

## Daily Commercial News

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### Canadian Design-Build Institute

#### Design-Build Model Takes Advantage of Integrated Design and Construction

PATRICIA WILLIAMS

staff writer

Victoria architect John Neilson, recently elected chair of the Canadian Design-Build Institute, thinks there is a lot to be said for this project delivery approach.

"Design-build is truly an opportunity for fully integrated design and construction, where the team of consultants, sub-consultants, contractors and subtrades work in unison to deliver a project," says the partner in CEI Architecture Planning Interiors.

"This integration brings a harmony to the (project) implementation process."

Neilson, who has been active in the field of architecture and planning since 1969 and is a former president of the Architectural Institute of B.C. (AIBC), says the design-build approach also offers the potential to fast-track the design and construction processes.

While this procurement model can be applied to both public and private sector projects, Neilson says "it is not necessarily the best vehicle for every project and CDBI does not advocate that premise."

"That decision can be based on a wide variety of criteria."



CDBI encourages owners to analyze the procurement options "to confirm that design-build is the procurement method of choice and right for each of their projects," Neilson said.

The institute was set up 10 years ago as a special committee of the Canadian Construction Association. It is the national voice of Canadian design-build practitioners. CDBI represents about 180 firms.

Its mission is to promote use of the design-build method of contracting where suitable; to educate the industry in proper utilization of this contracting method; to recommend best practices policies and procedures to support design-build utilization; and to provide a forum for practitioners.

Neilson, who chaired an AIBC task force on design-build in the mid-1990s and also sat on a 1997 joint federal/industry task force on design-build, has identified several priorities for his two-year term as chair of CDBI.

These are:

- Lobbying for appropriate honoraria on competitive design-build proposal calls by all levels of government or alternatively, implementation of “credentials-based” selection criteria.
- Continuing to seek endorsement by the Canadian Construction Documents Committee of standard design-build documents.
- Raising the institute’s profile across Canada by informing owners, consultants and contractors of what it means to be part of CDBI.
- Beefing up in-house committees to pave the way for eventual representation of all sectors on the CDBI council.