

Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat

Cities in the Third Millennium

6th World Congress of the Council On Tall
Buildings and Urban Habitat

26 February to 2 March, 2001

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MELBOURNE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
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Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat

Cities in the Third Millennium

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Melbourne Convention Centre
Melbourne, Australia

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Foreword

The Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat began life in 1969 as the “Joint Committee on Tall Buildings,” a group formed by the International Association of Bridge and Structural Engineering and the American Society of Civil Engineers. Today, civil/structural engineering – indeed, all of engineering – represents only a small part of the Council’s field of activity.

The First World Congress, held in Bethlehem in 1972, was titled “Planning and Design of Tall Buildings” and focused primarily on technical aspects of skyscrapers. The Sixth World Congress, 29 years later and half a world away, is subtitled “Cities of The Third Millennium” and focuses equally on tall buildings and the urban habitat of which the buildings form an integral part.

These changes reflect the ways in which, at the start of the twenty-first century, the “why” of tall buildings has become as important as the “how.” Technology, especially structural technology, plays an increasingly small role today in determining how tall a skyscraper can be, or whether it should be built at all. The more important consideration is that the building be compatible with the way people choose to live and work.

Another important development is that tall buildings are no longer an American preserve: Thirteen of the twenty tallest buildings in the world were built in the last 20 years; eleven of the thirteen are in Asia; only one is in North America. Many of the Asian buildings in the current top-twenty used American technology and expertise, but this is just a passing phase. Knowledge in the twenty-first century does not recognize geographic or national boundaries.

The Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat has worked throughout its existence to lower the barriers to the free flow of knowledge between disciplines and nations. The Council is, today, the only organization in the world in its field that is both multidisciplinary and truly international.

The Council’s 60 topical committees are organized into eight Topical Groups that cover Urban Systems, Development and Management, Planning and Architecture, Building Systems and Concepts, Building Service Systems, Design Criteria and Loads, Tall Steel Buildings, and Tall Concrete and Masonry Buildings. The Council’s general membership is drawn from 77 countries; the majority of the governing Steering Group are from outside North America; there are Vice Chairmen representing all regions of the world.

The Sixth World Congress in Melbourne represents the clearest celebration yet of the Council's interdisciplinary and international character. There is equal emphasis on "Tall Buildings" and the "Urban Habitat." A broad range of disciplines is covered, from the social sciences to engineering. Speakers and case studies are drawn from around the world.

People everywhere who care about tall buildings and the urban habitat owe a debt of gratitude to the volunteers and staff who have labored for five years to organize this event, under the able leadership of Ron Klemencic, Congress Chairman and member of the Council's Executive Committee, and Jamie Learmonth, Chairman of the Melbourne Organizing Committee.

R. Shankar Nair

Chairman, Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat

Preface

Each of the Council's congresses gets closer and closer to the "urban habitat" that is part of its title. The organizers of this, the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat's 6th World Congress, have succeeded in that notably, placing urban habitat as the first of its two main streams.

This volume contains the papers submitted in time to meet the publisher's deadline. Following the Congress a second volume will be published – papers that are submitted after the deadline and those that were available at the time of the Congress (see the announcement in the back of this book). The arrangement of these Proceedings corresponds to the Council's topical groups, an arrangement that is fortuitous since it is consistent with the thrust and theme of the Congress. Perhaps that arrangement shows that the Council's leadership truly believes that people – and the "Life and Work" aspects are the driving force for the buildings.

The theme title, "Cities in the Third Millennium" shows a bold stroke by the Melbourne organizers. If one looks back at the changes in the Second Millennium – and what brought them about – one would come to the conclusion that, while plans for the immediate future are essential, those for the millennium are quite impossible. How could one have planned in the year 1000 for a city in the 1990's that was driven by the Internet?

It's even difficult to make plans for the short term, but a review of the papers show that the congress promises to achieve the goal of a vision for a meaningful future. Actually it would be interesting to see what kinds of projections were made (or implied) in our prior congresses. How good were they? For how long a time period? Were the suggestions realized? And what will be the reaction of those making plans for our cities of the Fourth Millennium that was said in Melbourne at the beginning of the Third?

We both commend and thank Jamie Learmonth, Chairman of the Melbourne Organizing Committee and Ron Klemencic, Chairman of the Congress Committee of the CTBUH. We would also like to thank the CTBUH Headquarters staff for their part in making the Congress a reality: Geri Kery, manager of Financial Operations, Abdullah Rahim Abdussalam and the staff of undergraduate and graduate students. We are indebted to the Council's organizational members and the many sponsors of the Congress – identified earlier.

Finally, we thank Council Chairman R. Shankar Nair for his guidance and deep commitment to the Council's mission.

Lynn S. Beedle
Director Emeritus