

## DESIGN COMPETITION

### A Canned Approach to Fighting Hunger



This June, the Merchandise Mart Apparel Center in downtown Chicago was transformed into a sculpture gallery. The works, made entirely from canned food, were built for the 2008 Chicago Canstruction Competition, part of a national event that combines the competitive spirit of a design-build contest with a unique opportunity to make a difference in the fight against hunger. Over the course of three months, 20 competing teams, led mainly by architects and engineers, designed and assembled remarkable structures made entirely out of canned foods, each within a 10-ft x 10-ft space, up to 8 ft high.

AISC was one of the 20 teams that participated. Its Can-structure, the Stay-Stuff Marshmallow Man, was inspired by the Stay Puft Marshmallow Man from *Ghostbusters*. The sculpture, which has the Stay-Stuff man walking down a city street, knocking over skyscrapers, consisted of 3,680 canned food items: mostly tuna cans but also cans of baked beans, tomato products, potatoes, mush-

rooms, peas, and sardines. Several AISC employees were involved in the conceptualization, design, and construction of the nutritious sculpture.

Stay-Stuff and the other sculptures were on display for two weeks in the Apparel Center, just in time for the 2008 Neocon World's Trade Fair, held at the adjacent Merchandise Mart. Several awards were given, and AISC's marshmallow creation took home the People's Choice Award, which was determined by exhibition spectators voting for their favorite structure.

At the close of the exhibition, the 2008 Chicago Canstruction event donated the 80,000 lb of canned foods used in the Can-structures to the Greater Chicago Food Depository. This is the equivalent of about 68,000 meals for the hungry.

AISC's Stay-Stuff Man would not have been possible without financial sponsors Stites & Harbison, Triple-S Steel Supply, W&W/AFCO Steel, and Peddinghaus Corporation.

## EVENTS

### BIM Fundamentals

ZweigWhite, in association with *Structural Engineer* magazine, is offering a one-day seminar to provide valuable insight and answer all your questions about building information modeling (BIM) technology. The seminar will take place October 1, 2008 in Atlanta.

This timely seminar will focus on how structural engineers can benefit from this emerging technology by: reviewing the BIM concept; discussing how BIM will affect your business; evaluating current BIM technology, including testimonials from existing users; exploring the critical issues for best business practices in BIM technology; discussing the current maturity level of BIM; reviewing the state of the industry as it relates to adoption rates; exploring the technical implementation process of the tools; and exploring the legal issues and risks involved with BIM.

The seminar will be moderated by Charles H. Thornton, Ph.D., P.E., Chairman and CEO of Charles H.

Thornton and Company, LLC and founding principal of Thornton Tomasetti. Seminar faculty include:

- Brian J. Donnell, Esq., Partner, Thelen Reid Brown Raysman and Steiner LLP
- Charles Eastman, Professor in the Colleges of Architecture and Computing, Georgia Institute of Technology
- James G. Jacobi, P.E., Principal and CIO, Walter P Moore and Assoc., Inc.
- Marcello Sgambelluri, S.E., BIM Manager/Project Manager, John A. Martin and Associates
- Kurt D. Swenson, Ph.D., P.E., President, KSI/Structural Engineers

To learn more about the BIM Fundamentals seminar, visit [www.zweigwhite.com](http://www.zweigwhite.com) or call 800.466.6275. Space is limited, so register early to reserve your place.

## BLOGS

### New SullivanKreiss Blog

SullivanKreiss, an executive search firm specializing in the A/E/C industry, has launched a new Executive Search Blog. This industry-focused blog investigates such topics as employee recruitment and retention, staffing and training, and marketing and business development, as well as announcements and fast facts in the engineering, architecture, and landscape architecture markets. Visitors to the site can post comments, raise questions, provide feedback, and suggest topics for inclusion on the site.

"This blog is an excellent means to not only keep ourselves completely up-to-date with the latest news and trends, but also to share that knowledge with our clients, colleagues, alliances, and supporters, and maintain an open dialogue to keep everyone continually informed," says Justin Roy, COO of SullivanKreiss.

