

news & events

CONTEST

MSC's Hot Products Awards

Whether it's new machinery, new tools, new safety products, or new engineering software, innovation is everywhere in the structural steel industry. This year, *Modern Steel Construction* is asking you: What's hot?

MSC's Hot Products Awards recognize the best of the steel construction industry's most exciting new products. MSC wants to hear about the new and innovative products that are making your job as a structural steel designer or construction professional better and easier. Tell us about the products that have improved your workflow or business, and your name will be included in a drawing for a copy of the AISC 13th Edition *Steel Construction Manual*.

We're looking for input from engineers, fabricators, detailers, erectors, general contractors, and product manufacturers. Entries must be received by **June 15, 2006**, and should include the product name and manufacturer; what the product does (in 200 words or less); and why you are nominating it as a hot product. Include your contact information with your nomination, including e-mail address and telephone number.

Products can be new or substantial upgrades of existing products and must have been first offered for sale after January 1, 2005. Entries will be reviewed by a jury of MSC and AISC staff. And as always, the competition is free.

The winning products will be featured in the August 2006 issue of MSC. Send your entries to Lena Singer, Assistant Editor, via e-mail at singer@modernsteel.com.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

AISC Seminars

AISC's "Design Steel Your Way with the 2005 AISC Specification" seminar will accelerate your ability to design steel buildings according to the 2005 *Specification for Structural Steel Buildings*, whether you design in ASD or LRFD.

This seminar will be offered in locations across the country throughout the year, with the following dates coming soon:

Design Steel Your Way with the 2005 AISC Specification	
May 2	Minneapolis
May 3	Omaha, Neb.
May 4	Chicago
May 10	Edison, N.J.
May 11	Hartford, Conn.
May 24	Sacramento, Calif.
May 25	Las Vegas
May 31	Denver
June 1	Bozeman, Mont.
June 27	Milwaukee
June 28	Grand Rapids, Mich.

Call 800.809.2364 or visit www.aisc.org/2006seminars for more information or to register—and watch for a new seminar on AISC's *Seismic Design Manual* and *Seismic Provisions*, coming this fall.

letters

Steel Interchange: Cruciform Column in SMRF Design

I read the question in the April 2006 issue of MSC regarding dual strong-axis moment connections with cruciform column sections and have the following contribution:

SidePlate Systems has an SMF connection (SureFrame 2) that qualifies for dual strong-axis applications using cruciform columns under AISC 341-02 Appendix P and S with no additional testing, as certified by ICCES ER 1275. The SureFrame2 has been used throughout the western United States in high-seismic SMF applications, including California State University, San Bernardino; Magic Technologies in Milpitas, Calif. (San Francisco Bay area); and the Salt Lake Regional Medical Center office building. SureFrame 2 can be used in corner, T, and full dual strong-axis configurations.

Charles Tran
SidePlate Systems, Inc.
Laguna Hills, Calif.

(The April 2006 Steel Interchange column is available to view at www.aisc.org/steelinterchange.)

Do you have a comment on something you've read or seen in *Modern Steel Construction*? We'd like to hear from you. E-mail your comments to Scott Melnick, Editor, at melnick@modernsteel.com.

EVENTS

South African Steel Conference Slated

In celebration of its fiftieth anniversary, the South African Institute of Steel Construction (SAISC) will present an international steel construction conference in 2006. "Construct in Steel: The Next 50 Years" will be held in Cape Town, South Africa this November 8-9 and will address business and economic topics, as well as detailed technical and construction issues, for all members of the steel design and construction community.

Beyond its educational sessions, the conference will also provide attendees the opportunity to participate in game reserve safaris and tours of Cape Town and its neighboring vineyards.

For more information about the conference and its program, please contact René Pretorius, SAISC Communications Manager, at renee@saisc.co.za or by phone at +27.011.726.6111.

Got News?

Send your news items, announcements, and industry events to Keith Grubb, grubb@modernsteel.com or Lena Singer, singer@modernsteel.com.

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING

960 Certified through SECB

The Structural Engineering Certification Board (SECB) has certified 960 structural engineers in the practice of structural engineering after its third and most recent round of certification in March. All 50 continental states, as well as Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, are now represented through those granted certification.

The application deadline for July 2006 SECB certification is June 8. All materials must be received at the SECB offices by this date to be reviewed. Call SECB at 312.649.4600 or e-mail office@secertboard.org for information about how to apply.

SECB's criteria for certification and requirements for continuing education are directly supportive of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying's (NCEES) Model Law Structural Engineer criteria.

The mission of SECB is to determine the level of unique and additional education, examination, and experience necessary to perform the science and art of structural engineering; to provide a common national process for structural engineers to become certified; and to provide the public and stakeholders with an identification instrument that distinguishes an engineer with those unique and additional qualities necessary to perform structural engineering. Visit www.secertboard.org for more information about SECB and SECB certification.

EVENTS

International Conference on Performance-Based Codes and Fire Safety Design

The Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE) will host the sixth International Conference on Performance-Based Codes and Fire Safety Design Methods. The conference will be held June 14-16 in Tokyo, Japan.

The conference will present the state of the art in performance-based code approaches and fire protection engineering design methods. Papers will be presented on newly emerging technologies that are designed to protect people and property from fire.

More information about the conference can be found at www.sfpe.org.

