



Queens Museum of Art
New York City Building
Flushing Meadows Corona Park
Queens, NY 11368-3398
718.592.9700
www.queensmuseum.org

NYC Department of Design + Construction Design + Construction Excellence Initiative

As part of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg's Design + Construction Excellence Initiative, the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) is one of many agencies that has implemented a quality-based method for selecting architectural firms in order to attain high quality design and construction in public works.

This Mayoral initiative is intended to encourage City agencies to strive for great design in all public works, large and small. As the agency charged with delivering design and construction work for the City, DDC has been given a lead role in the implementation of this initiative, which includes a number of individual projects sponsored by various City agencies. Many of the programs are designed to raise the bar on design and construction quality across the board, while others are targeted to specific City projects.

A number of new strategies are focused on the procurement of design services. Partnering with the Mayor's Office of Contract Services, DDC worked on several innovative procurements for architecture and engineering services that utilize the initiative's quality-based selection of services. This has resulted in two groups of requirement contracts that DDC has awarded using the new selection process. The first group of 24 small firms will be assigned smaller projects, and another group of 8 firms (of which Grimshaw Architects is one) will be assigned larger projects. Separate pieces of this initiative encompass improving the way the design process is managed and working towards a more team-based approach to the construction process. City offices involved include the Office of Management and Budget, the Law Department, the Art Commission of the City of New York, and the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Current projects in this initiative include: the Department of Homeless Services' new Emergency Assistance Unit in the Bronx and the reconstruction of the Queens Borough Central Library, among others. Firms included in the Design + Construction Excellence Initiative for larger projects are: 1100: Architect; Arquitectonica; FXFOWLE, PC; Gluckman Mayner Architects; Polshek Partnership Architects; Rafael Vinoly Architects, PC and Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, LLP. These firms were selected based on their experience and qualifications.

The Department of Design and Construction provides design and construction services for many public construction projects, from roadways and water mains to cultural institutions, libraries, and childcare centers using both in-house resources and private design consultants and contractors. DDC manages projects for more than 20 client agencies, with an annual budget valued at more than one billion dollars.