

letters

Weight vs. Cost

Scott Melnick's recent comments about weight vs. cost invoke a long-standing sore point with me. It has often taken hours of discussion and many design alternatives to prove the point.

One argument that I have not been able to get much traction with is the concept of pounds per *cubic* foot of building volume: As floor-to-floor heights increase, whether they are trading floors in high-rises or roofs over warehouses, weight per square foot will increase since the columns are longer with no increased floor area to compensate. In very tall buildings this can easily add one pound per square foot.

Now that I am on the developer's side of the table, I have been able to defend the consultant when he/she gets beaten up on the pounds per square foot numbers.

It would be interesting to learn whether others have considered this concept. Maybe we can start something. Keep up the good work.

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