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Better than a blueprint

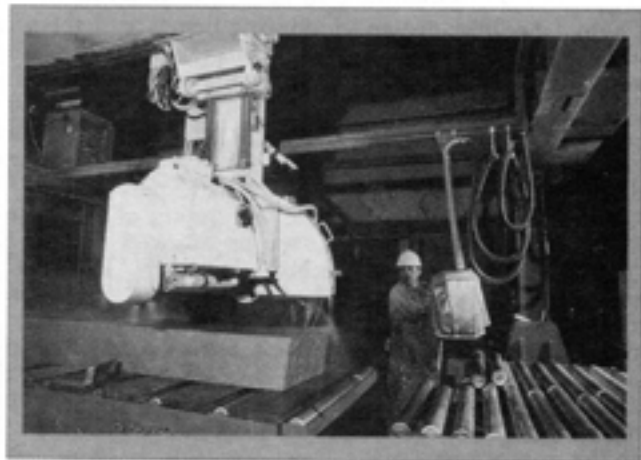
Despite some culture shock, contractors grow accustomed to using computer-aided-design systems for construction tasks

There's at least one contractor that is linked to a designer in "a collaboration," says David M. Teitelbaum, president of contractor Cathedral Stoneworks, New York City.

Stoneworks, which bought a CAD system last year, receives drawings by modem from architects at Carnegie Mellon University for an \$850,000 project to carve and install ornamental stonework into existing entryway niches at the Pittsburgh school's College of Fine Arts. Stoneworks has gone even a step further—into CAM. Its CAD system is linked to CAM that directs dimensional or flat stone-cutting equipment to rough-cut large slabs of stone. "It's very accurate," says Teitelbaum.

Teitelbaum is optimistic that the system will soon pay for itself. He dismisses any notion of hardship for his three-year-old firm, which has an annual volume of \$6 million, to pay its \$1-million-per-year debt service on a \$5-million CAD/CAM investment.

By Nadine M. Post with bureaus



Machine to cut stone is linked to contractor's CAD system. Drawings are exchanged by modem between contractor and architect.

