

**University of Maryland**  
**Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering**  
**ENCE 100 – Introduction to Civil and Environmental Engineering**

**“Me, Myself, and Infrastructure” Exhibit Review**

Due: February 17, 2003

Our February 10<sup>th</sup> class meeting will be held downtown at the National Building Museum’s “Me, Myself, and Infrastructure” exhibit. The museum curator, Howard Decker, will personally lead a one-hour tour of this exhibit put together by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). The tour will take place from 4:00 to 5:00pm.

The National Building Museum is located in Washington, D.C. on F Street, NW between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> streets. You can find directions at the museum’s web page:

<http://www.nbm.org/Info/visit.html#directions>

This museum is a short walk from either the Gallery Place (green line) or Judiciary Square (red line) metro stations.

In advance of this visit, I would like you to review the building museum’s exhibit web page at:

<http://www.nbm.org/Exhibits/current/MMI.html>

Before you arrive at the exhibit, please have read about the six questions the exhibit has identified as its central themes:

1. Who’s responsible?
2. Is it safe?
3. Why so big?
4. Is it available?
5. How much does it cost?
6. How long will it last?

**Assignment:**

After visiting the exhibit, you should prepare a 1-2 page (double spaced) paper addressing the following questions:

1. What specific item or element of the exhibit did you think was the most compelling example of how the contributions of civil engineers are important to society?
2. Why did you find this item/element so compelling?
3. What civil engineering “specialty” is most central to this item/element? (You may want to examine the ASCE web page that describes these specialties. There is a link off our class’ web page or you can go directly to: <http://www.asce.org/kids/tech.cfm>.)
4. What technical skills would a civil engineer need to analyze or design with respect to this item? What courses are relevant to these skills? (You may want to examine several links under the “Resources” section of the class web page that pertain to our department’s undergraduate curriculum.)

**What if I can’t attend at the time of the scheduled tour?**

You do not need to be present at the time of the tour, but you must then visit the exhibit on your own time in order to write the review. Please keep in mind that the exhibit will leave after February 16<sup>th</sup>. The assignment due date applies no matter when you attend the exhibit.