

## CTBUH Update - April 2006

Dear Colleagues:

The Council's March 15 press release listing the tallest buildings completed in 2005 was picked up by several international news organizations. The tallest building, the Shimao International Plaza in Shanghai, China, at 331m (1094ft), was designed by Ingenhoven Overdiek and the East China Architecture and Design Institute. This building now ranks 14th tallest in the world. Interestingly, five of the tallest ten buildings were in China, which is probably a fair reflection of the volume of building and the number of very tall buildings located in China as a proportion of the world market. The Council is working hard to strengthen its ties with sister organizations in China, and is in discussion with the China Tall Building Institute. I hope to discuss this in more detail in future newsletters.

The second tallest building completed last year was the Q1 Tower in Australia (322m/1058ft), designed by the Sunland Group, Innovarchi and the Buchan Group. This new addition to the Gold Coast of Australia means that the two tallest residential buildings are both in Australia. Clearly a commanding view of the sea is important to our antipodean colleagues and gives value to all.

This is the first year that the Council has listed the tallest buildings completed in the year. Marshall Gerometta, editor of the Council's 100 tallest buildings list, oversaw the process, which took a few months longer than planned. For the 2006 list, we have begun our compilation so that we can complete and announce it by the end of the year. If you expect to complete a tall building this year, please email the details to Marshall Gerometta at [mars501@comcast.net](mailto:mars501@comcast.net). It is estimated that, to be in the top 10 for 2006, buildings will need to be taller than 240m (787 ft).

Perhaps it is a reflection of the economy, or the time taken between planning and completion, that many of the buildings we are now designing are substantially taller than those completed last year. As we build taller we should remember that codes were not written for these very tall buildings, and it is often necessary to think beyond them, as designers are breaking new ground and setting new standards. One of the key roles of the Council is to share knowledge and experience of these very tall buildings.

The U.S. Building Code is used in many countries and in many forms. For those of you interested in the U.S. Building Code Process, there are a number of draft amendments proposed for the IBC 2007 code. These proposals are a direct response to the NIST Report on the World Trade Center and can be found at <http://www.iccsafe.org/cs/cc/trb/trb2.html#agendas>. The changes include provisions for disproportionate collapse as well as some planning changes for tall buildings, which are defined as taller than 128m (420 ft). It is not by any means certain that the proposed changes will be approved and incorporated into the codes. The Council has received a number of comments from our members, both for and against the proposed changes, and is preparing a response. We would like to invite any members who have a strong view on this to please send them along to me at [dscott@ctbuh.org](mailto:dscott@ctbuh.org).

It seems that the increasing number of plans for design and construction of irregular and unusual tall buildings continues to pique the public's imagination. This heightened attention is developing a lot of interest for our Chicago Conference in October ("Thinking Outside the Box – the Design and Construction of Tapered, Tilted, Twisted Towers"), both from the press and from developers who are contemplating this type of building. Invitations will be in the mail by early June, for this October 25-26 conference. For additional information please contact Geri Kery at [gkery@ctbuh.org](mailto:gkery@ctbuh.org).

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CTBUH and the Illinois Institute of Technology are seeking applications for a joint position of CTBUH Executive Technical Director and IIT Category Two faculty member. We invite all interested individuals to submit an application by April 28. To view the position description, please visit the Council's website at <http://www.ctbuh.org>. CTBUH and IIT are Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employers.

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CTBUH would like to extend congratulations to former chairman, R. Shankar Nair, on receiving an AISC Life Achievement Award. AISC described Mr. Nair as "unique among engineers not just because he has

worked extensively in both buildings and bridges, but that he is incredibly erudite, as evidenced by his many articles not just in technical publications but also on the commentary pages of newspapers such as the Chicago *Tribune*.”

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Engineering News-Record held its annual Awards Dinner in New York City on April 6. The Council would like to once again congratulate former CTBUH chairman Ron Klemencic on being named as one of ENR's Top 25 Newsmakers for 2005.

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CTBUH was saddened to learn of the death of renowned architect, Harry Seidler on March 9. Mr. Seidler was recognized as one of Australia's leading architects of the modern movement and the first architect in Australia to fully express the principles of the Bauhaus. He designed many important residential and commercial buildings in Australia and overseas, introducing new ideas and construction techniques and making a major contribution to the architecture of Sydney. Mr. Seidler was a long-time member of the Council and participated in several CTBUH conferences.

