San Diego’s Seaport Village, a $14 million shopping and dining complex has recreated the historic waterfront settings of California a century ago.

The complex covers 14 acres, and developers spared no expense to create an authentic atmosphere. It was designed by Raymond E. Wallace Special Productions, which has a varied background, including work at Disneyland. Disney’s ‘authenticators’ were called in on the San Diego project and used plaster, cement and sandblasting to artificially age the buildings. Other special effects include the use of Spanish tile, light stucco and walls chipped to show adobe.

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Bethlehem Steel furnished the structural steel products used in the completion of West Hall, a $4.75 million student apartment complex at Boston’s Northeastern University.

In addition to considerations of cost savings and speed of erection, the steel framing for the job overcame a problem with a low soil bearing capacity.

The national office vacancy rate continued to fall during the first quarter of 1980, according to the real estate company of Coldwell Banker. The first quarter decline left the index at 3.4 percent, down from 3.6 percent last December. The figures represent the smallest drop in office vacancies during two years of steadily falling vacancy rates, and that could be an indication that office vacancies are reaching a turning point. Although demand for office space remains high, it would appear that demand may finally be moderating. Coldwell Banker’s survey is based on vacancy statistics on major competitive office buildings in the downtown areas of fifteen U.S. cities.