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In assessing damages for breach of a construction contract, primacy is given to the plaintiff’s performance interest. Accordingly, damages reflecting the cost of rectification will be awarded unless the court considers that the proposed rectification work is neither “necessary” nor “reasonable”. The primary qualification of reasonableness is inherently impressionistic and open-textured. This article analyses the role played by the doctrine of substantial performance, and its underlying rationale, in the principles governing rectification damages. It is argued that, in many cases, the reasonableness of rectification damages can be assessed by asking whether the contractor has substantially performed its obligations. It is argued that by adopting this approach, the reasonableness qualification will be applied in a more structured and predictable manner.	92
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