

SECOND CONFERENCE ON TALL BUILDINGS IN SEISMIC REGIONS

MAY 16 AND 17, 1991, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, USA

D. R. Brunsdon*

INTRODUCTION

This article reviews the Second Conference on Tall Buildings in Seismic Regions held in Los Angeles on May 16 and 17, 1991. This conference was organised jointly by The Los Angeles Tall Buildings Structural Design Council and The Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat.

Approximately 150 delegates from nine countries attended the conference, including the writer.

The stated purpose of the conference was to overview current and future trends in design and construction of tall buildings for seismic and wind effects.

The following papers were prepared for and presented at the conference by New Zealand engineers:

"Design and Construction of the National Bank Centre, Auckland"
Kevin C.F. Spring and G.K. Sidwell
(Rankine and Hill Limited).

"Implications of the 1989 Newcastle Earthquake on the Design and Construction of Tall Buildings in Australia"
David Brunsdon and James Forbes (Irwin Johnston and Partners, Sydney).

This review comments briefly under various headings on items presented or discussed at the conference that are considered to be of interest, based on the sessions attended by the writer.

BUILDING APPROVAL PROCESSES

The first plenary session of the conference featured Los Angeles-based property developers and consultants reviewing the various steps involved in obtaining authorities approvals for a multi-storey project in Los Angeles and the changes to those steps that have occurred over the last five years. The main point of interest in this presentation was the increasingly political nature of the approvals process in Los Angeles, and the implications for other cities.

Key changes in the approvals process include the following:

- The obligation to satisfy onerous new State and Federal requirements in addition to the established City planning conditions. One such recent requirement is the need for an Environmental Impact Report for virtually every land development project, including those in the centre of the city.
- Elected city officials having greater input in and control over the process, with correspondingly less involvement from employed officers. Many of these elected officials have won office on "no growth" platforms. In addition, some Councils now require a unanimous vote in favour of a project before approval is given, rather than the former majority decision.
- Associated with the involvement of elected officials has been the trend towards the imposition of additional "city amenity fees" on a project-by-project (i.e. ad hoc) basis.

As an indication of the impact of these changes, it was estimated that a project which took nine months to gain authorities approval in 1987 would currently require at least three and possibly five years for the corresponding approval. The consequential increase in overall project costs has represented another negative influence on a recessionary real estate market.

LATERAL LOAD RESISTING SYSTEMS FOR TALL BUILDINGS

Various case studies of recently designed tall buildings were presented, and each featured one of the three following lateral load resisting systems:

- moment resisting steel frames,
- moment resisting ductile concrete frames,
- reinforced concrete shear walls.

A recent variation to the conventional ductile beam and column frame is the development of a modular virescedel subframe for resisting lateral loads. This system has been developed in response to the many architectural constraints in the lower levels of buildings where a large proportion of perimeter columns cannot pass without

* Associate Director, Irwin Johnston & Partners, Sydney (Member, NZNSE)

Second Conference On Tall Buildings In Seismic Regions Proceedings

Leslie E. Robertson,Takeo Naka



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Proceedings, Second Conference on Tall Buildings in Seismic Regions Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat, 1991

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Conference on Tall Buildings in Seismic Regions, May 16 and 17, 1991, Los Angeles, California, 1991

Proceedings Fourth Conference on Tall Buildings in Seismic Regions, 1997 **Behaviour of Steel Structures in**

Seismic Areas Federico Mazzolani, Victor Gioncu, 1995-10-12 This book forms the proceedings of the International Workshop organised by the European Convention for Constructional Steelwork held in Timisoara Romania in June 1994 It presents the latest progress in theoretical and experimental research on the behaviour of steel structures in seismic areas taking into account the basic problems of local and global ductility codification design and applications It relates strongly to the activities on international codification taking place in Europe *Geological Survey Professional Paper* Geological Survey

(U.S.), 1998 **The Loma Prieta, California, Earthquake of October 17, 1989--building Structures**, 1998 Index of Conference Proceedings British Library. Document Supply Centre, 2000 **U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper**

, 1994 *International Handbook of Earthquake Engineering* Mario Paz, 2012-12-06 The subject of earthquake engineering has been the focus of my teaching and research for many years Thus when Mario Paz the editor of this handbook asked me to write a Foreword I was interested and honored by his request Worldwide people are beginning to understand the severity of the danger to present and future generations caused by the destruction of the environment Earthquakes pose a similar threat thus the proper use of methods for earthquake resistant design and construction is vitally important for countries that are at high risk of being subjected to strong motion earthquakes Most seismic activity is the result of tectonic earthquakes Tectonic earthquakes are very special events in that although they occur frequently their probability of becoming natural hazards for a specific urban area is very small When a severe earthquake does occur near an urban area however its consequences are very large in terms of structural destruction and human suffering **Intelligent Structures - 2** Y.K. Wen, 1992-01-14

Proceedings of the International Workshop on Intelligent Systems held in Perugia Italy 27 29 June 1991 *Proceedings* M. J Huang, 1992 *Abstract Journal in Earthquake Engineering*, 1995 **Tall Building Criteria and Loading** Leslie E.

Robertson, Takeo Naka, 1980-01-01 Prepared by the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat of ASCE This report examines the loads to which tall buildings are subjected so that engineers can precisely define the related structural elements that are necessary before translating a client's needs into a safe design The report explores five different classes of loads gravity loads and temperature affects earthquake loads wind loading and wind effects fire and accidental loads as well as quality control and overall safety considerations Steel buildings which hold the record for height tax the designer's ingenuity to provide adequate resistance to lateral loading Concrete buildings are both more numerous and widely distributed and for them vertical gravity loads may be the chief problem Both steel and concrete buildings and lateral and

vertical loads are addressed Other subjects covered include dead live cyclic snow construction and combined loads code requirements meteorological and environmental factors in design firefighting provisions and modeling Contributions came from more than 800 contributors all international and professional and heavily representing design and industrial firms Condensed references follow each chapter and a glossary is included **Proceedings of Fifth U.S.-Japan Workshop on the Improvement of Building Structural Design and Construction Practices** ,1992 **Collected Papers of Habitat and the High-rise--tradition and Innovation** Lynn S. Beedle,1996 National Clearinghouse for Loma Prieta Earthquake Information Catalog ,1992-04 Structural Design, Codes, and Special Building Projects ,1997 **Behavior and analysis of reinforced concrete structures under alternate actions inducing inelastic response** FIB - International Federation for Structural Concrete,1994-05-01 Seismic Guidelines for Ports Stuart D. Werner,1998-01-01 Seismic Guidelines for Ports was prepared by the Ports Committee of the Technical Council on Lifeline Earthquake Engineering of the American Society of Civil Engineers a committee of experienced professionals for port authorities government consulting engineering firms and the academic community This volume includes lessons of experience form past earthquakes a summary of current state of knowledge and practice of risk reduction planning through design analysis and material components and guidelines for response and recovery at ports

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