



NEWSLETTER

As will come as no surprise, this issue is devoted to preparations for the 5th International Congress which has pre-occupied many of our volunteer members who have been kept in line by our Congress Organizer, Melanie Feerst. There is a fuller report inside on progress, on the program and other events. All of which of course, is designed to persuade you and others to register.

Now we have the technical program close to resolution, the next big challenge is convincing enough people to attend. You can help in that regard by spreading the word to colleagues and friends – copy them with this newsletter, send them to the website (www.5icch.org) – please do what you can.

Other news related to 5ICCH is that there will be a strong contingent of overseas delegates attending representing at current count 23 countries. Partly as a result of the publicity we have received and the financial incentives offered, our membership has increased well over the quarter – see inside.

However, this increase has been offset by the slow rate of membership renewals. If you are one of these, and you know who you are, please . . . please attend to it at <http://chsamembership.wildapricot.org>

Hoping to meet as many of you as possible in Chicago in June!

Brian Bowen
Chair, Management Committee

Don Friedman
Newsletter Editor

THANKS TO OUR INSTITUTIONAL AND CORPORATE MEMBERS

- * Altusworks, Inc.
- * Associated General Contractors of America
- * Canadian Centre for Architecture
- * Cappeto Conservation LLC
- * Consigli Construction Co.
- * ConstellationCenter
- * Construction Management Association of America
- * Georgia Institute of Technology
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- * Joel Silverman & Associates
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- * LimeWorks.us
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- * Mortenson Construction
- * National Center for Preservation Technology and Training
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- * Paces Construction Co.
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- * The Pepper Companies
- * The Whiting Turner Contracting Company
- * University of Nebraska
- * University of Oklahoma
- * Vertical Access LLC

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5th International Congress on Construction History

5TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON CONSTRUCTION HISTORY
(WWW.5ICCH.ORG)

Preparations for the Congress proceed apace. None of us quite realized what a task lay ahead when we began this 18 months ago, especially as we all have day jobs! However the best thing we did was to commission Melanie Feerst as the Congress Coordinator, whose hard work, patience and good humor is pulling us through.



Activity to date has been:

- Finalization of the papers and their preparation for publication. The plan is to give every delegate a USB Drive containing all the papers and then arranging a print-on-demand set of proceedings with Lulu or equal, which can be ordered by anyone requiring a printed version.
- Planning the schedule over the five days, distributing over 200 papers to sessions, recruiting session chairs, etc. There will be six concurrent sessions which are all posted at the website.
- Raising sponsorships to help close the gap between

our expenses and estimated revenues from registration.

- From these sponsorships and help from our affiliated construction history societies in the United Kingdom, France and Germany, we have been able to award 28 student stipends to assist their attendance at the Congress.
- Marketing the meeting to as wide an audience as possible.

Six Good Reasons why you should Attend the 5th ICCH

- Over 200 papers on every aspect of construction history you can think of. Just one example of one session on Skyscrapers follows.
- Seven great tours all described at the website
- Five important keynote speakers – three American, one British and one Spanish.
- Plenty of networking time to meet and mingle with colleagues old and new from (currently) 23 different countries.
- Social occasions including a reception at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill offices
- It’s in Chicago and at the historic Palmer House Hotel!

CONGRESS TOURS

1. Walk the Loop
2. Frank Lloyd Wright
3. Fermilab
4. Mies van der Rohe
5. Chicago River Bridges
6. Hard Hat Construction Tours

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS & THEIR TOPICS

Construction History in Chicago: Why We’re Here, Tom Leslie (Iowa State)
 Master Masons of the High Andes: Tracing Inca and Tiahuanaco Stone Carving Traditions, Stella Nair (UCLA)
 Bricks, Books, Cathedrals, Staircases and Libraries, James Campbell (Cambridge University)
 Frank Lloyd Wright and the Mile High Tower, Bill Baker (SOM)
 Construction History: the Building of a Discipline, Santiago Huerta (UPM, Madrid)

SESSION W_A_001 – SKYSCRAPERS

EXAMPLE OF THE FIVE PAPERS TO BE DELIVERED IN THIS SESSION

Tyler Sprague, “The Rise of the Exterior Bearing Wall, or ‘Tube’, Skyscraper: An Alternative Perspective from Seattle”

As the booming American economy of the 1950s and 1960s pushed buildings higher, tall buildings transitioned from simple grids of steel columns and beams, to more strategic assemblies of force-resisting elements. One of the signature advancements of this time was the emergence of exterior bearing wall, or “tube” skyscrapers. Much of this innovation has been attributed to the Chicago-based engineering firm of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill and the brilliant engineer Fazlur Khan. While indisputably significant, such focus overly simplifies the broader industry changes taking place, and overlooks the substantial contributions of other engineers and architects. This presentation describes an alternate sequence of development through the work of the Seattle-based engineering firm of Worthington Skilling Helle and Jackson.



