

INDUSTRY GOODWILL

Tonight I was trying to catch up on my stack of reading, quickly going through the stack and sorting out what's worth coming back to. This note is to tell you how much I appreciate your August editorial. It contained the only positive words I have seen all evening and restored my faith in mankind, even if only for today.

*Charles Burgess
Houston, TX*

REBUILDING MANHATTAN

One of the most interesting events in construction today and tomorrow is the planning and designing of the future of the WTC site in lower Manhattan.

Hundreds of proposals are pouring at the CNN web site *WTC Towers: Your proposals* (www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2002/wtc.ideas/). Many of these proposals have very good architectural and structural ideas. Again most of the

authors that deserve attention are proposing to build taller than before, and even up to the limits (within reason) of modern construction. We can expect that the building framing will be predominantly high performance steel structure therefore look forward to its coverage in *Modern Steel Construction*.

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DETAILER SHORTAGE?

Is there really a detailer shortage in America or is the "Detailers Access Project" steel consortium seeking detailers in Romania just a ploy to pad bottom line profits? If there is a shortage, why are so many detailers in this country starving for work? This is akin to the betrayal of the U.S. textile industry as result of the North American Free Trade Agreement fiasco. Thousands of detailers in the United States are being hurt by the overseas contracting of work by U.S. steel fabricators.

There is no shortage of detailers. Don't be fooled.

Also, I can't see any reason to justify sending detailing work to Romania or anywhere else outside our borders just because the average age of detailers in the U.S. is in the mid 50s. Why forsake the talents of thousands of qualified individuals just to save a few bucks? This whole concept is ludicrous. Lives are being disrupted and careers lost in the name of greed.

*Evans Hall
via e-mail*

Modern Steel Construction welcomes reader feedback. Contact Scott Melnick (melnick@modernsteel.com) or Keith Grubb (grubb@modernsteel.com) with your comments or concerns.