

## CTBUH Update - May 2006

Dear Colleagues:

I am very pleased that we have established the first of several new Working Groups to deal with topical design issues associated with tall buildings. The first group will deal with special issues associated with the seismic design of tall towers (see article below). Other Working Groups, as outlined in our 5-Year Plan, include Sustainable Design for Tall Buildings, Wind Design, Fire Performance of Tall Buildings and Progressive Collapse. It is encouraging to see this now taking shape.

Recently there appears to be considerable interest in the question of Progressive Collapse Mitigation, as the US is currently reviewing its' codes and design approach in response to the NIST WTC report. This subject is particularly challenging and interesting for the design of very tall buildings. Many codes worldwide, including the US codes, currently rely upon the inherent robustness and detailing of the structural materials to provide resistance against disproportionate collapse. However others, such as the European codes, carry out explicit checks of structural systems that consider the removal of a column or certain area of structure below. There are considerable limitations on both methods. The Council is interested in hearing from members who are able to contribute to this debate and wish to outline good practice procedures. Please contact [info@ctbuh.org](mailto:info@ctbuh.org) if you wish to contribute to this discussion through the CTBUH.

Sincerely,

David Scott  
Chairman, CTBUH  
Principal, Arup  
[dscott@ctbuh.org](mailto:dscott@ctbuh.org)

### \*\*\* CTBUH NEWS \*\*\*

**Conference Update – “Thinking Outside the Box – Tapered, Tilted, Twisted Towers”.** Planning is well underway for the Council's October 25-26 conference on “Thinking Outside the Box”. This unique two-day event will feature presentations by specialists on the subject of tapered, twisted and tilted towers. Confirmed speakers to date include a range of architects, developers, planners and specialists including Daniel Libeskind of Studio Daniel Libeskind, Ken Yeang of Llewelyn Davies Yeang, Jamie von Klemperer of Kohn Pedersen Fox, Peter Rees of the City of London; plus additional speakers to be named from Arup, Permasteelisa, Dubai Properties, Gale International and more.

Watch for updates in the coming months. The registration brochure will be in the mail in early June.

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**CTBUH Fifth Annual Awards Dinner.** This year's awards dinner will be held in Chicago on October 26 and will tie into the “Thinking Outside the Box” conference. Members of this year's awards committee include Sabah Al-Rayes, Guy Battle, Jim Forbes, Craig Gibbons, Vivien Loftness and John Zils. Please remember to submit your nominations for the Lynn S. Beedle Achievement Award and the Fazlur Rahman Khan Medal to committee chairman Tim Johnson [tjohnson@nbbj.com](mailto:tjohnson@nbbj.com) by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

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**CTBUH Begins Work on Guide for Seismic Design of Tall Buildings.** CTBUH is forming a Working Group to produce a guide on Seismic Design of Tall Buildings. With the resurgence in construction of high-rise buildings around the world, and in many seismically active regions, there are major differences in the approach taken for seismic design in the various national jurisdictions.

While rigorous performance-based assessments are required in Japan and China, many other nations require nothing more than a 'UBC-style' design based on code spectra and 'conventional' force reduction factors, some of which lead to unsafe and/or uneconomical designs. The objective of the CTBUH guide is to set out best practice for the seismic design of high-rise buildings for use in any seismic region of the world.

The guide will draw upon the best of current international practice, including Japanese, Chinese procedures, and proposals recently released by the Los Angeles Tall Building Structural Design Council.

The committee includes Ron Klemencic and Michael Willford as co-chairs, Andrew Whittaker as vice-chair, and Marshal Lew and Farzad Naeim assisting as representatives of the LATBSDC

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**CABA Intelligent Buildings Leadership Forum Early Bird Registration Deadline Approaches.** Early bird registration for the June 25-27 event ends on May 31. Opening Visionary Keynote, Prof. Vivian Loftness of Carnegie Mellon University, will make a presentation on the topic "Intelligent Buildings - Today, Tomorrow and Beyond. Please see the attached announcement for additional information.

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**In Passing.** The Council has received word of the passing of Ferdinand "Ferd" R. Scheeler. Mr. Scheeler worked for Skidmore Owings & Merrill for 37 years and was present when SOM's Bruce Graham first demonstrated his idea for the Sears Tower by using a soft pack of cigarettes which he arranged by popping them out and showing how they would be arranged in a tube design. After leaving SOM, Mr. Scheeler became a partner at DeStefano + Partners. In addition he was on the board of the Elmhurst Art Museum, a member of the American Institute of Architects and was on the Chicago Committee on High Rise Buildings.

The Council was also saddened to learn of the death of Los Angeles Architect Albert C. Martin on March 30<sup>th</sup> at the age of 92. Mr. Martin began working at his father's firm, A. C. Martin Partners, in 1936, assuming management of the firm along with his brother after World War II. They designed several notable buildings including the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power at 111 North Hope Street, the TRW Science Research Park in Redondo Beach and the twin 52-story Arco Plaza towers on North Flower Street.

**\*\*\* PLAN TO ATTEND \*\*\***

- May 18-20, 2006. Structural Engineering Institute of ASCE's 2006 Structures Congress on "Structural Engineering and Public Safety", St. Louis, Missouri  
<http://www.asce.org/conferences/structures2006>.

- June 8-10, 2006. AIA 2006 National Convention and Design Exposition on "Architecture on the Edge: Innovation...Engagement...Inspiration", Los Angeles, California.

- June 25-27, 2006. The Continental Automated Buildings Association's (CABA) Intelligent Buildings Leadership Forum, Dallas, Texas <http://www.caba.org/leadershipforum/>.

- October 25-26, 2006. CTBUH conference on "Thinking Outside the Box - Tapered, Twisted, Tilted Towers", Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, Illinois.

- October 26, 2006. Fifth Annual CTBUH Awards Dinner, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, Illinois.

- October 25-28, 2006. 6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Architectural Interchanges in Asia, hosted by the Architectural Institute of Korea, Daegu, Korea. <http://www.isaia2006.com>.

- November 8-9, 2006. International Conference on Construct in Steel - the Next 50 Years, organized by the Southern African Institute of Steel Construction, Johannesburg, South Africa.  
<http://www.saisc.co.za>.