IBM Building, Seattle

John Zils, “Construction of the Willis (Sears) Tower”

In the spring of 1969, Sears, Roebuck and Company made the decision to relocate their corporate headquarters to downtown Chicago. Due to the enormous size and complexity of the project, it was imperative that the schedule be fast-tracked in order to reduce the length of time for design, construction and move-in. The shortened schedule and tight budget requirements demanded innovative design concepts and systems which not only resulted in an efficient structure but also resulted in new construction techniques and sequences. This presentation will review the structural design by SOM, which entailed a bundled tube structural/architectural concept organized on a strict modular system.



Willis Tower, Chicago

Camilo Villate and Brando Tamayo, “Technical Innovations in Bogota’s Modern Times: The Pan-American Life Insurance Building Case Study”

The Pan-American Life Insurance Building (Bogota, 1967), designed and built by Esguerra, Saenz, Urdaneta and Samper, embodies significant technological developments in the architecture, engineering and construction (AEC) industry in Colombia and worldwide. Caissons using reinforced concrete rings as the foundation system are used for one of the first times in this small building. Moreover it was constructed by assembling large prefabricated elements in a similar way as ships are constructed in a building yard, developing and using new and non-existing machinery, along with tensioning concrete systems based on local and own technology. These developments set an important precedent for the local and international concrete industry.

Mary Brush, “The Restoration of Chicago’s Skyscrapers”

Chicago’s primary contribution to Architecture and Engineering is the skyscraper. Now verging on 90 - 130 years old, our vintage structures are being restored. The restoration process has been greatly enhanced when the original documents have been available. The presentation will discuss the known value of original document resources for intellectual understanding of buildings - and how that knowledge has been applied in

the professional service of Architecture to the renewal of Chicago’s built heritage. Knowledge of construction history in dating historic fabric is vital and yet so often overlooked in the practice of architecture. Case studies will be presented where the original documents directly influenced contemporary design decisions in the restoration of Chicago’s vintage skyscrapers.

Gabriel Pardo Redondo and Berta de Miguel, “Perception of the Tower Building. New York 1889”

In 1889 the Tower Building, located at 50 Broadway in New York City, was completed. With eleven stories above ground the 40-meter building was the slenderest building ever built. Its height was six times its width; in comparison, the tallest building in the USA, the Auditorium Building in Chicago (84 m), was as tall as less than two times its width. As traditional construction with thick brick walls was impractical for a narrow lot, architect Bradford Lee Gilbert came up with a clever solution. He designed a 5-story brick-bearing-wall building over a 6-story metal-frame building. This building was rare at the time and still is subject to a broad analysis. It was the first time that the modern concept of skeleton construction was used in a building, and therefore it opened minds for the next generation of tall buildings. This presentation aims to discuss the perception of the Tower Building and, by analyzing the structure, clarify whether the people’s and engineers’ perception of peril was based on real assumptions.



Pan-American Building, Bogota

MEMBER'S NEWS

Peter Hilger

Peter is faculty co-director and instructor for the College of Continuing Education's Bachelor of Applied Science in Construction and Facility Management Program at the University of Minnesota. In March he was awarded one of the Morse-Alumni Distinguished Teaching Awards for excellence in undergraduate teaching.

Peter has been instrumental in arranging a distance learning course titled, "The Construction Industry Through Time and Tomorrow". This is an eight week course offering two credits. It traces the development of construction from early times to the present and speculates on future directions for the industry

Further information from Peter at aphilger@umn.edu

Benjamin Ibarra-Sevilla

Benjamin is an Assistant Professor of Architecture at the University of Texas at Austin. Recently he was awarded the University Cooperative Society Research Award for his work on Mixtec Stonecutting Artistry: 16th C. Ribbed Vaults in Mixteca, Mexico. This included a book on the subject and a travelling exhibit focusing on the complex vaults of three 16th C. churches in W. Oaxaco.

