



12½ MINUTES

with AISC's Engineering & Research Department

BACK TO ENGINEERING

No, there isn't a typo in the Department name. After about 10 years of being identified as "Technology & Research", effective November 1, 1996, AISC decided to re-insert the more obvious and traditional term "engineering" into the Department title. Since internally we have also long carried the informal generic title of "Engineering Department", this does not represent any major strategic shift of responsibilities.

Our new title only "tells it like it is" - Engineering and Research Department.

--Nestor Iwankiw
Vice President, E&R

SINGLE U.S. MODEL BUILDING CODE (YEAR 2000)

Serious efforts have been initiated by the three current model code organizations (BOCA - Building Officials and Code Administrators, ICBO - International Conference of Building Officials, and SBCCI - Southern Building Code Congress International) to develop a single model code by the year 2000 that will include building requirements. This work is occurring under the auspices of the ICC - International Code Council, a partnership of the three current model code groups. The name given to the new year 2000 code is the IBC - International Building Code.

ANSI, AISC, and other steel association representatives are closely involved with these developments along with other material and pro-

fessional interests. Better harmonization of existing seismic design and fire protection requirements along with one consistent format are some of the IBC main objectives. Ensuing public reviews, discussions, comparisons and more information on the proposed new code document are expected later in this process.

--Nestor Iwankiw
Vice President, E&R

SPECIFICATIONS COMMITTEE

The AISC Committee on Specifications met in Chicago on November 22, 1996. On November 20 and 21 (before the main committee meeting) many of the Specification Task Committees also met. Much was accomplished at the meeting, among the highlights of the meetings are the following:

A supplement to the LRFD Specification will be published by AISC in mid-1997. It will contain the revisions to the 1993 (Second Edition LRFD) Specification approved by the Specifications Committee.

Work will begin this year on the next AISC Specification. In June, the Chairmen of the Specification Task Committees will meet with the AISC Board of Directors to determine the scope and format of the next Specification. Tentative publication date for the forthcoming Specification and Manual of Steel Construction is Fall of the year 2000.

A proposal to seek ANSI (American National Standards Institute) accreditation of the

AISC Specifications Committee is one of the items currently under letter ballot by the Committee. Approval by the Committee will put this item on the agenda of the April 1997 meeting of the AISC Board of Directors.

Also under letter ballot is the proposed new AISC Seismic Provisions for Structural Steel Buildings. Anticipated publication date for the Seismic Provisions is mid-1997.

The next meeting of the AISC Committee on Specifications will be on Friday, November 21, 1997, at the O'Hare International Airport Hilton Hotel, Chicago.

The Specifications Task Committees will meet in August or September, 1997.

--Abraham Rokach
Dir. of Bldg. Des. & Software

AISC/STI HSS CONNECTIONS MANUAL

From time to time, I give a slide presentation called Economical Design of Steel Structures, which contains 50 or so suggestions on how to minimize the cost of structural steel construction. One such recommendation is to consider the use of hollow structural sections (HSS) where appropriate. The point is made that HSS offer excellent torsional resistance and lateral flexural strength. Furthermore, there is usually less surface area to paint or fireproof, if such treatment is required, than for an equivalent W-shape. Accordingly, HSS make excellent columns, braces, and spandrel girders, especially those supporting a torsional load.

Invariably, the ensuing comment from the audience is that there is limited guidance given for connections to and for such members. I'm happy to report that all that is about to change.

AISC, in conjunction with the Steel Tube Institute (STI), is nearing completion of the *HSS Connections Manual*, a guide to shear, moment, bracing, and truss connections for HSS members. Its format is similar to that of the *AISC Manual of Steel Construction, Volume II (Connections)*, except that it is specifically focused on tubular connections. A wide variety of existing resources has been collected and combined with the fabrication and connection design expertise of the AISC Committee on Manuals, Textbooks, and Codes. Additionally, an adjunct group of HSS and steel-fabrication industry representatives with specific experience in HSS also contributed toward the development of this publication. It is targeted for release in May 1997; watch for an announcement in these pages.

This book will also be discussed at a special workshop at the National Steel Construction Conference. The Saturday May 10 Short Course will introduce and discuss in depth the new *HSS Connections Manual*. For further information on the National Steel Construction Conference and the Saturday Short Course please call 312/670-5417 for an Advance Program or visit our web page at <http://www.aiscweb.com>.

--Charlie Carter
Senior Staff Eng., Structures

SPECIAL SHAPE MATERIAL WORKSHOP & NEW COMMITTEE

The January 10, 1997 AISC

Advisory Statement on Mechanical Properties Near the Fillet of Wide Flange Shapes and Interim Recommendations was published in the February issue of *Modern Steel Construction* as one immediate result of a special Workshop held in Chicago on January 8-9, 1997. The newly formed AISC Research Subcommittee on Shape Material and Design is proceeding to identify research needs and to quickly pursue them in cooperation with the Structural Shape Producers Council and other interested parties. More information will be forthcoming as it becomes available.

--Nestor Iwankiw
Vice President, E&R

NATIONAL STEEL CONSTRUCTION CONFERENCE

The 1997 National Steel Construction Conference to be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Chicago this May is quickly approaching. The dates of the Conference are May 7-9.

New this year, the AISC Engineering Awards of Excellence will be presented for the first time at the Conference. These awards give national recognition to structural engineering excellence and innovations in steel-framed building projects. These awards will be presented at the opening session of the Conference on Wednesday afternoon. Regional awards will be given in categories for projects up to \$10 million and projects greater than \$10 million. All regional winners will be eligible for one national award.

Also at the Wednesday opening session, Joseph A. Gonzalez of the Chicago office of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill will be our

keynote speaker. Mr. Gonzalez and Skidmore, Owings and Merrill have been involved in many important and exciting projects around the world. Special emphasis will be placed on our Conference city, Chicago.

The T. R. Higgins Lectureship Award was recently announced and we are proud to present this lecture for the first time at the Friday May 9 General Session. Professor Subash Goel of the University of Michigan is the 1997 winner and will present his paper, Ductile Concentrically Braced frames for Seismic Resistance. This award recognizes an outstanding lecturer and author whose technical paper or papers are considered an outstanding contribution to the engineering literature on fabricated structural steel.

These are only a few of the exciting sessions that will be at the 1997 National Steel Construction Conference; there are also 26 technical sessions covering topics from engineering, welding, erection and fabrication. All of those attending these sessions will receive educational credit required for many state licenses.

Finally, this year's exhibit hall will have expanded hours to accommodate the large number of exhibitors.

For further information, including an Advance Program, please call AISC at 312/670-5417 or point your browser at AISC's web page at <http://www.aiscweb.com>. Be sure to register and we'll see you in Chicago.

--Patrick Newman
Dir., Tech. Info. Services

For more information on AISC's E&R Department, check out AISC's home page at <http://www.aiscweb.com>