The blog will be maintained and moderated by Roy, as well as project operations managers Tim Johnson, Frank Rivelli, and Jeff Simeone. Visit [www.sullivankreiss.com](http://www.sullivankreiss.com) for more information.

## EVENTS

### Careers in Construction Week

The fourth annual Careers in Construction Week will take place October 13-17, 2008. Sponsored by the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER), Careers in Construction Week is designed to increase public awareness of the hard work and contributions of our nation's craft professionals. In addition, this week promotes recognition among parents, teachers, guidance counselors, and students, of the rewarding career opportunities available in construction.

During this week, NCCER will also

broadcast the 2008 Build Your Future career awareness video. This video is distributed free of charge and features interviews from real craft professionals who are already experiencing a rewarding construction career. Contractors, schools, and industry associations throughout the country will conduct career fairs and various construction-related activities to help promote construction career opportunities in their communities. All organizations planning an event during this week should submit their event online at [www.careers.nccer.org](http://www.careers.nccer.org).

## SURVEYS

### Standards That Make a Difference Survey

ANSI is interested in your input on its standards, via its Standards That Make a Difference survey.

First launched in 2002, this initiative highlights and raises awareness of the standards that are most important to various industry sectors. The input gathered will be used by ANSI to develop case studies, news items, and other outreach and awareness-building collateral about the global impact of standardization programs. A complete list of entries received will be published on ANSI Online and displayed during World Standards Week 2008, October 20-23, in Bethesda, Md.

There is also an incentive to participate! Every eligible entry will be entered into a random drawing for one of three \$100 American Express Gift Cards. The drawing will be held at the conclusion of the ANSI Annual Business Meeting on Thursday, October 23, 2008.

Entries may be American National Standards, standards developed by the ISO or IEC, or those developed by any other domestic, regional, or international body, including Consortia. Each entry must refer to a standard that is already published and in use in the marketplace; standards that are still a work in progress will be excluded from this survey.

The deadline for submission is Friday, September 19, 2008. Visit [www.ansi.org](http://www.ansi.org) for more information.

## CONFERENCES

### Hong Kong Conference Call for Papers

Authors are invited to submit papers for the Sixth International Conference on Advances in Steel Structures, to take place in Hong Kong, December 16-18, 2009. Organized by the Department of Civil and Structural Engineering and The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the conference is intended to provide a forum for discussion and dissemination by researchers and designers of recent advances in the analysis, behavior, design, and construction of steel, aluminium, and composite steel-concrete structures. Papers relating to all aspects of the analysis, behavior, design, and construction of these structures are invited.

Authors should submit a 300-word abstract of their paper. All inquiries relating to the conference and proposals for papers should be addressed to:

Professor S. L. Chan  
Dept. of Civil and Structural Engineering  
The Hong Kong Polytechnic Univ.  
Hung Hom, Kowloon, Hong Kong  
E-mail: [ceslchan@polyu.edu.hk](mailto:ceslchan@polyu.edu.hk)

Abstracts must be submitted by November 1, 2008. Provisional acceptance of abstracts will be determined by February 1, 2009, and final papers must be submitted by June 1, 2009. Final notice of acceptance will be August 1, 2009.

## TRADE SHOWS

### FABTECH Hits Vegas

For the first time ever, the FABTECH International and AWS Welding Show is heading to the western United States, to the world's number one trade show destination: Las Vegas. Taking place October 6-8 at the Las Vegas Convention Center, the show is the largest event in North America dedicated to showcasing a full spectrum of metal forming, fabricating, stamping, tube and pipe, and welding equipment and technology.

Cosponsored by the American Welding Society (AWS), Fabricators and Manufacturers Association International (FMA), and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME), and supported by industry partner the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the event is expected to bring in an estimated 20,000 attendees and more than 800 exhibitors.

Thousands of buyers and sellers from across the globe will gather at the FABTECH International and AWS Welding Show in Las Vegas to exchange products and services, network with peers, preview new products, problem-solve, and educate the industry on the latest technologies.

In addition to viewing the latest products, attendees will benefit from a comprehensive array of educational offerings. Led by more than 100 experts, sessions emphasize industry issues and trends, lean, management and developments in forming, fabricating, welding, and related technologies.