Benjamin is also leading the organization of the next CHSA Biennial Meeting which will be held in Austin, TX at the University of Texas in May 2016.

Further information from Benjamin at b.ibarra@utexas.edu

Please let us have any news or announcements you would like us to run in this newsletter.

COUNTRIES TO BE REPRESENTED AT 5 ICCH

United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Austria, Denmark, Mexico, China, Japan, Australia, Ireland, Brazil, Netherlands, Turkey, Switzerland, South Africa, Croatia, Columbia, New Zealand & Portugal.

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome a host of new members since January, many attracted by the visibility we have gained from the publicity for the Chicago Congress:

Cynthia Brubaker, Bloomington, IN

Denis McMullan, McMullan & Associates, Inc., (Corporate member)

John Lord, Component Assembly Systems, Midhurst, ON, Canada

Logan Wagner, Alarife LLC, Austin, TX

Judy Norinsky, Stamford, CT

Walter Henry, Centerville, MA

Patrick Anderson, Vancouver, BC, Canada (student member)

Neal Vogel, Restoric Inc., Chicago, IL

Jori Erdman, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

Joe Neussendorfer, US Construction Research, Livonia, MI

Michele Chiuni, Ball State University, Muncie, IN

Peter Lovell, Lovell Chen PTY, Inc., Melbourne, Australia

Ralph Ghoche, Columbia University, New York, NY

Vance Kelley, Treanor Architects, Topeka, KS

Caitlin Mueller, MIT, Boston, MA

Marie Ennis, Old Structures Engineering, New York, NY

Elyse McBride, SBC Global, St Louis, MO

Quentin Collette, Sparks Engineering Inc., Austin, TX

Bernadette Niederer, Historic Preservation, Albany, OR

David Pinyerd, Historic Preservation, Albany, OR

Jane Murphy, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

Maurice Schickler, PMI, Neptune, NJ

Laryn Karsnitz, LexWindows, Lexington, KY

Brandon Clifford, MIT, Boston MA

Eric Torkildson, Turner Construction, Wenatchee, WA

Ronald Anthony, Fort Collins, CO

Ed Buch, Cypress, CA

Sean Weiss, City College of New York, NY

Ann Sullivan, School of Art Institute of Chicago,

WHO WE ARE

The Society is dedicated to the study of the history and evolution of all aspects of the built environment—its creation, maintenance and management. It is a forum for scholars and professionals in the field to share, meet and exchange ideas and research.

Membership is open to a wide range of construction related disciplines involved in the planning, development, design and construction of buildings and engineering infrastructure, in addition to those concerned with their operation and preservation.

Members share a passion for examining how our existing structures were planned, designed and built, with the purpose of using this knowledge to better preserve what we have and to guide us in determining future directions.

The US branch of the Construction History Society is a distinct entity catering to the historical studies and interests of its members here in America. Membership in the US branch includes full benefits in CHS at large, including receipt of the Society's Journal and newsletter and links to scholars in the field worldwide.

CORRESPONDING SOCIETIES

Public Works Historical Society, www.pwhs.net

Historical Construction Equipment Association, www.hcea.net

Society of Architectural Historians, www.sah.org

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Brian Bowen (Chairman), GA Tech, Atlanta, GA

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Jeff Beard, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA

Jenn Cappeto, Cappeto Conservation LLC, Denver, CO

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Lee Gray, University of North Carolina, Charlotte, NC

Peter Hilger, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Donald Friedman, Old Structures Engineering, New York, NY

Stephen Buonopane, Bucknell University, PA

Rachel Will, Wiss Janney Elstner, Chicago, IL

Construction History Society Representative
James Campbell, Cambridge, UK

COMMITTEE ADVISORS

Frank Matero, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

John Ochsendorf, MIT, Cambridge, MA

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER AND THE ONLY VEHICLE WE HAVE TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH ONE ANOTHER.
SO PLEASE USE THIS TO LET US KNOW:

- * your interests in construction history, your current research, précis of recent lectures, etc.
- * books, texts & articles that your fellow readers should know about
- * names and e-addresses of colleagues and friends that we can include on our mailing list
- * if you are willing to write a brief article for us.

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