Construction Defects, Failures, and Repairs
(i.e. Learn From the Mistakes of Others)

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Managing Engineer

Introductions

• Paul Bennett, M.S., P.E., CBIE
  – Managing Engineer
  • Residential & Commercial Design & Construction
  • 2008 Outstanding Professional of the Year Award for Larimer County
  • Failure Investigation
Learning Objectives

At the end of this program, participants will be able to:

1. Students will understand how to correctly apply the 2012 IBC and IEBC to repairs of damaged structures

2. Students will understand the most common construction defects and how to prevent them as designers, builders, plan reviewers, and inspectors

3. Students will learn how to prevent future damages from various case studies
Consulting Staff

- Masters: 33%
- Doctorates: 50%
- Bachelors: 17%

Exponent Offices

- Chicago: Maynard, Natick, Downtown Chicago, Warrenville
- Denver
- Detroit
- Houston
- Miami
- New York
- Philadelphia
- Phoenix
- Seattle
- Southern California: Irvine, Los Angeles
- Boston: Waltham, Natick, Maynard
- Washington, DC: District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia
- San Francisco Bay Area: Menlo Park, Oakland
- Basel
- Atlanta
- Hong Kong
- India
- London
- Dusseldorf
- Hangzhou
- Istanbul
- Mexico City
- Mexico
- Moscow
- Munich
- Nagoya
- Paris
- Prague
- Shanghai
- Tel Aviv
- Tokyo
- Toronto
- Vienna
- Zurich

Introductions

- Hot Dogs and Attorneys
Lesson Plan

- Repair Solutions and Guidelines
  - Ch 34 IBC and IEBC
  - Case Studies in Applying IEBC
- Importance of Studying Failures
  - Famous Failures
- Most Common Types of Construction Defects Case Studies
  - Ventilation
  - Moisture Intrusion (Building Envelope Failure)
  - Structural

Code Background

- Why do Building Codes Even Exist?
  - Aren’t they in place just to make the building cost more?
  - Or are they in place to protect innocent bystanders?

Code Background

- Purpose
  - Minimum Requirements for Public Safety
- History
  - Fire
  - Stability
  - Life Safety
Code Background

AN ORDINANCE

TO REGULATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS IN THE CITY OF DENVER.

As is required by the City Council of the City of Denver:

ARTICLE I.

SECTION 1. REPAIRS.

IN GENERAL: The reconstruction or removal of any part of a structure or any additions connected with the structure shall be maintained in good order and repair, without change in its fire risk, strength or sanitation, and not made for the purpose of converting the structure, in whole or in part, into a new one.

SECTION 2. CONCRETE:

Concrete: A mortar made of cement, sharp sand and clean broken stone not larger than hen's eggs, the stone to be thoroughly mixed when dry and then add only sufficient water to make a stiff

Repair Design

• Is the Code silent?

• IRC Appendix J
• 2012 IBC (CH 34)
• 2012 IEBC
Repair Design

• Problem: No consistency among design professionals when evaluating existing buildings
• Solution: Chapter 34/IEBC
• Designers and Officials:
  – Understand what the Codes Require
  – Apply it and Enforce it
• Designers:
  – You can ask for more but make clear it is voluntary
  – Don’t be the EOR if you don’t like it

Repair Design

• Some major changes to the repair design chapters in the ’12 code

Fundamental Questions

• What Repairs Are Necessary To Restore The Structure To Pre-loss Condition?
• Upgrades To Elements That Have Sustained Direct Physical Damage
• Upgrades To Undamaged Building Elements
• Code-upgrades
Repair Solutions Per IBC and IEBC
• Pandora's Box
• Where do you stop??
• What does the Code say??

Building Codes
• 1997 Uniform Building Code (UBC)
• 2003 International Building Code (IBC)
• 2006 International Building Code (IBC)
• 2009 International Building Code (IBC)
• 2012 International Building Code (IBC)

UBC Repair Provisions
• 1997 UBC
  – Chapter 34
  – Cannot Create An Unsafe Condition
    • Cannot Increase Loads On Structural Components Beyond Their Capacity
    • Cannot Obstruct Egress
    • Cannot Reduce Fire Resistance
IBC Definitions

• What is an existing building?
  – A structure erected prior to the date of adoption of the appropriate code, or one for which a legal building permit has been issued – 2006, 9, 12 IBC and IEBC
  – Chapter 2 in 2012

IBC Chapter 34 Overview

• 3404.2 Flood hazard areas must be upgraded if the repairs or alterations are a “substantial improvement”
  – Note: Substantial improvement can be triggered by substantial damage

