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Preface

The interest of IABSE covers a wide range of engineering disciplines, such as design, engineering, computation, planning and construction. This colloquium focusses attention on the 'Computational Mechanics of Concrete Structures'. In 1981 an earlier colloquium had been organized in Delft, at that time, announced as 'Advanced Mechanics of Reinforced Concrete'. The difference in the titles reflects the changes and the progress of the past 6 years. The colloquium in 1981 was one of the first to discuss the new trends in modern research on reinforced concrete. Basic experimental investigations as well as mathematical modelling of phenomena were under discussion then. At that time research matters predominated.

Meanwhile, many meetings have been organized and are being planned on the fundamentals of the mechanical behaviour of reinforced concrete. IABSE does not deny that this subject is still of current interest. But what's more, IABSE is greatly interested in the question of making the newly gained knowledge profitable for the construction industry. The present colloquium aims at highlighting two distinct topics: its intention is to report on progress in research; however, equally important is the other goal of applying the advanced nonlinear finite element tools in design and analysis. Said in another way, knowledge transfer from the researcher to the designer is the main objective now.

IABSE is an excellent platform to raise this matter, as scientists and designers collectively support this association of engineers who meet each other during its manifold and appreciated activities. I would like to extend my thanks to all authors, who, with their articles, have contributed towards an interesting Colloquium. My thanks also go to the IABSE-secretariat for their support, to the members of the Scientific Committee to act as such and to the members of the Organizing Committee for all their effort in that capacity. I readily hope and trust, that the 1987 Colloquium will be a complete success and that the participants will enjoy their stay in Delft.

Delft, August 1987

Prof. Johan Blauwendraad
Colloquium Chairman

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