

editor's note



WHEN MY DAUGHTER, JULIA, ENTERS HIGH SCHOOL IN JUST A FEW WEEKS, SHE'LL BE PART OF THE SECOND CLASS IN HER SCHOOL DISTRICT TO BE HANDED NETBOOKS AS THEY ENTER THE DOOR. While the argument of whether we should still teach cursive will be ongoing for a long time, it is undeniable that we're fully immersed in an electronic world. She'll be taking notes on this small computer, using it to access websites to enhance whatever lecture she's attending, and undoubtedly spending too much time visiting social networks.

But my daughter's school isn't the only one embracing new technology. While AISC has long offered an extensive technical library online (more than 10,000 pages of information—all included free with your membership), to date the *Steel Construction Manual* has not been readily available as a digital file.

Until now.

Purchasers of the new 14th Edition *Steel Construction Manual* (which was first made available for purchase in July) now have the option of buying the traditional case-bound version, opting for a digital download, or buying both. The price of the 14th Edition is the same as the 13th Edition (\$175 for AISC members; \$350 for non-members) and the electronic *Manual* has the same price tag. However, for those wanting to purchase both, the price is \$275 for members (\$550 for non-members).

I'll be very curious to see how people use the new electronic version. If you purchase one, please drop me a note to let me know what you think.

And speaking of the 14th Edition *Manual*, AISC is kicking off its annual fall lecture series with an eight-hour seminar on it and the 2010 AISC *Specification*. When I first heard the lecture was eight hours I had mixed feelings. On the one hand, AISC spent five years telling people they were going to keep changes in the *Specification* and *Manual* to a minimum. On the other hand, even minimal changes to a 2,256-page book add up.

While AISC prides itself on offering practical information—and this seminar meets that expectation through the many design examples it presents—it also offers designers the background information that explains not just the what but also the why behind the *Specification*. The seminar was primarily authored by Louis

F. Geschwindner who is not just one of the premier steel lecturers in the country, but who also has been an instrumental member of both the Manual and Specification Committees. The lecture was introduced at the 2011 NASCC: The Steel Conference and will be taken to more than a dozen cities this fall. (For a full list, and more information about this seminar, visit www.aisc.org/seminars.) If you want to get a taste of what a Geschwindner lecture is like, visit www.aisc.org/2011nasconline and listen to his lecture (complete with PowerPoint presentation) on "Design for Stability Using the 2010 AISC *Specification*."

Of course, the AISC seminar series is not the only educational opportunity available this month. SteelDay falls on September 23 this year and the events live up to the motto: "Have you seen what we do?" Events are being held across the country and include tours of fabrication shops, mills, HSS producers, galvanizers, construction sites, and service centers. A number of lectures also are planned, including a free webinar: "What you Need to Know About Steel Metallurgy—But were Afraid to Ask." Presented by Doug Rees-Evans from Steel Dynamics, the webinar will answer questions about how a mill can control chemistry in a scrap-based product, how to read a Mill Test Report, and what types of imperfections are common and what should a designer do about them. For a complete list of SteelDay events, visit www.steelday.org. You can even do it on a netbook.

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