IBC Chapter 34 Overview

• 2003, 2006 Section 3403 Additions, Alterations or Repairs
  – 3403.2 Structural
    – Additions or alterations to an existing structure shall not increase the force in any structural element by more than 5 percent, unless the increased forces on the element are still in compliance with the code for new structures, nor shall the strength of any structural element be decreased to less than that required by this code for new structures. Where repairs are made to structural elements of an existing building, and uncovered structural elements are sound or otherwise structurally deficient, such elements shall be made to conform to the requirements for new structures.
IBC Chapter 34 Overview

- Historic Buildings Section 3409
  - Definition:
    - Buildings that are listed in or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or designated historic under an appropriate state or local law.
  - Provisions not applicable where the AHJ has determined the building does not constitute a distinct life safety hazard.
  - Flood hazard rehabilitation not required for substantial improvement if Historic

IBC Chapter 34 Overview

- Section 3403 Additions, Alterations or Repairs
  - 3403.1 Portions of the structure not altered and not affected by the alteration are not required to comply with the code requirements of a new structure.
    - 2003, 2006 IBC
    - Much Different in 2009 IBC

IBC Repair Provisions

- 2009, 2012 IBC Repairs
- Repaired Elements Shall Be Upgraded
- Provisions For Undamaged Components
**IBC Upgrades**

- 2009, 2012 IBC Chapter 34, Very different chapter
- A new repair section is now in place
  - Explicit that new and replacement materials must meet current code, 3401.4.2

**IBC Upgrades**

- 2009, 2012 IBC Chapter 34, Very different chapter
  - Substantial Structural Damage to:
    - Lateral System
      - Entire building must be rehabilitated to be in conformance with the new code
    - Gravity System
      - Only the damaged members and those that receive loads from them need to be upgraded

**IBC Upgrades**

- 2009, 2012
  - New Definitions for Dangerous
  - Dangerous conditions upgrades are up to the Building Official
  - Reads like 2006 IEBC
IBC Upgrades

• 2012 Chapter 34 IBC
• Prior to 2009 There was no Definition of Dangerous in IBC, see IEBC

Dangerous Building

• IBC Section 202; 2003, 2006 IBC – Definition Of Dangerous

DANGEROUS. Any building, structure, or portion thereof that means any of the conditions described below shall be deemed dangerous:

1. The building or structure has collapsed, has partially collapsed, has moved off its foundation or lacks the necessary support of the ground.

2. There exists a significant risk of collapse, detachment or dislodgment of any portion, member, appurtenance or ornamentation of the building or structure under service loads.

3408.5 Dangerous conditions. The building official shall have the authority to require the elimination of conditions deemed dangerous.

IBC Upgrades

• 2009, 2012 Chapter 34 IBC – Dangerous:
IBC Upgrades

• Dangerous in 1991 UCADB:

1. Where any door, slide, passageway, stairway or other means of exit is less than 20 feet from the edge of an exit or any other means of exit is less than 10 feet from the edge of an exit.

2. Where any building or structure is not so arranged or equipped to permit the means of exit to be used in an emergency.

3. Where any building or structure is not so arranged or equipped to permit the means of exit to be used in an emergency.

4. Where any building or structure is not so arranged or equipped to permit the means of exit to be used in an emergency.

5. Where any building or structure is not so arranged or equipped to permit the means of exit to be used in an emergency.

6. Where any building or structure is not so arranged or equipped to permit the means of exit to be used in an emergency.

7. Where any building or structure is not so arranged or equipped to permit the means of exit to be used in an emergency.

8. Where any building or structure is not so arranged or equipped to permit the means of exit to be used in an emergency.
IBC Upgrades

- 2012 Chapter 34 IBC

**SUBSTANTIAL STRUCTURAL DAMAGE.** A condition where:

1. In any story, the vertical elements of the lateral force-resistant system have suffered damage such that the lateral force-resisting capacity of the structure in any horizontal direction has been reduced by more than 25 percent from its predamage condition; or

2. The capacity of any vertical gravity load-carrying component, or any group of such components, that supports more than 50 percent of the total area of the structure's floors and roofs has been reduced more than 20 percent from its predamage condition and the remaining capacity of such affected elements, with respect to all dead and live loads, is less than 75 percent of that required by this code for new buildings of similar structure, purpose and location.

