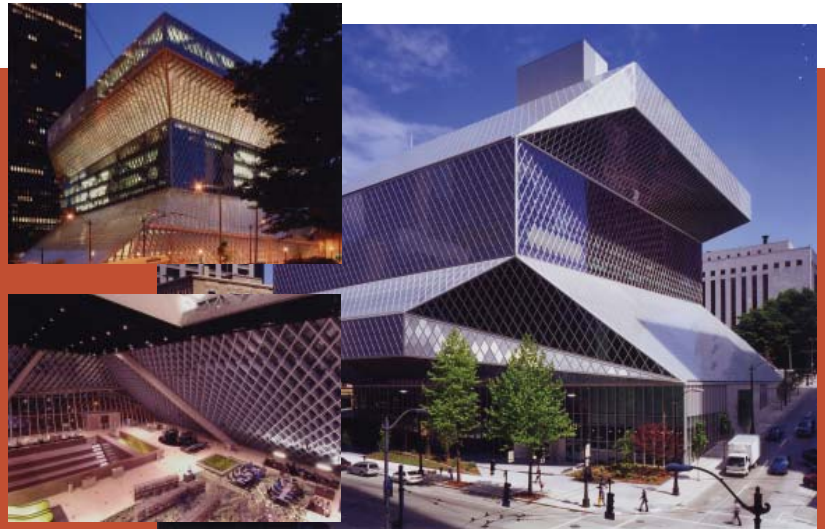




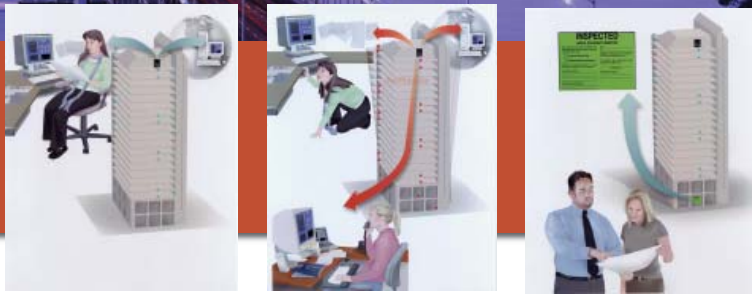
## CASE Firms Win Engineering Excellence Awards

- Magnusson Klemencic
- Degenkolb
- KPF

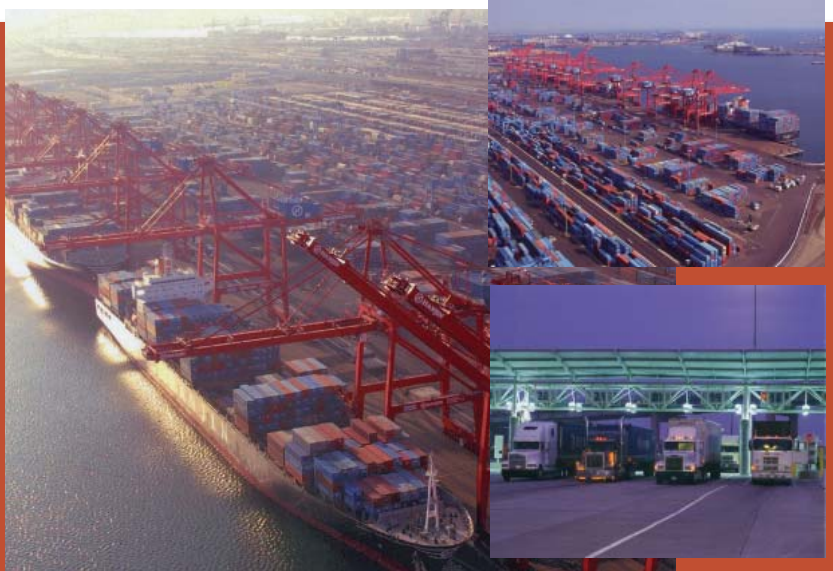
The Seattle Central Library by **Magnusson Klemencic** totally “reinvented” the library as we know it. The rules were – use no columns in the corners, no vertical columns and as few columns as possible. It contains a 4-story spiral floor which, if unwrapped, would be more than eight city blocks. The exoskeleton was designed so that the same grid steel member size could be used throughout the entire structure with reinforcement only in specific areas. Statistics show that library use has skyrocketed compared to the old library on the same site.



