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7. International Conference on Industrialized Building Leipzig, 13 – 16 September 1988

The 8th International Conference on Industrialized Building took place in Leipzig, 13 – 16 September 1988.

The conference was centred on the topic «Function-oriented and resource-saving building». It was co-sponsored by the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering (IABSE).

The conference was prepared and arranged by

- Bauakademie der DDR,
- Bau- und Montagekombinat Chemie,
- Bau- und Montagekombinat Süd and
- Metalleichtbaukombinat.

The conference had the aim to submit a wide range of effective structural solutions for reducing material and energy consumption in construction as well as in running and maintaining buildings. In addition, functional solutions were to be presented which may cope with new tasks or which solve current problems in a new, original way.

The conference covered this topic in three parallel sections:

- Section 1: Function and design of buildings;
- Section 2: Preparation and production of structural materials;
- Section 3: Construction economics.

In Section 2, the most important theme was the technological computer-aided preparation of industrialised processes of construction. Papers presented showed that electronic data processing, firstly used for design applications, is now being applied, above all, to planning and management processes. Integrated computer-systems are increasingly involved in preparing building processes. Such systems are often formed by combining individual solutions.

In a special workshop arranged by the Working Commission IV of IABSE modern trends in applying computers to construction management were under investigation.

As a result of further industrialisation of the construction industry, optimisation of production processes was reviewed. Papers submitted to the conference reported on research on structural materials and their manufacturing processes, which provides the basis for a further industrialisation in the construction industry.

A number of papers looked at effective solutions of refurbishment problems. Numerous examples were given. The need for establishing closed materials cycles in refurbishment processes was stressed.

Problems of recycling demolition materials were not sufficiently discussed at the conference.

Section 1 considered planning and design problems, emphasising contributions to be made by builders to environment planning and ecology, energy-efficiency of buildings, further developments in thermal insulation of buildings as well as alternative energy sources.

New supporting structures and latest engineering research results were discussed, with improved composite construction, prestressed and trussed structures, as well as structural solutions of lift-slab construction playing an important role.

Theoretical contributions were devoted to a more exact understanding of the model of structural behaviour.

Considerable attention was also paid to problems of reliability and the lifetime of structures.

The relationship between damage risk and expenditure resulting from replacing structures in relation to time was analysed. There were contributions on the durability of reinforced concrete and the compressive strength of masonry.

In the field of civil engineering, problems of rationalising municipal supply mains, replacing pipes embedded in earth and preventing damage to them were discussed.

In Section 3 solutions of economic problems in building were reviewed. Extensive calculations concerning benefits and costs were called for to avoid the likelihood of unforeseen cost developments in running and maintaining buildings.

Economic difficulties due to the increasing integration of new buildings into existing districts in refurbishment work were investigated.

In connection with economic problems of techniques used and mechanisation in building, there is a growing demand for individuality in inner city building. In this respect economic aspects of some trends in industrialisation need to be reconsidered.

Papers dealing with problems of economies in materials considered among other things changes in cost patterns in building: the proportion of cost for traditional materials is decreasing, while the proportion of cost resulting from materials and components of mechanical services is increasing. Prices of recycled materials, especially from demolished buildings, have been insufficiently calculated so far.

The assessment of energy-efficiency of structures, and factors influencing energy consumption in flats were contained in several papers.

In a number of topics economic problems of building abroad were discussed.



Out of 300 papers submitted to the organizers, 229 papers were accepted, with 133 papers being presented in the conference. The conference proceedings covering 170 papers with about 1000 pages have been printed. In addition, principal papers will be published in the Scientific Journal of the Leipzig University of Technology.

The social programme offered conference participants performances in the Leipzig New Gewandhaus as well as specially arranged recitals. Excursions to Meissen and Dresden or Quedlinburg and Wernigerode, i.e. to cities or towns, where new building and preservation of architecturally valuable buildings are being integrated, were arranged.

The Ladies' Programme, covering three days of visits to places of cultural interest, greatly appealed to participants:

- Life and work of Johann Sebastian Bach in Leipzig
- Artistic handicraft in Saxony
- The Battle of the Nations in Leipzig.

The 8th International Conference on Industrialized Building in Leipzig was attended by 678 specialists from seventeen countries and Berlin (West).

*Peter Lipinski
Chairman of the Scientific Committee
IKIB 1988*

*Conference participants (from left to right):
Prof. Dr. sc. techn. Fiedler, Leipzig, member of the Scientific Committee;
Prof. Dr. sc. techn. Lipinski, Leipzig, Chairman of the Scientific Committee;
Prof. Dr. sc. techn. Altner, Leipzig, President of the University of Technology;
Prof. Dr.-Ing. Gebhardt, Berlin, GDR Deputy Minister of Building;
Prof. Dr.-Ing. Schlaich, Stuttgart, Member of the Scientific Committee;
Prof. Dr.-Ing. Peter, Stuttgart;
Dr.-Ing. Kozak, Bratislava;
Prof. Dr. sc. techn. Glas, Leipzig; Member of the Scientific Committee, Chairman of the GDR committee of IABSE.*