

1

Continuing the Legacy

1.0 GSA's Design Excellence Program

2004 marks the 10-year anniversary of the Design Excellence Program. The program has resulted in dramatic improvements in the design of federal buildings and the positive perceptions Americans have of their government. Implementation of the Design Excellence mandate by GSA's regions is enhancing cities across the nation. We now have a track record—a design legacy—that we and future generations can point to with pride.

Over time, we have refined and improved the program. This comprehensive publication—*Design Excellence: Policies and Procedures*—replaces the 2000 desk guide. While the values and commitment driving the program remain the same, we have fine-tuned the process in several important areas. The commitment and involvement of private-sector professionals as national peers has been significantly expanded to include more than 500 distinguished experts not only in architecture, preservation, and urban design, but also interior design, landscape architecture, construction, engineering, art, and art conservation. Sample documents and templates are now available on-line at http://insite.pbs.gsa.gov/PM/PMB/Design_Excellence_and_the_Arts. Prototypes for FedBizOpps announcements have been tailored to meet the requirements of specific project types—new construction, border stations, modernizations, preservation, and limited scope projects. A/E Evaluation Board scoring sheets have been standardized to generate consistency in selection criteria and the weighting of these criteria. Details on using charrettes as part of the A/E selection process are spelled out. There is expanded information on the number and timing of peer reviews during the concept development phase of a project. Finally, Art in Architecture procedures are now incorporated as an integral element of the Design Excellence process.

What we seek in Design Excellence is a holistic approach that, on behalf of our customers, delivers value by producing high quality, high performance facilities on budget and on time. Your commitment and hard work implementing the Design Excellence policies and procedures will help GSA meet its goal of providing superior workplaces that enhance the nation's communities.