

## editor's note



**WHEN I STARTED WRITING ABOUT CONSTRUCTION IN THE EARLY 1980S, EVERYONE WAS TALKING ABOUT DESIGN-BUILD, ABOUT RENOVATION/RESTORATION/RECONSTRUCTION AND ABOUT FAST-TRACK PROJECTS.** Fast forward to today, and fast-track isn't a buzzword; it's a fact of life on almost every project.

Fast-tracking offered the promise of quicker completion and lower costs, but it was a Faustian bargain. Yes, project schedules were compressed. And yes, owners saved more money. But the downside was the proliferation of incomplete and—in many cases—inadequate drawings.

Every few months, someone (typically a detailer) will publicly decry the sorry state of design drawings, and the echoes will reverberate across the country. (I love listening to detailers' stories; my favorite recent lament was about the designer who just didn't understand why he couldn't conceal a W8 in a 4-in.-thick wall.)

A typical comment goes like this: "The state of contract documents is horrendous. It would be great if there were some guidelines for engineers about what should be shown in the contract documents."

And whenever someone makes this complaint, I can count on one of my favorite detailers, Ron Yeager of Steel-Art, Inc., to remind everyone that such a document already exists: CASE 962-D: *A Guideline Addressing Coordination and Completeness of Structural Construction Documents*. If you're a member of the Council of American Structural Engineers, you can download the document for free. Otherwise, you can purchase a copy at [www.acec.org/case](http://www.acec.org/case).

You can also view a great presentation on CASE 962-D from the 2013 NASCC: The Steel Conference by visiting [www.aisc.org/2013nasconline](http://www.aisc.org/2013nasconline) and clicking on the CASE 962-D session. (By the way, did you know you can view most of the Steel Conference sessions since 2008 in our education archives at [www.aisc.org/educationarchives](http://www.aisc.org/educationarchives)?)

When it was first introduced, AISC widely publicized the CASE document, and there seemed to be growing interest in producing high-quality, more complete construction documents. But in the usual case of out-of-sight, out-of-mind, our attention has focused on other areas during the past lustrum, and a lot of people have forgotten (or never knew about) CASE 962-D.

I urge you to get a copy of CASE 962-D or watch the Steel Conference seminar. In this day of routine fast-tracking, incomplete drawings can result in costly errors and delays. It benefits the entire project team to follow the guidelines in CASE 962-D (and it might just stop you from being the butt of some detailer's next humorous anecdote!).

**SCOTT MELNICK**  
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