

## Have the Rules Changed?

Crystals at CityCenter, Las Vegas was a Merit Award winner in the 2010 IDEAS<sup>2</sup> Awards program described in the May 2010 Modern Steel Construction (page 48). I started reading the description of the roof system and found that those were the things we were taught not to do. Why would a structure be considered worthy of award if each of the 19 roof pieces was, as the article says, “erected with numerous lean-

ing columns, curving trusses and straight members that do not line up with any other piece of steel”? Is the award for being the most complex structure, or most expensive structure?

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*Scott Melnick replies:* The AISC IDEAS<sup>2</sup> Awards program honors projects and designers who have gone beyond the typical everyday conditions and have solved a

special or unique architectural or engineering issue. While there is a special beauty in an extremely efficient design, there is something breathtaking about a truly unique one. In addition, the judges take into account the accomplishment of the designers in meeting the owner’s program for a structure—an accomplishment readily met by the project team for Crystals at CityCenter.