

# Growth Market

## EDITORIAL STAFF

Scott Melnick,  
Editor and Publisher  
Patrick M. Newman, P.E.  
Technical Director  
Charlie Carter,  
Senior Technical Advisor  
Jacques Cattan,  
Technical Advisor

## EDITORIAL OFFICES

Modern Steel Construction  
One East Wacker Dr.,  
Suite 3100  
Chicago, IL 60601-2001  
312/670-5407  
Fax 312/670-5403

## ADVERTISING SALES

John Byrne  
Facinelli Media Sales  
2400 E. Devon Ave.,  
Suite 267  
Des Plaines, IL 60018  
847/699-6049  
Fax 847/699-8681

## AISC OFFICERS

Robert E. Owen,  
Chairman  
H. Louis Gurthet,  
First Vice Chairman  
Robert G. Abramson,  
Second Vice Chairman  
Robert D. Freeland,  
Treasurer  
David Ratterman,  
Secretary &  
General Counsel  
Morris Caminer,  
Acting President

**W**HEN I FIRST STARTED WRITING ABOUT CONSTRUCTION, I—along with my fellow editors—were fascinated with the big high-rise projects that filled our imaginations. The year before, Texas Commerce Plaza, at the time the 9th tallest building in the world, had just been completed, and Allied Bank Plaza, Columbia Center and Interfirst Plaza Tower, all Top 20 skyscrapers, were underway. But, as much as we wanted to completely fill our pages with these awesome engineering marvels, one of the senior editors shook his head and cautioned us that these buildings were anomalies on the construction landscape. Even at that time, the vast bulk of construction were low- and mid-rise projects.

Today, even if I wanted to fill *Modern Steel Construction* with stories about soaring skyscrapers, I couldn't do it. By some reports, there are no buildings over 30 stories currently under construction in the U.S. today (if you know of any, send me a fax). This Christmas, for the first time since I moved here in 1978, when I looked out on Chicago's landscape there was no high-rise construction underway. Yet despite the absence of tall buildings, the market is actually growing. And as it was a decade ago, it continues to be dominated by low-rise structures.

Retail construction remains strong, as does industrial. And look for residential construction to pick up soon (and some of these projects are huge—on a recent trip to Toronto I saw one development that was utilizing at least four tower cranes for construction). And, though we don't have titanic tall buildings to write about anymore, there are still some amazing structures being built. Leading the way are some amazing bridges, some of which are sure to be recognized in this year's AISC Prize Bridge Awards (for more information, turn to page 18). Mega-convention centers (look for a story on the McCormick Place sometime in the next year) and indoor stadiums often rival yesterday's high-rise behemoths for complexity. And exposed steel seems to be making something of a comeback, perhaps driven by the economics of retail construction. As a result, tubular connections have received a lot of attention—and a lot of advancement (some of which was the direct result of Donald Sherman's work at the University of Wisconsin, for which he won this year's T.R. Higgins Award).

So while I won't be writing about high-rises for a while, there are still plenty of wonderful stories—from parking structures to airport hangars—to fill these pages. **SM**