



Notes from the Editor

Scott L. Melnick

Each Monday and Thursday, I pick up my kids at daycare and have the distinct horror of experiencing what may be the worst parking garage in all of Illinois. The poorly designed structure features two-way aisles with very narrow blind corners. The bends are so narrow that I'm usually forced to come to a full stop at each corner and slowly eke forward to avoid collisions with oncoming traffic. Parking is another nightmare. Large columns intrude on many spaces, forcing me to often park my minivan with only a cat's whisker between my side-panels and a large scrape.

Adding insult to injury is the new parking structure under construction across the street. This garage serves a large hospital and replaces an older, smaller facility. Unfortunately, the construction schedule, which included the phased demolition of the old garage and the ongoing, phased construction of the new structure, seems incredibly prolonged. As a result of the incredibly slow process, the hospital (where my wife works as an occupational therapist) is forced to rent a parking lot off-site and bus employees to work. In addition to the added cost, the inconvenience to employees adds to poor morale.

Fortunately, there is an alternative for smart owners. This month's issue focuses on the growing use of steel in parking structures. Lately, a lot of airports and universities are turning to steel, in part for its construction speed, but also for its flexibility to fit into tight footprints. Still another advantage is the smaller and

fewer columns in a steel garage—advantages that translate into fewer obstructed spaces and safer environments (there are fewer places for human predators to hide).

If you're interested in more information about steel-framed parking structures, please contact John Cross at 312/670-5406 or email him at cross@aiscmail.com. John is heading up AISC's recently introduced effort to promote the use of steel in parking structures and is currently developing both technical literature on the subject and workshops for designers and fabricators.

(I'd like to apologize to anyone who was offended by the photo we ran in this column last month of a woman reading an AISC *Manual of Steel Construction*. As my wife pointed out to me after seeing the issue, my choice of words may have left the wrong impression. However, it wasn't the model in the picture that interested me; rather, it was that a national consumer magazine—*Esquire*—used a steel manual as a prop. I would have been just as excited if the picture had been of two monkeys playing tug-of-war with a steel manual. For anyone who's interested, the photo spread in question appeared in the March 2001 issue of *Esquire* on pages 154-155.)

Editorial Contacts

Editor & Publisher

Scott L. Melnick
ph: 312/670-8311
melnick@blacksquirrel.net

Senior Editor

Keith A. Grubb, P.E., S.E.
ph: 312/670-8318
grubb@blacksquirrel.net

Associate Editor

Karen J. Thornton
ph: 312/670-8310
thornton@blacksquirrel.net

Production Editor

Mindy Rachofsky
ph: 312/670-8315
rachofsky@blacksquirrel.net

Editorial Offices

Black Squirrel Communications
One E. Wacker Dr., Suite 2406
Chicago, IL 60601
fax: 312/670-0341

Address Changes/Subscriptions

ph: 312/670-5444
fax: 312/670-5403
kingston@aiscmail.com

Advertising Contact

Account Manager

John Byrne
ph: 847/699-6049
fax: 847/699-8681
jabber10@ix.netcom.com

2400 E. Devon Ave., Suite 380
Des Plaines, IL 60018

To receive a media kit, contact John Byrne or view advertising information on *Modern Steel Construction's* web site:

www.modernsteel.com

AISC Officers

Chairman
Robert G. Abramson

Vice Chairman
Terry Peshia

Treasurer
Larry Steward

Secretary & General Counsel
David Ratterman

President
H. Louis Gurthet, P.E.

Vice President, Finance & Administration
E. Joseph Dietrich

Vice President, Engineering & Research
Nestor Iwankiw, P.E.

Vice President, Communications
Scott L. Melnick

