

Building Access for Handicapped Realized: First Bartlett Award

The American Institute of Architects and The President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped today bestowed the first annual Bartlett Award on architects for Boston's new City Hall, San Diego Stadium, and Houston's Tenneco Building.

The award is named for the late Senator from Alaska, E.L. Bartlett who battled to secure better access to hospitals, court houses, museums, and other public buildings.

Senator Bartlett authored Public Law 90-480 requiring new Federally-aided structures plus renovated older ones to be free of obstacles to persons in wheelchairs without assistance.

An estimated 26,000,000 Americans have impaired movement of varying degree due to advanced old age, illness, birth defects, accidents, and war injuries, according to Harold Russell, Chairman of The President's Committee.

Architects who won this year's Bartlett Award produced designs that offered easy movement in entrances, interior space, and approaches, said the AIA Jury.

Each year the Bartlett Award winners will come from projects which already have won an AIA Honor Award for superior design. This will allow the public to see how excellence in design and barrier free architecture can be easily combined.