

editor's note



HOLDING A SOCCER TOURNAMENT IN THE CHICAGO SUBURBS IN NOVEMBER IS ALWAYS IFFY, BUT THIS YEAR THE STARS ALIGNED AND THE WEATHER WAS ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL. And even though it was a U12 tournament, we had full referee teams on each field—a rarity for our region. The first two games I worked the lines, but the third game I was the center ref. As I stood at the center circle chatting with my referee team, one of the players came up and asked if I was refereeing the upcoming game. I said I was; her face lit up, she exclaimed “Great!” and she actually high-fived me. I was a bit dumbfounded and stammered to the other referees that I’ve refereed a lot of U12 games this year and I guess I’m a bit popular with some of the players. But when I recounted the story to my wife later, I was actually quite proud; it’s nice to be recognized for your efforts.

Too often structural engineers and other members of the design and construction team are not recognized for their contributions. And they should be. That’s one of the reasons behind AISC’s Innovative Design Engineering and Architecture with Structural Steel awards (IDEAS²).

I love this program because it doesn’t just honor the megaprojects that everyone already knows about; rather it offers separate prizes for big and small projects. So what’s the criteria? Judges look for creative solutions, exciting aesthetics, and bold use of advanced technology. Some projects win because they look great; others because of an innovative structural solution. Some win for their use of innovative design methodology; others for efficient construction technology.

Of course, there’s also a more highfalutin explanation of the competition: “The design and construction industry is growing due to the value of coordination, collaboration and teamwork in the successful accomplishment of a

project’s program. In active support of this trend, AISC has brought together previously separate architectural and structural engineering award programs that focused on a single aspect of the building project, into a single program designed to recognize excellence and innovation in the use of structural steel on a comprehensive, project basis.”

The winning projects will be featured at next year’s NASCC: The Steel Conference (visit www.aisc.org/nascc to view the advance program for this must-attend conference), an upcoming issue of *Modern Steel Construction*, and during award ceremonies held around the country at the project sites.

To see a full description of the competition and learn how to enter, visit www.aisc.org/ideas.

I look forward to reading about your winning project!

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