

➤ NEXT MONTH I will explain the use and application of **Incidental Uses** (Table 302.11), **Mixed Uses** (Section 302.3) and **Accessory Uses**.

CODE QUESTIONS ?

QUESTION? “ It is my understanding that an architect can copyright their work. If this is true, please explain how?”

ANSWER: Yes, plans can be copyrighted. Why a copyright? What if you design a building and find that someone has used the same plans for six others identical structures without your permission or payment of fees? A court decision in No. Carolina in December 1998 awarded the architect \$60,000+ for the unlawful reproduction of his plans and buildings. How long is a copyright? Plans submitted after December 1, 1990 are protected for 95 years and 120 years from the date of creation of unpublished plans, whichever is less. A copyright is proof of ownership of the property (plans) and gives you prima facie evidence in a court of law. The Federal government does not prosecute the case because it is a civil matter, but proof of the copyright gives you claim to a judgement.

SO HOW DO I get a copyright? It's simple! Just go to www.copyright.gov and click on instructions for **Form VA** and info circular No. 41 (*Copyright Claims in Architectural Works*). It's a two-page form and the registration fees are reasonable.

CODE UPDATE

OREGON - Adopting the *2003 International Building Code* effective January 1, 2005. Plans submitted after that date must comply with the new code. A 90-day phase in period will apply.

NORTH CAROLINA - Updating to the *2003 International Codes* in January 2005.

ILLINOIS - HB 4099 (*International Energy Code for Commercial Buildings*) *IECC* was signed by the Governor. Also, a new law requiring fire sprinklers in all public and private universities and college housing by 2013.

EDITOR'S NOTE This is really progressive for Illinois due to the fact that such an industrial state does not have a statewide building code. All code adoptions and enforcement are on the local level only.

ON THE INTERNET ☺ ☺ ☺

WANT INFO ON MOLD? Go to www.freefrommold.org for updates and a 10-point protection plan to protect against moisture. For ease of understanding, ten areas of a house are subdivided into three categories with simple answers and solutions. This a program from the **APA - The Wood Engineering Association**.

STEEL FRAME COST ESTIMATOR - RAM Estimator 2.0 allows the user to compare not only the steel quantities of various framing options, but also the cost implications of each scenario. Get this **FREE** program at: www.aisc.org/steeltools. This site is sponsored by **AISC**.

