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Preface

As the new millennium comes closer, the theme of the Symposium is very appropriate. In designing and building **Structures for the Future**, structural engineers have to constantly keep in mind **the Search for Quality**. This reaffirms the great responsibility that structural engineers carry, to build safe and durable structures to serve society.

Ten sessions have been created to address the Symposium's theme "Structures for the Future – the Search for Quality":

- Durability and Robustness
- Aesthetics
- Sustainability
- Maintenance and Reliability
- Monitoring
- Serviceability
- Design Criteria
- Rehabilitation and Preservation
- Information Technology
- Construction.

The Scientific Committee encouraged authors to address relevant topics in the search for quality, not only in structural topics but also others, such as "Aesthetics" or "Sustainability". It is fortunate that a number of interesting contributions have been submitted for these two topics, although the majority of offerings from our membership and other structural engineers concerned "Durability and Robustness", "Information Technology", "Rehabilitation and Preservation", "Design Criteria".

More than 400 abstracts were submitted and this Symposium Report contains the extended abstracts of ten Keynote Lectures and 150 papers and posters accepted by the Scientific Committee for publication and presentation. The CD-ROM enclosed in this book contains the full version of the contributions (corresponding to 12 pages for each Keynote Lecture and 8 pages for each paper and poster).

The Scientific Committee was highly selective in accepting both initial abstracts and final papers and posters. As a result, I am confident that the resulting product will meet the high standards of IABSE and satisfy the expectations of the Symposium participants as well as readers of these proceedings.

I would like to express my appreciation to the authors for their efforts in submitting and preparing their contributions. I would like also to thank the members of the Scientific Committee who carefully prepared the programme of the Symposium and reviewed the contributions. The result is indeed a source of information and a well of ideas for the continuing evolution of structural engineering, hopefully better integrated into our environment.

I wish also to add my personal thanks to those of all members and staff of IABSE to the Organising Committee and its Chairman, Prof. Sergio Marques de Souza, for their dedicated preparation of the meetings in Rio de Janeiro. They have provided for excellent opportunities of personal contacts, professional and social, thus contributing to the expected overall success of the 1999 Symposium of IABSE.

New York, July 1999

Robert Silman
Chairman, Scientific Committee