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Neil served as a commissioned officer in both the Army Corps of Engineers and the Navy Civil Engineer Corps, retiring from active duty in 1992 to complete his dissertation on urban planning in the Philippines, after which he launched a new career as a forensic engineer. He is one of few U.S. design professionals ever to have passed all three licensing exams for Architects, Civil Engineers and Landscape Architects. Neil is a Certified Floodplain Manager and served on the FEMA Building Performance Appraisal Team for Hurricane Georges. He is a past member of the AIA Knowledge Center for Building Performance. He currently serves on the ASCE/SEI committee for Structural Assessment of Existing Buildings and the ASCE committee developing a national consensus standard on estimating wind speeds in tornadoes and other windstorms.

Neil is an NFPA 1033 Certified Fire Investigator and a Designated Disaster Service Worker with the State of California's Safety Assessment Program for the identification of earthquake damaged buildings and structures. He has taught engineering graphics at Central Texas College, mathematics at the University of Maryland, business ethics at University of Concordia (Wisconsin), project management at Troy State University, urban geography at the University of Iowa, and Japanese Architecture at Tulane University. Neil holds a Ph.D. in Urban Studies (University of New Orleans), Master of Landscape Architecture (University of Pennsylvania), Master of Science in Systems Management (University of Southern California) and two architectural degrees from the City University of New York. His ongoing academic pursuits include a Certificate in Weather Forecasting from Pennsylvania State University.

Neil grew up in New York City, attended Bronx High School of Science, and was a 3-sewer stickball hitter no matter what his brother-in-law says. Currently he is the owner of **GROUNDTRUTH FORENSICS**, a firm specializing in building performance, diagnostics and damage assessment. He has worked on construction projects in the United States and overseas, but remains proudest of his work in human resettlements (which earned him the first foreign membership in the United Architects of the Philippines) and a bamboo-reinforced concrete bridge he built in Taiwan after the 1972 Juisui earthquake.