For more information about the 2008 FABTECH International and AWS Welding Show or to register to attend the show, visit [www.sme.org/fabtech](http://www.sme.org/fabtech), [www.fmafabtech.com](http://www.fmafabtech.com), or [www.aws.org/show](http://www.aws.org/show).

# letters

## There's More to the Story

Great cover for the June issue, and an interesting lead article (“From Mill to Museum”). OK, but what is the significance of that steel plant and why should it live on? Not once does the article even mention its importance. Not once! How strange for a magazine devoted to the steel industry. It's like featuring an article on the Lincoln Memorial—without even mentioning President Lincoln!

So, let me fill in your readers. Monterrey is to Mexico what Pittsburgh is to the United States. It was in Monterrey that the industrialization of modern Mexico began in 1903 with the start-up of the first (300 tpd) blast furnace in all of Latin America. Yes, the Fundidora de Fierro y Acero was the first integrated steelmaking plant, not only in Mexico, but also throughout the region. It was still the only integrated steel plant in Latin America up until 1940, when the second blast furnace (this one 600 tpd) went into operation.

I presume that is the furnace that is featured on the cover of your June issue,

although it doesn't say so. (*Editor's note: Yes, that's the blast furnace.*)

I remember being quite impressed with the thriving industrial city of Monterrey and its several steel plants when I first visited the area in 1963 as editor-in-chief of *Journal of Metals*, a publication of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers. We did several issues on the expanding steel industry of Latin America, but Monterrey is where it all began.

**Wes Starratt, P.E.**

## Distracting Commentary

Let me state that I thoroughly enjoy reading *Modern Steel Construction* and that I feel that it is a very fine magazine. I reread many of the articles and I have a folder for those that I find especially interesting.

That being said, I was really turned off by your May Editor's Note. The important issue that you bring up is overshadowed by the overpowering humor alluding to “convoluted” kindergartner's reasoning. I found your jokes to be dis-

tracting. I hope that you continue to publish high-quality articles.

**Mark Ferisin**

## Attention to Detailers

I just completed Jack Metcalfe's article “The Care and Feeding of Detailers” (June, 2008). Congratulations on hitting a number of “nails” right on their “heads.” Excellent work!

**George Lordi  
Livi Steel, Inc.**

I just finished enjoying Jack Metcalfe's column in the June issue of MSC. It's about time detailers got some recognition in that magazine!

**Tom McClelland, Project Manager  
Laswell Steel Services, LLC**

I thought Jack Metcalfe's article was great writing, but it would have been nice if he would have mentioned something—anything—about scheduling in the detailer's workload.

**Michael Foster, Owner  
Foster's Structural Detailing**

## SAFETY

### A Heavier Load

Thanks to changes last fall to ANSI Z359 *Requirements for Personal Fall Arrest Systems (PFAS), Subsystems and Components*, 1-07, which replaces 1-92, load requirements for anchorage and attachment hardware are increasing. As such, it's important to ensure that when replacing or purchasing fall protection equipment, you are using equipment that complies with version 1-07.

Perhaps the most significant change—due to its implications for equipment manufacturers, employers, and users—is the increase of gate strength requirements for snap hooks and carabiners. Specifically, the load that a gate face must

withstand has been increased from 220 lb to 3,600 lb; the side of the gate must now withstand 3,600 lb (increased from 350 lb); and the minor axis of non-captive eye snap hooks or carabiners must now withstand 3,600 lb. The tensile load that the snap hook or carabiner must be able to withstand will remain at 5,000 lb.

Another significant change is the addition of requirements and markings for harnesses equipped with a front-mounted attachment element—also known as a D-ring element. Harnesses equipped with a D-ring element for fall arrest shall now be used only as one part of a personal fall-arrest system that limits the maximum

free fall distance to 2 ft and limits the maximum arrest force to 900 lb. In addition to the frontal D-ring, the changes also address twin-leg lanyards, another element that is completely new to the standard.

Other changes include a revision of the load that anchorages must bear and several additions to the Equipment Rigging and Use (7.2) and Training (7.3) sections. The load that an anchorage must withstand has been changed from “3,600 lb when certification exists” to “two times the maximum arrest force permitted on the system when certification exists.”