BIG CARIBBEAN BUSINESS PROFILES
ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL & CONTRACTOR FIRMS

Babilonia Engineering Group: a progressive trio

BY GINA M. HERNÁNDEZ

Mechanical Engineers Héctor Babilonia-Panzardi, Héctor Manuel Babilonia-Cedó and José Carlos Babilonia-Cedó have many things in common. Besides their careers and their genes, they believe local talent is capable of realizing the same projects that are often done by people imported to the island. Babilonia-Panzardi and his sons prove it with every engineering assignment done by Babilonia Engineering Group (BEG).

While still in high school, the Babilonia-Cedó brothers would assist their dad as draftsmen. Eventually, after graduating from Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico, they both joined the firm in 2002. A triangle with the letter B in the center became the company's new logo, representing the engineers' integration into one firm. "The triangle means that if any of us is not available at a certain moment one of the other two will respond to that client," said Babilonia-Panzardi.

José C. Babilonia-Cedó explained the firm provides personalized service, to which his brother Héctor added: "We personally take care of each project. We are always accessible." Accessibility and teamwork, they said, are what customers can expect from BEG, besides an excellent product.

Although the company has done well over the years, it has seen a slow-paced industry lately. "There is a slump right now. Fortunately, we have been busy with many projects, but many of our colleagues are having a hard time," said José. "There is a lot of vision," he said, "...but the local government should be a bigger player in the island's development," added Héctor Jr.

The Babilonia engineers believe the government should be more proactive in bringing industries to the island. "They can help with more tax incentives like the federal government does. Not long ago, we were negotiating with a Brazilian company, a big pharmaceutical. They were looking to do business in Mayagüez, but the deal fell through because the government didn't show interest," said Héctor Jr.

Nevertheless, the Babilonia trio stays positive about the industry's future. "There is a good chance of improvement, but it's up to engineers, contractors and the government to make this happen," said José. Doing a more efficient job in terms of design will bring more attention to the Puerto Rican market, he said. "It's all about the reputation of our engineers."

BEG is currently involved in designing Leed-certified Green Buildings, which are functional structures that consume less water and energy. "We have been designing these types of buildings for a while, but without Leed certification," said José. Although he didn't want to disclose the names of these projects yet, he said the structures are already designed and will be built in the metropolitan area soon.

"The highest quality of design is our standard," said Héctor M. Babilonia-Cedó, (left) with Héctor Babilonia-Panzardi (center) and José Carlos Babilonia-Cedó.

José said staying updated as far as technology and environment are concerned is one of his drives. However, when it comes to new projects, Babilonia-Panzardi and his sons work together. "We want to do the best job. That is why the three of us sit down to discuss new ideas... to get the best out of each. The highest quality of design is our standard," said Héctor Jr.

To do the best job, the firm wants to integrate and develop structural and electrical engineering. "We have done many projects with electrical engineering, but we want our office to be able to provide engineering services in all disciplines to work better with architects," said José.

Bottom line, BEG wants its clients to realize they saved money in the long run by using its services. "That is our key to keeping a client satisfied," concluded Babilonia-Cedó. ■