CONTINUING EDUCATION

Achieve Higher Quality in High-Density Residential with AISC’s New CEU Course

AISC is offering a new continuing education article, “Achieving Higher Quality in High-Density Residential: the Strengths of Structural Steel,” available at Architectural Record’s online Continuing Education Center and originally published in the August issue of Architectural Record. Designed for architects, the course covers how to maximize space, versatility and quality in mid-rise and high-rise apartments and condominiums using structural steel.

After reading the article, you’ll be able to:

➤ Compare the advantages of structural steel framing to other building materials
➤ Explore system concepts that allow the architect greater flexibility in programming and designing apartments and condominiums
➤ Determine economical design methods
➤ Analyze faster methods of construction by using structural steel framing

You can also earn 1.00 HSW (Health, Safety and Welfare) credit by completing the online quiz. Go to tinyurl.com/aiscaceu to read the CEU article and take the online quiz.

WELDING

New Edition of AWS Structural Steel Welding Code Now Available

A revised edition of the American Welding Society’s Structural Welding Code—Steel (AWS D1.1/D1.1M:2015) is now available. The new edition, which supersedes the 2010 edition, spells out the requirements for design, procedure/performance qualification, fabrication, inspection and repair of steel structures made of tube, plate and structural shapes that are subject to either static or cyclic loading.

In addition to editorial changes in the text and commentary, this edition includes a reorganization of tubular clauses, tables and figures previously located throughout the code into a new “Tubular Structures” clause. A corresponding new section of commentary is also included.

This 646-page publication is the joint effort of the D1 Committee on Structural Welding and its D1Q Subcommittee on Steel. It is available for purchase in hard copy or pdf download at go.aws.org/2015D1. The price is $411 for AWS members and $548 for nonmembers.

BRIDGES

Purdue Releases New Bridge Inspection and Repair Guidance

Purdue University has released a new report titled Fatigue and Fracture Library for the Inspection, Evaluation, and Repair of Vehicular Steel Bridges. This free document is intended to provide engineers and inspectors with technical guidance regarding evaluation, repair and retrofit procedures for both common as well as nonstandard, noncompliant or failed details encountered on steel bridge structures.

The report also contains supplemental videos that further illustrate certain topics, such as Charpy impact tests and dealing with brittle fracture.

The document is available for free download as a PDF or e-book at docs.lib.purdue.edu/sbritereports/1/.

People and Firms

• Walter P Moore’s Board of Directors has elected senior principal Lee Slade, P.E., a 39-year veteran of the firm and a key member of the executive leadership team since 1993, as the structural engineering firm’s fourth Chairman of the Board. In his new role, Lee will work closely with new president and CEO Dilip Choudhuri, P.E., to continue to expand the firm’s service offerings and geographic reach. Former Chairman and CEO Ray Messer, P.E., will continue to play a key role at WPM, leading the firm’s strategic initiatives in the design-build market, and Lee will maintain his position as executive director of the firm’s largest operating group, Structures.

• Two veterans of structural and civil engineering firm JQ have relocated to support future growth of the firm. Thomas L. Scott, P.E., moved from the Fort Worth office to lead the Austin office as partner and principal, and Carlo N. Taddei, P.E., moved from Dallas to lead the Fort Worth office as principal.
IN MEMORIAM

Safety Expert Henry Mykich Dies at 60

Henry J. Mykich, director of safety for the American Bridge Company in Coraopolis, Pa., passed away on August 22 of complications from lung surgery. He was 60 years old.

Mykich was well respected in his field and served as American Bridge's representative to the Ironworker Employers Association of Western Pennsylvania, Inc., the Iron Workers International and Ironworker Management Progressive Action Cooperative Trust (IMPACT) Safety Committee, the Steel Erection Negotiating Rule Making Committee (which developed the Fall Protection Standard for OSHA) and the Association Of Union Constructors (TAUC) Safety Committee.

A former member of the Pittsburgh Ski Club and an avid Pittsburgh Steelers, Penguins and Pirates fan, Mykich was a proud resident of Pittsburgh and was also a passionate reader, sharing his favorite books with family and friends. He is survived by his wife, Denise.