Building Instrumentation for post-earthquake inspection and monitoring by **Degenkolb Engineers** reduces the amount of time owners have to wait for post-earthquake inspections from city inspectors. They worked closely with the city of San Francisco to develop a safe and feasible means for determining whether a building is suitable for reoccupying. As a result, critical facilities and institutions can return to operation more swiftly and the economic toll of closed business is mitigated.



Pier T Container Terminal Development by **KPF Consulting Engineers** is the largest single development project initiated in the history of the Port of Long Beach. It is also one of the largest containerized cargo handling facilities in the world. The project required substantial demolition, environmental remediation and major earthwork. The Terminal is a significant economic engine for the local community. KPF prepared the master plan for the new terminal and developed a recommended program for design and construction that expedited the delivery of the project. ■



# Issues That Affect Your Business

These are the highlights of ACEC's legislative summary of the issues they and CASE are working on in Washington. CASE members and others are encouraged to review the list. We welcome any comments and/or suggestions for additional items the governmental affairs department should address or any insights you might have on these issues. Email either Ed Bajer ([ebajer@acec.org](mailto:ebajer@acec.org)) or Steve Hall ([shall@acec.org](mailto:shall@acec.org)).

**Outsourcing** - Secure passage of legislation that incentivizes states receiving federal funds to outsource to private engineering firms.

- Drafted numerous legislative options to encourage or incentivize outsourcing;
- Developed response to union "Highway Robbery" report.
- Retained Tom Warne to develop additional incentivization options.
- Developed educational materials to fight anti-outsourcing amendments.
- **Secured placeholder provision in the House and Senate bills (Sec. 1605 and Sec. 1804).**

**Outsourcing** - Confront Federal agency efforts to compete with private sector companies. ACEC is targeting the US Geological Survey, which has been actively marketing its services to federal, state, and local governments. ACEC is also addressing competition issues from the Bureau of Reclamation.

- Worked with Senate staff to ensure Corps compliance with the Thomas Amendment
- Held meetings with Rep. Pombo and Rep. Pearce to seek authorizing language restricting the BuRec from competing with private industry.
- Held meetings with Senate Appropriations staff on USGS **Transportation Funding** - Establish key ACEC priorities for TEA-21 reauthorization, which include:
  - outsourcing language
  - increased funding
  - tightened streamlining language
  - secure language to eliminate state opt-out of Sec.307
  - FHWA audit guidelines, including pre-certification for billing.
  - Participating with industry coalitions, with focus on "bottom-line issues";



- ACEC testified at several Capitol Hill hearings on the reauthorization effort.
- TEA-21 Reauthorization Principles approved;
- **Language in House and Senate bills on contracting out, streamlining, and closing the opt-out loophole.**
- **Tort Reform** - Secure passage of federal tort reform legislation that protects member companies from frivolous lawsuits.
  - Prepared draft "certificate of merit" legislation, requiring plaintiffs to consult with a third-party design professional to evaluate the merits of a claim before moving forward.
  - Prepared draft "Good Samaritan" legislation to provide liability protection for A/E firms responding in disaster situations.

**FAR Reform** - Reform the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) as they apply to engineering firms, focusing on:

- expanding allowable charges (include marketing, travel costs, non-bid and proposal work)
- audit reforms
- eliminate per diem restrictions
- Section 307 Task Force have discussed FAR recommendations.

**Cash Accounting** - Promote passage of legislation or regulation to permit the continued use of the cash method accounting system for all member firms that currently use it.

- HR 2814, the Qualified Personal Service Corporations Clarification Act, introduced by Budget Committee Chairman Jim Nussle.
- **Senator Sam Brownback introduced legislation in the Senate (S 2961).**

**Small Business Size Standards**-Last year, the Small Business Administration published a proposed rule that would change the engineering services size standard from \$4 million to 50 employees and \$7 million. No change was made to the current environmental remediation services size standard (500 employees), which is considered to be too high.

- **SBA withdrew a previous proposed size standard in response to industry opposition.**
- **Agency has indicated that it will release a new proposed standard early in 2005.**



Please visit CASE website at:  
[www.acec.org/about/case.cfm](http://www.acec.org/about/case.cfm)

