

**Zeitschrift:** IABSE reports = Rapports AIPC = IVBH Berichte  
**Band:** 83 (1999)

**Artikel:** Study on a fram system with composite slim floors  
**Autor:** Mäkeläinen, Pentti / Malaska, Mikko  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-62953>

#### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

#### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

#### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 05.02.2026

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**



## Study on a Frame System with Composite Slim Floors

### Pentti MÄKELÄINEN

Professor, D.Sc

Helsinki Univ. of Techn.

Espoo, Finland

Pentti Mäkeläinen, born 1944, received his civil engineering degree in 1970 and his doctorate in 1976 from the Helsinki University of Technology (HUT). He is Professor of Steel Structures and the Head of the Steel Structures Laboratory at HUT since 1989.

### Mikko MALASKA

M.Sc.

Helsinki Univ. of Techn.

Espoo, Finland

Mikko Malaska, born 1967, received his civil engineering degree from the Helsinki University of Technology (HUT) in 1996. At present he is researcher at HUT and prepares his doctoral thesis on the behaviour of composite slim floor frames.

### Abstract

Building frame systems based on the slim floor construction have recently gained increasing success especially in the Northern and Western Europe. Slim floor construction is competitive with conventional construction based upon reinforced concrete and composite beam solutions when savings in fire protection, cladding costs and ease integration of services are taken into account. An extensive research project has been conducted in the Laboratory of Steel Structures at Helsinki University of Technology to investigate and improve the existing methods in the slim floor design and construction. By combining the results of the structural detailing and the frame overall assembly studies, this research will establish a basis for developing a structurally competitive and cost-effective steel-concrete composite slim floor frame system and ensures an optimized quality for both the design and construction of the frame system.

Nowadays, greater flexibility and open-planning in building layout are required and there is a strong demand for longer column-free floor spans. Due to the small structural depth of a slim floor, special attention should be paid in the design to increase the overall flexural stiffness of the floor. Traditional simplified floor design approaches, based on pinned or rigid connections, can not lead to the most economical solutions. Especially in the slim floor construction, it is important to connect the floor rigid or semi-rigid to the columns in order to get higher stiffness and strength, and higher lowest natural frequency for the floor. The partial continuity provided by multi-span continuous structures and semi-rigid beam-to-column connections is an important factor affecting the floor performance and allowing significant reductions in the floor depth, permitting shallower and lighter beams and reducing the overall cost of the floor system. Lot of research has been done and many national standards and design recommendations have been published recently on the slim floor design and construction. To establish a basis for the design and further development of the slim floor construction, this research project at Helsinki University of Technology is started.

In the slim floor construction, the beams are contained within the depth of the concrete of the slab and the concrete is cast to fill the voids around the steel beams in order to increase the fire resistance, the sound insulation and the strength and the stiffness of the beams. In this research, the capacities of the most common slim floor beam sections are analysed and compared. Calculations are carried out for single-span, two-span continuous and single-span precambered beams in order to find out the maximum floor spans and the critical design conditions for the slim floor beam.

In practice, the reinforcement in a concrete slab contributes to the resistance and the stiffness of the beam-to-column connection and the majority of the connections may be considered as semi-

rigid with a partial resistance. The modelling of connections as semi-rigid is more realistic and it utilizes the semi-continuity between the members of a frame offering a potential for significant benefits. Satisfactory prediction models are currently proposed covering the most popular connection forms in conventional composite frames and manuals including tabulated connection capacities for standard connections are prepared for designers. For slim floor systems, the application rules available are very few in number and further research is required in order to realize the benefits of the semi-continuity also in the design of composite slim floor frames. Ongoing extensive research project at Helsinki University of Technology focuses on the behaviour of the semi-rigid connections in a frame system consisting of slim floor elements. At present, the beam to I-shape steel column connections are widely studied internationally. A new technology is necessary to connect the slim floors to the tubular composite columns and the methods approximating the moment-rotation ( $M-\phi$ ) curve of the connection for this type of connection should be created. The experimental part of the research project, including full-scale beam-to-column connection tests for a slim floor subframe will be carried out by spring 1999.

The main objective of this study was to analyse both experimentally and theoretically the behaviour of the low-rise composite slim floor frames and to develop a structurally efficient frame system with a high construction quality. The influence of the new stricter requirements for the fire and sound insulations in the building frame is studied and applied for the slim floor structures. To achieve long column-free floor spans, the continuity of the beam connections is to be taken into account in the frame design. Final results of this research project for developing a new slim floor frame system will be collected and analysed after the extensive full-scale testing on the frame system.

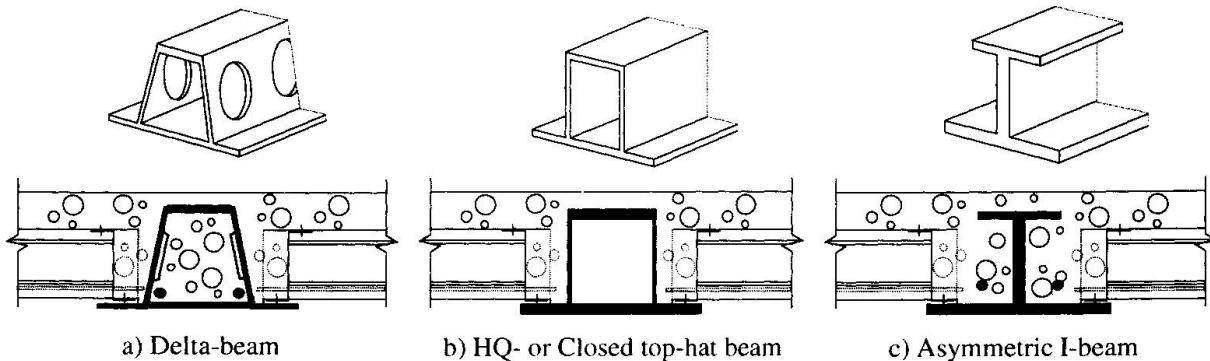


Fig. 1 Slim floor beam sections.

**Keywords:** Composite construction; steel-concrete; slim floor; frame; semi-rigid connection