

Peter Babigian, principal,
WB Engineers

Technology expert keeps system design seamless

BY DANIELLE WOLFFE

Whether creating an elegant state-of-the-art wireless infrastructure system for the 36-story Hearst Tower, or clamoring to complete the Deutsche Bank data center system shortly after the September 11 terrorist attacks, Peter Babigian, PE, RCDD principal of WB Engineers, has learned how to splice together his penchant for design and technical skills to secure high profile projects.

"I always wanted to be an engineer, at the same time I appreciate architecture and design and try to always recognize the underlying pattern. I think a lot of times people come out of engineering school and try to do projects involving design with no concept of what they are designing, nor what the clients needs are," Babigian said.

Babigian has always been good at operating according to the needs of his clients. Shortly after graduating from Leigh University in Bethlehem, PA, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering, he landed a job as a construction manager with Tishman Construction at the 92nd street YMCA. He went on to work for Tishman Technologies on computer infrastructure before realizing he had to move onto an engineering firm. He worked as a consultant for several firms before joining Constantin Walsh-Lowe as principal and director of engineering.

His projects have spanned the spectrum from the elegant redesign of the system in the corporate offices of Bloomberg LP, to the relocation of Guardian Life headquarters and the \$4.5 million communications infrastructure upgrade of Merrill Lynch.

While design driven, Babigian also admits he appreciates the ability to create the hidden systems businesses inadvertently revolve around.

"When a security guard puts his ID

on the turnstile to let the CFO into the building, that is what provides him access. That is the kind of technology it is satisfying to know that we have had a hand in that makes the whole process run smoothly," he said.

Babigian knows interfacing with clients while designing engineering structure can lead to less technological glitches and is always appreciative when

he is able to work closely with developers on projects. The design for the 856,000 s/f Hearst Tower's Mobile Access Universal wireless system required such technical feats as the implementation of the Cisco Universal LAN solution, which called for the creation of eight antennas on each floor concealed in network closets instead of ceilings, the securing of empty pathways throughout the buildings, and behind-the-scenes voice data systems, all of which were created in close

coordination with the developers.

The design of the Deutsche Bank data center required the team get amped up to a degree of business that Babigian had not previously experienced. While the Hearst Tower project was designed over several years, the Deutsche Bank project was started on September 13 and finished by that Thanksgiving.

"It was all just fast, fast, fast. We had an ungodly number of electricians running an ungodly number of conduits. At the same time, we were pretty much building to a moving target," Babigian said. "It was an exciting project."

Each project continues to give him new skills to add to the monster board in his brain from which to draw on for new projects.

His latest project with WB Engineers — a call center for a major national communications company — required the manipulation of 20,000 s/f of occupied office space on a tight deadline to revamp mechanical, electrical and architectural systems.

"The hub of the project was coordinating what was going on with design and construction. I appreciate that kind of process. You are always busy and always involved, and in turn always learning rather than repeating the same thing over and over again," Babigian said. ■



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WB Engineers' Peter Babigian has become the go-to guy for the design and installation of high tech systems. **Page 8**