The conference is sponsored by SFPE, the Japan chapter of SFPE, the Japan Association of Fire Science and Engineering, and the International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction.

AWARDS

AGA Excellence in Hot-Dip Galvanizing Awards

The American Galvanizers Association (AGA) has recognized 14 projects in its 2006 Excellence in Hot-Dip Galvanizing Awards for their ideal, creative, innovative, or monumental uses of hot-dip galvanizing. The winning projects were selected from 12 categories.

AGA provides information on innovative applications and state-of-the-art technological developments in hot-dip galvanizing for corrosion protection. Visit www.galvanizeit.org for more information about AGA and its awards.



Park Air Express (Irving, Texas), transportation category winner, was galvanized by AGA member and AISC associate member Aztec Galvanizing Services—Crowley of Fort Worth, Texas.

STEEL JOISTS

SJI Announces Officers

The Steel Joist Institute has announced its roster of officers for this year, including 2006 SJI president Sam Mahdavi of Quincy Joist Company.

Mahdavi is a registered Professional Engineer and received a master's in Structural Engineering in 1985 from the University of Missouri, Rolla. He has been involved in all aspects of the steel joist industry including design, production, and sales. He joined Quincy Joist Company in 1990 as its president. Mahdavi has also been active in the education, engineering practices, publicity, and executive committees of SJI.

Fred Steele of Valley Joist will serve as SJI's first vice president and Sam Blatchford of Canam Steel Corporation will serve as second vice president. For more information about SJI and its mission, educational opportunities, research, and publications, please visit www.steeljoist.org.

SJI Helps Identify Older Joists

Need to identify an older steel joist? Design professionals looking to identify older steel joists found in the field can get help online from the Steel Joist Institute (SJI).

Visit www.steeljoist.org and look for the "Joist Investigation Form" in the "What's New" section. Submit the known information and SJI will search its files to try to find the proper match and information for you.

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Jim Wooten

On February 5, 2006 the structural steel industry lost one of its greats. Jim Wooten, 81—engineer, friend, philosopher, philanthropist, and humorist—died at his daughter’s home in Santa Fe, N.M.

Jim was a structural engineer for AFCO Steel in Little Rock, Ark. for 40 years. Truly an “engineer’s engineer,” he could analyze and design a multi-story building on two or three 8½×11 sheets of paper faster than most engineers today can with a computer. He may best be remembered for his 1971 MSC article, “Wooten’s Third Law and Steel Column Design,” excerpted below:



- **The Purpose:** An encouragement for an understanding of the plastic behavior of structural steel.
- **The Law:** The acquisition of uncommon knowledge inhibits the application of common sense.
- **Corollaries:** 1. Structural steel, unencumbered by uncommon knowledge, is smarter than the engineer who designs it; 2. The computer renders obsolete the necessity of rationalizing and simplifying problems—or even of understanding them.
- **Questions:** It has never been clear to how many places an incorrect answer must be carried to make it correct.

A PDF of the article can be found at www.aisc.org/wooten.

Throughout his career, Jim served on various AISC committees. He was always a good sounding board and advisor to his fellow engineers and associates. His ideas were eagerly sought by others and freely given by Jim. In 1991, he received the AISC Chairman’s Award for a “substantial contribution to our industry.”

Jim was born in Memphis, Tenn., enlisted in the army in 1942, and served three years in the European Theater during World War II. He received his BSCE with distinction in 1950 from Purdue University. He later received his MSCE from the University of Arkansas. Jim worked as a steel detailer, field inspector, and field engineer before joining AFCO Steel in 1954. He worked at AFCO as a structural engineer and was Chief Structural Design Engineer when he retired in 1991.

After the untimely death of his wife, Allie, just days after his retirement, Jim began volunteer work. He regularly volunteered at the local public library, the Arkansas Arts Center, and Baptist Hospital. He loved to recite Shakespeare’s sonnets, but his all-time favorite poems were John Gillespie McGee’s “High Flight” and “The Calf Path” by Sam Walter Foss.

Jim retained his good attitude and sense of humor until his final days. He will be missed by all who were touched by him and his works.

—By *John Nagel, Senior Vice President of Engineering, AFCO Steel in Little Rock, Ark.*

Edwin L. Mead

Edwin L. Mead, pioneer of automated fabrication processes and composite castellated steel beam construction, died January 4, 2006. He was 82 years old.

Mead retired in the mid-1990s as vice president of Mulach Steel Company, a now-closed structural steel fabrication company in Pittsburgh.

While at Mulach, Mead was the first to design a steel-framed parking structure with composite castellated beams. This design paved the way for Mulach Parking Structures, a division of the company that designed and constructed steel-framed parking structures for nearly thirty years.

He is also credited with automating Mulach’s fabrication facilities in the early 1960s. Mead designed and built the “Meadmaster,” one of the first automated drilling lines for castellated beam fabrication.

“He was quite an innovative fabricator,” said Charles Churches, president of Churches Consulting Engineers in Claysville, Penn. Churches is a former vice president of construction for Mulach Parking Structures and worked with Mead for 23 years. According to Churches, Mead was a forerunner in the automation of fabrication shops.

“His approach to shop layout was quite unique—he was one of the first fabricators to introduce the extensive use of conveyors and loading tables,” Churches said.

Mead is survived by his wife Mary; sons John, Daniel, Mark, and Edwin, Jr.; and five grandchildren.

—By *Lena Singer*