

A PLUMBING ENGINEER Profile

Meet Cal Laws

The San Francisco office of Skidmore, Owens & Merrill is located eighteen stories above the busy streets of the financial district, overlooking one of the world's greatest skylines. The noted architectural firm with offices in Chicago, Washington, D. C., New York, Portland and Los Angeles, has designed and engineered many of the same skyscrapers that give San Francisco the distinction of being known as "The City."

One of the project engineers within this fine firm is Calvin Laws, P.E., currently treasurer of the American Society of Plumbing Engineers. His position on the national board indicates the respect with which he is held by his contemporaries.

Laws is a native Californian. Born in Oakland and raised in the Bay Area, he received his mechanical engineering degree at University of California (San Luis Obispo) — known by most as Cal Poly. Following graduation in 1962, Laws spent the next 11 years working as a mechanical engineer for architectural firms, consulting engineers, and mechanical contractors. He formed a partnership with Pete Johnson and Sam Yamaguchi in the early 70's, but when it didn't work out; well, he took the opportunity to join Skidmore, Owens & Merrill in 1974 when offered a position by Carl Jordan, chief mechanical engineer for the firm.

As a project engineer Laws is involved with both HVAC and plumbing, and is responsible for the design and engineering of SOM projects, working closely with other disciplines within the architectural and engineering company. Laws' principle responsibility is to supervise drawings by designers and draftsmen, and to follow the work through construction. He is not an inside man.

He feels it is essential to visit construction sites frequently and visually inspect the installations.

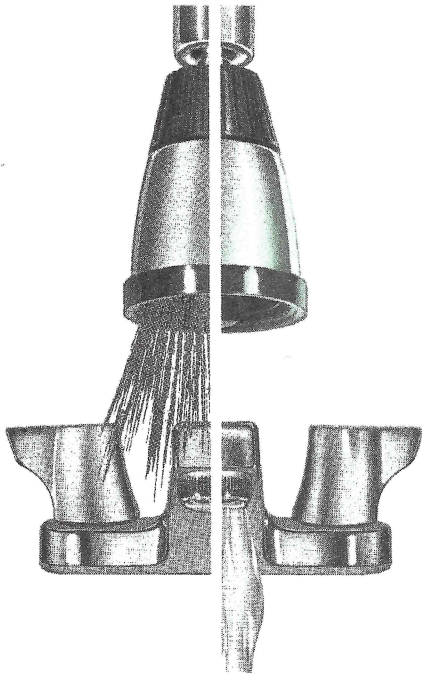
Laws pointed to the Bank of Tokyo building three blocks away, and quite visible from the offices of SOM as he was being interviewed by PLUMBING ENGINEER. It was a recent job for his engineering team, which included the most sophisticated of fire protection devices (fully sprinklered), smoke detection devices, and computerized control for fire and security protection. It is one of the first complete life safety projects in San Francisco.

Moscow

But just so his work doesn't sound dull or boring, Laws in his soft spoken way, tells you that he just returned from Moscow

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Cal Laws (continued from page 62) where he and his team are involved in the engineering for the new United States Embassy complex in the Russian capital. Laws spent the last week in July and the first week in August in almost constant consultation with Russians, who will construct the \$100,000,000 project to house U.S. government officials and diplomats.

Although Russian construction techniques are years behind American methods, Laws found the Russian engineers to be bright and thorough in their discussions. However, Laws did point out that since there is no competition in the contracting field (a Russian governmental department handles all construction), there is a lack of innovation.

Because of the long hours in discussion with Russian engineers, Laws did not have the opportunity to see much more of Moscow than the Kremlin and Red Square.

With three sons, age 6, 11 and 14, Cal Laws took up scouting seven years ago to assist his sons in learning more about the outdoors. He is currently a Scout Master, and committee chairman for a Cub Pack. He spends one weekend per month on a back-packing trip and one week of his vacation in summer camp. Laws lives in San Bruno with his wife Sue, and both parents fill whatever spare time they have with their sons.

ASPE

Although Laws was not part of the charter group that formed the San Francisco ASPE chapter, he was an early member and has been instrumental in making it outstanding within the national society. He served as the San Francisco Chapter president for two terms between 1974 and 1976 after having spent several years on the Board.

As though his life isn't already filled to the brim, Laws teaches an Engineered Plumbing Design course at San Francisco City College on an every-other-year basis. He is quite proud of the fact that they have graduated close to two hundred over a seven year period.

Speaking on the profession, Laws is optimistic over the growing stature of those engaged in plumbing engineering and design. He feels that there are more qualified engineers

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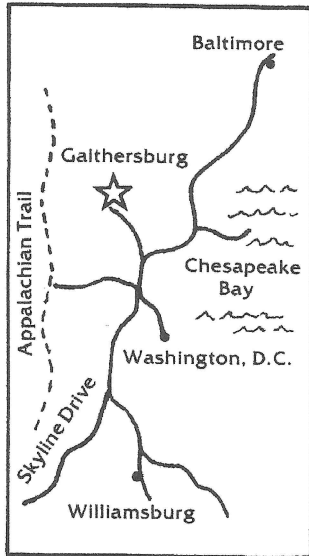
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Plumbing Engineer/Designer



Bechtel Power Corporation, a world leader in Engineering & Construction, has an immediate need in their Gaithersburg, Maryland office for a Plumbing Engineer/Designer.

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Cal Laws (continued from page 73) than ever in the past, but that there is a lack of assertiveness by those involved in plumbing design. Plumbing doesn't get in the limelight of construction as does air conditioning, Laws points out. Our systems work well so therefore they are not noticed as much as other aspects of construction. We need to be more innovative, and not allow codes to

keep technical advances down, Laws continued. We need more research, and we need to up-date some of the theories and formulas that are now showing their age.

The old truism expressed quite often is that you always ask the busiest person to take on another responsibility. If you wanted something done you would probably ask Cal Laws.

CORRECTION

Referring to the article, "High Efficiency Heat Transfer Equipment," which appeared in the March/April issue. The statement which read: "the exchange of calcium ions for sodium ions results in waters with a pH below 7 or on the acid side" should be corrected. We have been informed by Richard F. Weickart, P.E., Technical Director of the Water Quality Association that "the exchange of calcium and magnesium hardness ions for sodium ions has absolutely no effect on the concentrations of alkalinity or carbon dioxide which are the primary materials which determine the pH of water. The sodium ions are

neither more nor less acidic or alkaline than the calcium and magnesium which they replace; all three are neutral ions which have no effect on the pH of the water. Thus ion exchange softening neither causes nor controls the corrosion potential of a water supply."

Please make note of this correction.

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