

# letters

## Dead On, but Expensive

Todd Alwood's September 2007 MSC article "Let's Be Plank..." (p. 39) is a long-needed dissertation on the detailed intricacies of combining precast, prestressed hollow-core slabs (plank) with structural steel. Ted Hazeldine of Benchmark Fabricated Steel is also correct with his tips for fabricators in his sidebar on p. 40.

Alwood's description of plank and its pros and cons was extremely informative and accurate, and his caveat to "know your plank supplier" could not have been more on target. I am therefore dumbfounded by his suggestions to the steel industry on what can be done with steel to optimize the use of plank. The suggestions in his article are expensive and are the type of details that usually preclude the use of structural steel and plank. I was surprised that no mention was made of the Girder-Slab system, which received the 2007 Special Achievement Award from AISC. It is the first and only innovative system that combines the advantages of structural steel and flat plate concrete for high-rise residential construction, and has been used in 38 completed buildings comprising almost three million sq. ft of built residential construction.

We are tracking new projects totalling almost 12 million sq. ft, and the case studies on our web site ([www.girder-slab.com](http://www.girder-slab.com)) contain a partial listing of all the prominent and innovative structural engineers that have used Girder-Slab.

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