

Owners, Developers & Managers News Briefs

ALSO INCLUDES BANQUET HALL, DINING OUTLETS AND RETAIL SPACE Sweett Grp. provides program and cost mgmt. service on \$180m Titanic Belfast

NEW YORK, NY VVA Project Managers' Joint Venture Partner, Sweett Group, the international property and infrastructure consultancy, is pleased to have been involved in the successful delivery of the \$180 million, 15,000 m² Titanic Belfast, which houses the world's largest interpretive exhibition of the famous cruise liner. The building also includes a 1000-person banquet hall, dining outlets and retail and community spaces.

VVA Sweett was formed in late 2011 as a joint venture company between VVA, LLC and Sweett Group plc; both organizations have a 50% stake in the new organization. This partnership gives VVA the ability to provide hands-on, local project management expertise to clients across the globe; it also enables Sweett Group to offer their international client base project management & consulting services on all U.S.-based construction and real estate projects.

Sweett Group has been involved in



the Titanic Belfast project since 2006, providing strategic cost planning and programming advice to the project's developer, Titanic Quarter Ltd, culminating in a bid for Lottery Funding in 2008. Sweett Group's experience on large scale projects, museum and exhibition works was combined with its knowledge of the sector's nuances to critically advise the contractor in the

successful delivery of Titanic Belfast ahead of schedule and on budget.

Dean Webster, Sweett Group chief executive officer said, "We are very proud to be involved in this iconic development and the regeneration of the Belfast shipbuilding yard area, particularly with the 100 year anniversary of Titanic's maiden and final journey just passing on April 15."

MKDA to redesign 20,000 s/f headquarters for Michael Page International

MANHATTAN, NY Michael Page International (MPI), a leading international recruitment consultancy, has tapped corporate interiors firm MKDA to redesign its Headquarters at 405 Lexington Ave. in Manhattan's Chrysler Building.

The in-occupancy renovation of 20,000 s/f on the 28th and 31st floors was completed in multiple phases with swing space provided to allow the tenant to continue its business operations throughout the project's duration.

"We worked closely with Michael Page and a team of vendors and contractors to manage this project on a very tight schedule, ensuring that the firm would be able to continue its business activities without interruption," said MKDA executive managing director Julia Lindh.

"MKDA also conceived and developed the firm's design standards package, which includes a sizable



wall graphic that will showcase the skylines of the major cities where the design standards are rolled out," said MKDA senior project manager Michael Sanchirico.

The newly designed space comprises an updated reception area with a graphic feature wall, elevator lobby,

executive office suite, pantries, boardroom, interview rooms and recruiter bullpen with benching systems.

The design incorporates the corporate blue of Michael Page International alongside the red of its subsidiary firm Page Personnel, also located within the space.

AEC industry is undergoing transformation, not recession

NEW YORK, NY The architecture, engineering, and construction (AEC) industry is transforming in a way that we have never witnessed before. Building practices are being turned on their heads: three-dimensional modeling is changing the process of design and delivery; four different generations of people are working together using diverse technologies; and companies such as Google and IBM are revolutionizing construction software as well as the growth and development of cities.

No one has a crystal ball, but if anyone can give a glimpse of the future it is Edie Weiner, president of Weiner, Edrich, Brown, Inc., a futur-

ist consulting group. She will be the keynote speaker at "A View From the Future," which will include a panel discussion with AEC industry experts. The event takes place in New York City on June 5. Weiner will unveil her view of the future as it relates to business trends in general and the AEC industry in particular.

"We're not in a recession like everybody thinks, rather we're in a fundamental transformation, which occurs every so often in our history – from industrial to post-industrial, for example," said Edie Weiner.

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RIBEIRO OF NYC HOUSING AUTHORITY, SPEAKER PWC meets the real estate industry on May 15

NEW YORK, NY On May 15, Professional Women in Construction (PWC) will present "Meet the Real Estate Industry," a networking event with exhibit tables, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Club 101, 101 Park Ave. and 40th St.



Raymond Ribeiro

Honored guest speakers will include: Raymond Ribeiro, P.E., executive vice president, capital projects, NYC Housing Au-

thority; Joe Yacavone, senior managing director, project & development services, Cassidy Turley; Karen Dome, senior associate, Marcus & Millichap Real Estate Investment Services, & president, NYCREW; Karla Beth Kudatzky, real estate manager/Asset Services, CBRE, Inc.; and Rob Shults, senior vice president, design & construction, Rockefeller Group Development Corporation.

Event sponsors include A. Estéban & Company and HAKS.

Visit www.pwcusa.org for more information.

Merritt Engineering Consultants to complete parking garage restoration

BROOKLYN, NY Merritt Engineering Consultants, P.C. is currently working on the restoration of the 3-level parking garage at 75 Henry St. The restoration project consisted of a full-depth concrete replacement, concrete patching, crack repairs, and the installation of a new Sika waterproofing membrane. In addition, Merritt has designed and specified the removal and replacement of the deteriorated existing reinforcement bars. Upon completion of the structural repairs, all parking spaces will be stripped to provide full functionality and a complete aesthetic look for the garage.

Previously, Merritt completed the replacement of the displaced and cracked sidewalk flags and curbs as well as a full restoration of the masonry/concrete facades at the property, including partial concrete balcony repairs.

A Kemper liquid membrane was successfully used to waterproof

exposed concrete spandrels at all floor levels where years of moisture infiltration deteriorated the concrete and underlying reinforcement. Investigation and design services were also provided for the waterproofing of foundation walls at 18 townhouses and for the restoration of paved walkways.



Stillman Property Mgmt. implements new risk transfer program

MAMARONECK, NY Stillman Property Management, a full-service property management company, has implemented a new risk transfer program to help mitigate risk for its clients by ensuring that contractors who work on its properties not only supply the proper insurance documents, but also provide owners with contractual indemnification in the event of an injury or property damage caused by the contractor.

Developed in cooperation with Risk Reduction Services, LLC, the new program protects property owners by triggering "additional insured" coverage as required in the fine print by most contractors' insurance policies. Without these risk transfer documents, property owners could be exposed to costly liabilities that should be borne by the contractors.

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Upper East Side's Azure reaches 50% sold

NEW YORK, NY According to The DeMatteis Organizations and the Mattone Group, co-developers of Azure, the Upper East Side's preeminent luxury building located at 333 East 91st St., the property is over 50 percent sold.

"We expect sales to remain strong and steady as Azure provides unmatched amenities and large units at some of the most attainable prices seen in this area," said John Caiazzo, V.P. of Real Estate Development for The DeMatteis Organizations.

"Our recent sales momentum testifies to the incredible value of Azure's unparalleled product that offers generous space, great views, custom finishes and world-class services," said Karen Mansour, executive vice president of Douglas Elliman Development Marketing, the property's exclusive sales and marketing team.