



PRIVATE LIVES AND PUBLIC WORKS

150 Years of Civil Engineering in America

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***Me, Myself and Infrastructure* Exhibit Opens at New-York Historical Society** *Explores Role of Civil Engineering in Everyday Lives*

New York City — *Me, Myself and Infrastructure: Private Lives and Public Works in America*, an exhibit that explores the infrastructure of a thirsty, car-crazy nation, opened today at the New-York Historical Society. *Me, Myself and Infrastructure's* innovative approach challenges the public to view infrastructure as much more than a network of beams, pipes and roadways through six questions: *Who's responsible? Is it safe? Why so big? Is it available? How much does it cost? How long will it last?*

The answers unfold before visitors as they tour a series of everyday settings including a coffee shop, an office cubicle, a living room and a big-box store. Designed as an interactive look at how the public experiences the world of civil engineering, the exhibit is the premier event in a yearlong public celebration of the American Society of Civil Engineers' 150th anniversary.



"The exhibit is an exciting engagement of how civil engineering touches practically every aspect of our daily lives," said ASCE President H. Gerard Schwartz, Jr., Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE. "From the hidden network of wires that powers our Internet system to the water that's in our morning coffee, our nation depends on a strong and healthy infrastructure."

In addition to *Me, Myself and Infrastructure*, a companion exhibit, *I on Infrastructure*, opens today at the New York Public Library's Science, Industry and Business Library. *I on Infrastructure* offers an in-depth look at the aesthetics of civil engineering artwork and artifacts. A traveling exhibit based on *Me, Myself and Infrastructure's* six thematic questions is also currently traveling the nation. *Ask the Infrastructure* provides vignettes on six freestanding column structures. The exhibit encourages viewers to learn about the civil engineering profession and some of the challenges civil engineers have faced in the past and will face in the future. All three exhibits were designed by Chicken&Egg Public Projects, Inc., and Boym Partners, Inc.

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American Society of Civil Engineers



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In describing why an exhibit about civil engineering is so important to the public, Greg Dreicer, the exhibit's curator, said, "One-third of the world's population lacks access to safe drinking water. One-half lack the sanitation systems that keep things flush in the United States. You'd think that these facts would lead Americans to worship their civil engineers. Why don't they? Because civil engineers do their job too well. They make it seem too easy and natural."

Me, Myself and Infrastructure will be at the New-York Historical Society through September 15. It then opens at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C., on October 4. *1 on Infrastructure* runs through December 14. *Ask the Infrastructure* is scheduled to appear in more than 20 cities across the country through March 2003.

Founded in 1852, ASCE represents more than 125,000 civil engineers worldwide and is America's oldest national engineering society. More details on *Me, Myself and Infrastructure* and ASCE's 150th anniversary can be found at www.asce.org/150

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