PROJECTS

PennFab Puts Amtrak Back on Track

This past spring, Amtrak's Northeast Regional train from Washington, D.C., to New York City derailed on the Northeast Corridor in Philadelphia. The disaster left eight dead, 200 injured and millions of Americans without their daily Amtrak service.

Following the crash, the agency needed two new catenary portal structures, the tall steel structures that hold the overhead wires above rail lines, at Frankford Junction to get its Northeast Corridor service operational again; each one requires about 15 tons of steel. Typically, they take at least six weeks to create. PennFab (an AISC Member and AISC Certified fabricator), based in Bensalem, Pa., just minutes away from the disaster, stepped up to build and erect the catenary structures in a mere 36 hours.

“We knew hundreds of thousands of people’s livelihoods are on those trains,” said Mike Mabin Sr., owner of PennFab. “We literally didn’t have a second to spare.”

Read the story at www.philly.com.

In addition, Peddinghaus (also an AISC Member) has created a video illustrating how PennFab worked to process the catenary structures needed for Amtrak to restore service. Watch the video at tinyurl.com/pennfabpedd.

IN MEMORIAM

John Correnti, EAF Innovator, Dies at 68

John Correnti, 68, CEO of Big River Steel and the driver behind a $1.3 billion steel mill project currently under construction in Arkansas, passed away on August 18. After beginning his career at U.S. Steel, he moved to Nucor Steel, where he helped usher in the era of electric arc furnaces and fostered other innovations while rising through the ranks to become first president and then CEO.

SCHOLARSHIPS

AISC Student Members Win Tau Beta Pi Engineering Scholarship

Four AISC student members have won a Tau Beta Pi scholarship for undergraduate study during the 2015-16 academic year. James A. Hillegas of the University of Akron, Ohio, Andrew J. Plucinsky of Rowan University, Glassboro, N.J., Timothy H. Sabins of the University of South Carolina, Columbia, and Seth W. Strelow of Valparaiso University, Ind., are among the 261 scholars selected by the engineering honor society from more than 800 applicants.

Most scholarship winners will receive a cash award of $2,000 for their senior year of engineering study, and a few will receive $1,000 for one semester. The society will award $513,000 in scholarships total. All Tau Beta Pi Scholarships are awarded on the competitive criteria of high scholarship, campus leadership and service, and promise of future contributions to the engineering profession. All scholars are members of Tau Beta Pi.

View all of this year’s scholarship winners and learn more about the scholarship program at www.tbp.org/scholarships.cfm.
Construction spending in June recorded the highest year-over-year growth rate since 2006, according to the Associated General Contractors of America. However, AGC officials cautioned that those spending gains could be at risk unless all levels of government strengthen programs to develop the construction workforce.

“Spending rose strongly in June from a year ago for all major construction categories—private nonresidential, residential and public,” said Ken Simonson, AGC’s chief economist. “Although the initial estimate for June showed minimal growth from May, totals for May and April were revised upward by large amounts.”

Construction spending in June totaled $1.065 trillion at a seasonally adjusted annual rate, 12% higher than in June 2014, Simonson said. He noted that the year-over-year growth rate was the strongest since March 2014, indicating a faster pace of construction spending overall. The June total was the highest level since July 2008 and was 0.1% higher than the May total following an upward revision of $28 billion in that figure.

“Several of the private categories have risen especially fast,” Simonson added. “Whether they can keep growing depends in part on companies being able to find enough skilled workers, a problem many contractors are already facing.” He cited areas for which worker shortages could be troublesome: the one-year increases of 62% in manufacturing construction spending, 48% in amusement and recreation construction, 42% in lodging construction, 27% in private office construction and 24% in private multifamily construction.

“It is clear that construction is rebounding but the progress may stall unless there is a concerted effort at all levels of government to provide training to get new workers into high-paying construction careers,” commented Stephen E. Sandherr, the association’s chief executive officer. “It would be a lost opportunity for the economy if firms can’t take advantage of growing demand for work because of a lack of qualified workers.”

Association officials urge federal, state and local officials to implement the steps listed in the association’s Workforce Development Plan. Those measures, which include expanding career and technical education opportunities, making it easier for firms to establish regional training programs and immigration reform, are designed to make it easier to recruit and prepare new construction workers.