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The National Council of Structural Engineering Association has issued a Call for Entries for the 2006 NCSEA Excellence in Structural Engineering Awards. The program highlights some of the best examples of structural engineering ingenuity through the world, with projects being judged on innovative design, engineering achievement and creativity. Deadline for entries is June 16. For award program rules, project eligibility and entry forms see the Call for Entries section on the NCSEA web site at <http://www.ncsea.com>.

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The Architectural Institute of Korea, in conjunction with the Architectural Society of China and the Architectural Institute of Japan, will be hosting the 6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Architectural Interchanges in Asia, October 25-28, in Daegu, Korea. The theme is A+T: Neo-Value in Asian Architecture. With escalating demands to design for the co-existence and to research across the interdisciplinary fields, a new value of architecture and technology in Asian authentic culture and tradition needs to be faced.

Anyone wishing to participate or submit a paper for consideration should contact Seok Jae Hong at [isaia2006@aik.or.kr](mailto:isaia2006@aik.or.kr). Deadline for abstracts is April 30, with submission of full paper by June 30. For additional information please visit the website at <http://www.isaia2006.com>.

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Plan to attend:

- April 18, 2006. The Skyscraper Museum's lecture series on the theme "Green Teams: How Sustainability Succeeds in Business" continues with a lecture on Green Ground Zero - Guidelines for Downtown and Beyond by Randall Croxton. The final lecture in the series will be held on May 17 on the subject of Greening the Glass Box - Saving Modernism in Midtown. All lectures are held at the NYPL Donnell Library Auditorium, 20 W. 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, New York, beginning at 6:30 pm. <http://www.skyscraper.org>.

- May 11, 2006. NCSEA/SSRC seminar on "Bracing for Stability", presented by Drs. Todd Helwig and Joseph Yura at the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York <http://www.ncsea.com>

- May 15-17, 2006. IABSE Conference on "Operation, Maintenance and Rehabilitation of Large Infrastructure Projects, Bridges and Tunnels" in Copenhagen, Denmark <http://www.iabse.org>

- May 16, 2006. NCSEA/SSRC seminar on "Basic Steel Design for Stability: Columns and Frames", presented by Drs. Theodore Galambos and Perry Green at the Georgia Institute of Technology GLCC, Atlanta <http://www.ncsea.com>.

- May 18-21, 2006. Structural Engineering Institute of ASCE's 2006 Structures Congress on "Structural Engineering and Public Safety", St. Louis, Missouri  
<http://www.asce.org/conferences/structures2006>.

- June 8-10, 2006. AIA 2006 National Convention and Design Exposition on "Architecture on the Edge: Innovation...Engagement...Inspiration", Los Angeles, California.

- June 25-27, 2006. The Continental Automated Buildings Association's (CABA) Intelligent Buildings Leadership Forum, Dallas, Texas <http://www.caba.org/leadershipforum/>.

- October 25-26, 2006. CTBUH conference on "Thinking Outside the Box - Tapered, Twisted, Tilted Towers", Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, Illinois.

- October 26, 2006. Fifth Annual CTBUH Awards Dinner, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, Illinois.

- October 25-28, 2006. 6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Architectural Interchanges in Asia, hosted by the Architectural Institute of Korea, Daegu, Korea. <http://www.isaia2006.com>.

- November 8-9, 2006. International Conference on Construct in Steel - the Next 50 Years, organized by the Southern African Institute of Steel Construction, Johannesburg, South Africa.  
<http://www.saisc.co.za>.

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Not mentioned above, but equally important, is the publication of the Council's new coffee table book, *101 Tallest Buildings*, which is still on track for an early summer release. In addition, planning is underway for the Council's Fifth Annual Awards Dinner, which will be held in Chicago on October 26, in conjunction with the conference on "Thinking Outside the Box". As you can see, 2006 is shaping up to be a busy year for the Council. Volunteers are always needed, so if you have an interest in assisting with any of the Council's activities, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

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Principal, Arup  
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