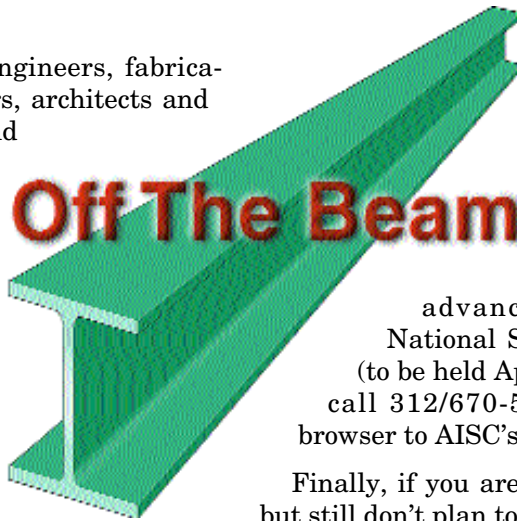


Each month, nearly 40,000 engineers, fabricators, detailers, erectors, educators, architects and others involved in the design and construction of steel buildings and bridges receive a copy of this magazine. And our readership studies show that, due to pass-along readership, nearly 90,000 people read MSC each month. Obviously, there are a lot of people interested in the types of stories we write about.

Not surprisingly, one of the most popular issues is our annual preview of the National Steel Construction Conference, where we feature selected papers. Usually, the NSCC Preview Issue is scheduled to be in your mailbox about the same time that the conference is taking place. This year, we thought we'd try something new.

This issue contains five selected papers (slightly edited) scheduled to be delivered at the 1998 NSCC, which will be held next month. Generally speaking, the papers were selected based on three criteria: they were interesting to read; they were not overly technical (hey, you want technical, read *Engineering Journal!*); and they represented a broad cross-section of the many sessions available at the NSCC.

Of course, reading an article is no substitution to hearing a paper presented. I don't know of any good speakers who don't deviate from the given script, adding enhancements that just don't come



across on the printed page. Additionally, there's always the opportunity for give-and-take between the speaker and audience.

If you haven't already received a copy of the advance program for this year's National Steel Construction Conference (to be held April 1-3 in New Orleans) either call 312/670-5421 or point your favorite browser to AISC's website ([www.aisc.org](http://www.aisc.org)).

Finally, if you are familiar with the conference, but still don't plan to attend, let me know why. Is it the cost? Maybe you're too busy. Also let me know what would attract you to future conferences. What types of sessions most interest you?

I look forward to hearing from you—and soon. We're already heavily involved with planning next year's conference.

**Scott Melnick**

Editor & Publisher

*(By the way, Jenifer Golec has joined Modern Steel Construction as an assistant editor. In addition to writing and editing feature stories, she will have primary responsibility for product stories and the various lists we print, such as the shape availability listing and the detailer list.)*

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