

centers in Baltimore, the secure telephones in Federal agencies, even to some of our Government catalogs.

The Federal Government is the largest purchaser of design services in the world. And the designs we commission should reflect not only the best artistic execution available but also taxpayers' money well spent. Each of the eight projects chosen for the Presidential Awards for Design Excellence combine beauty, utility, and economy in a truly unique way.

The Army Corps of Engineers' novel navigational channel system, Bendway Weirs, will save millions of dollars every year on dredging and reduce navigational delays along a 180-mile stretch of the Mississippi River. That's something, because of my previous life, I know a little about.

The Farmers Home Administration's Mer Rouge low income rural housing was cited for, quote, "its poetic and uplifting architecture, and its cost-saving construction." Why can't we do that with all publicly supported housing?

EGIS explosives detector, commissioned by the State Department and the Federal Aviation Administration, is a brilliant design that showcases handsome artistry along with modern innovation and technology.

By blending nature, science, technology, and human expression, these and the other designs we honor today will be lasting monuments to the innovative spirit of Americans, and to the diversity and breadth of our culture. I salute the designers of these outstanding Federal

projects and recognize those Departments who had the foresight to commission and oversee them. And I'm especially glad to see the Secretary of Agriculture here today, Secretary Espy, thank you very much.

At this time, I'm also pleased to announce the call for entries for the next round of Presidential Design Awards. I hope there will be many more entrants; I hope we will be able to highlight them. I can't help but say that I think that if we could get these award winners that we're recognizing today and the next round of entrants widely publicized around the United States, it could have a dramatic impact on having the American people feel that their tax dollars are being better spend. It could have in the aggregate a really positive way of connecting the American people to their Government again. And if you can do that, after all we have been through over these last decades that have alienated the American people from their Government, you will have helped us to do something profoundly important.

I'd like now to call upon the Chair of the National Endowment for the Arts to implement the awards program. She has done a terrific job, and I'm sure this will be one of her more enjoyable duties. Ms. Jane Alexander.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:40 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Michael Vanderbyl, chair, Presidential Design Awards.

Statement on the Presidential Awards for Design Excellence *April 28, 1994*

Quality design is essential if we are to compete effectively in the world marketplace, create more jobs, make our cities more livable, protect our environment, and enrich our cultural life.

The Nation is indebted to the designers and the Federal Government partners responsible for these exemplary projects. As we strive for

first-rate quality for every tax dollar spent, theirs is an example of excellence we want others to emulate.

NOTE: This statement was included in a White House statement announcing the recipients of the Presidential Awards for Design Excellence.