

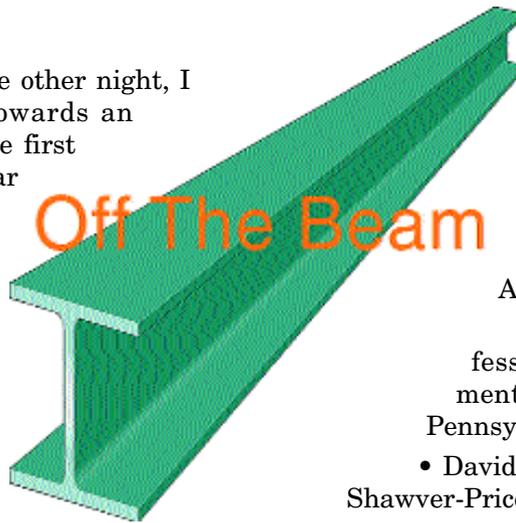
Driving home from dinner the other night, I pointed out the car window towards an attractive building. It wasn't the first time I had pointed this particular structure out to my wife, but this time I had something extra to add: The Niles West High School Field House had just won an AISC national Engineering Award of Excellence.

The new awards program is designed to recognize structural engineering excellence and innovation in steel-framed buildings. And looking over the six winners (four regional and two national), these are some pretty special projects. They range from the unbelievable complexity of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland to wonderfully detailed connections in the small PEUNTE Learning Center in Los Angeles.

Interestingly, the projects were not only complex structurally, but also beautiful architecturally. And surprisingly, there was a tremendous emphasis on hollow structural sections in the majority of the winners. The six winners are presented in this issue beginning on page 28. Also, for those of you fortunate to attend this year's National Steel Construction Conference in Chicago on May 7-9, the Engineering Awards of Excellence will be presented at the opening session on May 7 at 1 p.m.

In addition to honoring the projects and their designers, special commendation should be given to the jury who worked hard to select these notable projects. The five members of the jury were:

- Jason Louie, a principal with Middlebrook +



Louie in San Francisco;

- Eli Cohen, a principal with TT-CBM Engineers in Chicago;
- James S. Notch, president of Notch + Associates in Arlington, TX;
- Louis F. Geschwindner, professor and interim head, department of architectural engineering, Pennsylvania State University; and
- David McKenzie, chief engineer with Shawver-Price Inc. in Kansas City.

Judging a competition of this sort is always tough. I'd love to hear from you about what criteria you feel are important in determining "Engineering Excellence."

*Scott Melnick*  
Editor & Publisher



*Pictured, from left to right: Jason Louie, Eli Cohen, James S. Notch, Louis F. Geschwindner, and David McKenzie.*

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