PROFILE OF THE WEEK

Alan S. Epstein, President
Epstein Engineering, P.C.

While his firm's clientele reads like a list of "Who's Who" of New York real estate, that's not what provides the most satisfaction to Alan Epstein. It's the pride he takes in his unique ability to treat each client as if he were his only client. Epstein proudly maintains personal involvement in all projects and does so in harmony with his staff of engineering and construction experts.

At present, the firm is involved in more than 50 major exterior restoration projects on many of New York's finest buildings. Cornell Weill Medical College, New York Life Insurance world headquarters, the Carnegie Hall Tower, and the Woolworth Building are just a sample of the properties for which Epstein Engineering has provided services, In the field of exterior restoration and historic preservation Epstein's unique background has helped him rise to the forefront in this field.
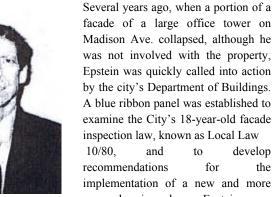
Originally educated and trained in engineering, Epstein has received both a bachelor's degree in Alan I engineering and a master's degree in civil engineering. He also holds a law degree from the St. John's University School of Law. With this unique and extensive background, which he compares to a solid foundation for a building, Epstein set out to develop a special company in order to service the various needs of the New York 'real estate and construction industries, With the highly complicated rules and regulations imposed on industry participants many have come to consider Epstein as something of a savior or a "guru." No project, regulatory or bureaucratic process has proven too cumbersome, for his firm, whether it is a city agency, a complex construction problem, or a unique building.

The firm currently has 20 employees, equally divided between the technical and administrative staffs. All engineers hold a minimum of a bachelor's degree and have received formal training in the installation and operation of external building scaffolds. This is quite important since on a given day all of the firm's engineers may find themselves

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inspecting and assessing the exterior facades of a building, some of them 40 and 50 stories above the street, It takes a great deal of training and expertise to effectively and safely accomplish the tasks at hand.

Several years ago, when a portion of a facade of a large office tower on Madison Ave. collapsed, although he was not involved with the property, Epstein was quickly called into action by the city's Department of Buildings. A blue ribbon panel was established to examine the City's 18-year-old facade inspection law, known as Local Law 10/80, and to develop recommendations for the implementation of a new and more comprehensive law, Epstein was certainly best suited for this task since in addition to his technical and legal training, he was also the author of the Manual for Local Law 10 Compliance. Written several years ago, the manual had found its way onto the desk or into the bookshelf of nearly every practicing real estate professional, architect, engineer, and building official in the City. Extensive study, analysis, and review by the panel of a myriad of complex circumstances and issues led to the implementation of Local Law 11/98. This new facade inspection law replaced Local Law 10/80 and remains in effect at the present time. Its effect has been to create a safer city, one that is a better place to live. Of course Epstein updated the original manual and authored the sequel The Manual for Local Law 11 Compliance. This quickly became an invaluable tool for the industry. When not involved in his business operations Epstein, a life-long New Yorker, enjoys the cultural activities the city offers, as well as a good workout on a tennis or basketball court. A varsity athlete during his undergraduate days at the State University of New York at Stony Brook he still enjoys the healthy competition these sports provide.