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## **Vorwort**

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**Foreword**

Fazlur R. Khan, prominent partner and senior structural engineer of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, Chicago, died March 27, 1982 during a business trip to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

"His structures will stand for years, and his ideas will never die." It was with these words the Engineering News Record editor concluded his tribute to Fazlur Khan. To honour that great engineer, the following pages are devoted to a description of some of his major works, illustrating just what the ENR editor had in mind. The descriptions were prepared by his colleagues — those who were his partners and collaborators at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill in projects of lasting impact on skylines the world over.

Born in Dacca, Bangladesh, Dr. Khan received his Bachelor of Engineering degree in 1950 from the University of Dacca and continued his education in the United States where he received his graduate degrees and the Doctor of Philosophy in structural engineering in 1955 from the University of Illinois. He joined Skidmore, Owings & Merrill in 1955 and remained with the firm until his death at age 52.

In addition to his work with Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, he was also an active member in many professional and cultural organizations. He published more than 75 technical papers in engineering and architectural journals on topics relating to the analysis, design, and construction of complex structures.

At the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, he was also an adjunct professor of architecture where he taught since 1961.

Among his many awards and honours, he was specially recognized by Engineering New Record in 1966, 1969, and 1971, and in 1972 was voted "Construction's Man of the Year." He received the Wason Medal for the most meritorious paper from ACI in 1971, the Lloyd Kimbrough Medal from AISC, and the Oscar Farber Medal from the Insti-

tution of Structural Engineers in London, both in 1973. He was a member of the National Academy of Engineering.

He received honorary doctorate degrees from Northwestern University (1973), Lehigh University (1980), and Die Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH), Zurich, Switzerland (1980).

Dr. Khan left behind him a legacy few men can equal. A legacy of buildings that will stand the test of time. A legacy of knowledge which he bestowed upon others. And a legacy of ideas which will sow the seeds for future buildings.

The engineering and architectural world knew Dr. Khan as an innovator of structural ideas which have been incorporated into many notable buildings, such as the Sears Tower (World's Tallest Building), the John Hancock Center (World's Tallest Multi-Use Building) and the HAJ Terminal (Fabric Structure covering the largest area at the International Airport in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia). He was masterful in dealing with structural form and strength in terms of function and aesthetics that have significantly impacted the architectural solutions.

We who were privileged to work with him in various professional activities quickly became aware not only of his keen intellect but also of his strong interest in people. The generosity with which he gave of his time beyond technical matters serves as a beacon and an example to all of us. It was more than interest that he showed. He genuinely cared about individuals.

The loss of Dr. Fazlur Khan to the engineering and architectural professions is irreplaceable. His passing leaves an equal void in the well of human concern and kindness to which he contributed in full and overflowing measure. It was our good fortune to reap the benefit from his professional, personal, and humanitarian generosity.

*Lynn S. Beedle and Hal Iyengar*