

# ARCHITECT'S NEWSPAPER

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## SURVEY SAYS ...

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Every time we talk to architects about a project they are finishing up, it seems that the conversation turns to sources: You rave about the possibilities of a new material, or the ingenious solution your structural engineer devised, or the great level of finish on your millwork. We decided to compile your preferred fabricators, suppliers, and consultants in our first-ever Favorite Sources issue.

But not all of you were willing to play along. When we sent out a note to several thousand of our subscribers, we got some incredulous responses. One reader wrote, "No one in his right mind would divulge a good source. Whose idea was this anyway?" Another chuckled that if she told us the name of her contractor, she'd have to kill us.

Fortunately, many of you were feeling more civic-minded (and less bloody-minded) and recommended the talents and sources that make your lives easier and your projects stronger. One of you even gave us the phone number of a guy whose epoxy floors are like glass. Certain names came up again and again, and they appear in the following pages.

What was most compelling about your responses was the enthusiasm with which many of you spoke about the process of collaboration. Across the board, your favorites seem to be the companies and individuals who not only do the job as requested, but influence the way you think about your own design process. On the next few pages, you'll find some familiar names, but we hope there will be plenty of new ones as well.

### GENERAL CONTRACTOR

#### Deconstruction

440 Lafayette St., New York; 212-473-5610  
www.deconstructioninc.com

#### F. J. Sciame Construction

80 South St.; 212-232-2200 www.fjsciamc.com

#### FJB Contracting

811 McLean Ave., Yonkers, NY; 914-803-0850

#### Foundations Group

121 Varick St., New York; 212-924-1724  
www.foundationsgroup.com

#### Fountainhead Construction

1841 Broadway, New York; 212-757-1177

#### PM Contracting

40 Exchange Pl., New York; 212-785-8080  
www.pmcontracting.com

#### S. DiGiacomo & Son

386 Park Ave. South, New York; 212-704-0750 www.sdigiacomc.com

#### Scordio Construction

560 Fourth Ave., Brooklyn; 718-369-0500  
www.scordioconstruction.tripod.com

#### Taconic Builders, Inc.

125 Spencer Pl., Mamaroneck, NY; 914-698-7456  
www.taconicbuilders.com

#### Taocon

110 Madison Ave., New York; 212-689-7799 www.taocon.com

#### Upgrade Contracting

530 Gardner Ave., Brooklyn; 718-302-1616  
www.upgradecontracting.com

#### Vanguard Construction and Development

307 West 38th St., New York; 212-594-7477  
www.vanguardcon.com

"I've been working with **Taocon** for years, most recently on the Pizza Bar in the Meatpacking District. They are unbelievably organized and meticulous, and they have the best site supervisors you can imagine. They'll tell you where there are mistakes, even ones you might never see. They're the opposite of the usual contractor who tells you, 'This is how it is.' Also, I appreciate how they work. They once did a partial renovation for me that was surgically precise. They always left the place spotless." **Ali Tayar, Parallel Design Partnership**

"Saif Sumaida at **Foundations Group** is one of those rare guys who really understands architecture. He's more like a partner in the process, and helps you figure out how to fabricate, build your ideas." **Craig Konyk, kOnyk architecture**

"**Vanguard** built the display tongue at the Vitra store for a fraction of the cost that any other firm could have done it for. They really get behind architects who value design, they love it." **Lindy Roy, Roy Design**

"For clients who demand a certain quality of work—such as the people buying apartments in Richard Meier's Perry Street buildings, where I designed the lobby—how you deal with them is as important as the work you deliver. **Taconic** [which also built the loft conversion by Deborah Berke, below] not only provides flawless work but flawless service. Everyone there is incredibly nice, presentable, professional." **Ali Tayar, Parallel Design Partnership**

It might be libelous, but it would be great if you guys put together a list of contractors that people won't work with... Oftentimes though, it just comes down to the specific circumstances of the job and the person you are working with.

Adam Yarinsky, Architecture Research Office



FAR LEFT: PIZZA BAR, MEATPACKING DISTRICT, ALI TAYAR, PARALLEL DESIGN PARTNERSHIP

LEFT: LOFT CONVERSION, MEATPACKING DISTRICT, DEBORAH BERKE & PARTNERS ARCHITECTS