- 2012 Chapter 34 IBC - Changes

- SSD Definition, Changed from 20% to 33%

- What if SSD is not Triggered?
  - No Problem, Repair in Place 3405.4

3405.4 *Less than substantial structural damage.* For damage less than substantial structural damage, repairs shall be allowed that restore the building to its pre-damage state, based on material properties and design strengths applicable at the time of original construction. New structural members and connections used for this repair shall comply with the detailing provisions of this code for new buildings of similar structure, purpose and location.
IBC Upgrades

• 2012 Chapter 34 IBC - Changes
• Less than SSD, Clarified its Material Strengths we are Using.

IBC Upgrades

• 2012 Chapter 34 IBC - Changes
• SSD to Lateral System

IBC Upgrades

• 2012 Chapter 34 IBC - Changes
• What if SSD to Lateral System?
IBC Upgrades

• 2012 Chapter 34 IBC - Changes
• New Exceptions

Exceptions:
1. Buildings assigned to Seismic Design Category A, B, or C whose structural damage was not caused by an earthquake and not evaluated or rehabilitated for load combinations that include earthquake effects.
2. One- and two-family dwellings need not be evaluated or rehabilitated for load combinations that include earthquake effects.

IBC Upgrades

• 2012 Chapter 34 IBC -

3405.2.1 Evaluation. The building shall be evaluated by a registered design professional, and the evaluation findings shall be submitted to the building official. The evaluation shall establish whether the damaged building, if required to its pre-damage state, would comply with the provisions of this code for wind and earthquake loads.

Wind loads for this evaluation shall be those prescribed in Section 1609. Earthquake loads for this evaluation, if required, shall be permitted to be 75 percent of those prescribed in Section 1613.

3405.2.2 Extent of repair for compliant buildings. If the evaluation establishes compliance of the pre-damage building in accordance with Section 3405.2.1, then repairs shall be permitted that restore the building to its pre-damage state, based on material properties and design strengths applicable at the time of original construction.

IBC Upgrades

• 2012 Chapter 34 IBC -

3405.2.3 Extent of repair for noncompliant buildings. If the evaluation does not establish compliance of the pre-damage building in accordance with Section 3405.2.1, then the building shall be rehabilitated to comply with applicable provisions of this code for load combinations that include wind or seismic loads. The wind loads for the repair shall be as required by the building code in effect at the time of original construction, unless the damage was caused by wind, in which case the wind loads shall be as required by this code. Earthquake loads for this rehabilitation design shall be those required for the design of the pre-damage building, but not less than 75 percent of those prescribed in Section 1613. New structural members and connections required by this rehabilitation design shall comply with the detailing provisions of this code for new buildings of similar structure, purpose and location.
IBC Upgrades

• 2012 Chapter 34 IBC – Changes
• What if SSD to Gravity System?

3405.3 Substantial structural damage to gravity load-carrying components. Gravity load-carrying components that have sustained substantial structural damage shall be rehabilitated to comply with the applicable provisions of this code for dead and live loads. Snow loads shall be considered if the substantial structural damage was caused by or related to snow load effects. Existing gravity load-carrying structural elements shall be permitted to be designed for live loads approved prior to the damage. Undamaged gravity load-carrying components that receive dead, live or snow loads from rehabilitated components shall also be rehabilitated or shown to have the capacity to carry the design loads of the rehabilitation design. New structural members and connections required by this rehabilitation design shall comply with the detailing provisions of this code for new buildings of similar structure, purpose and location.

IBC Upgrades

• 2012 Chapter 34 IBC – Changes
• What if SSD to Gravity System?

3405.1 Lateral force-resisting elements. Regardless of the level of damage to vertical elements of the lateral force resisting system, if substantial structural damage to gravity load-carrying components was caused primarily by wind or earthquake effects, then the building shall be evaluated in accordance with Section 3405.2.1, and if noncompliant, rehabilitated in accordance with Section 3405.2.3.

Exceptions:
1. One- and two-family dwellings need not be evaluated or rehabilitated for load combinations that include earthquake effects.
2. Buildings assigned to Seismic Design Category A, B, or C whose substantial structural damage was not caused by earthquake need not be evaluated or rehabilitated for load combinations that include earthquake effects.

The Building Code and Requirements for Damaged Structures.
Prepared for the Mayor, City of LA.
IBC Upgrades

• 2012 Chapter 34 IBC – Changes
• What About Fires, Decay, Vehicle Impact?
• 2015 Code Cycle

Code Upgrade Controversy

• What if only one member broke but the remaining members look likely to collapse?
• This still meets the definition of dangerous in 2009 and is up to AHJ
A dilemma is presented:
– If only 20% of the building is damaged by a major event, isn’t that what we hoped for?

- ASCE 7-05 Section 1.4 “capable of resisting those loads without collapse”
- Life Safety: Structural damage without partial or total collapse which might pose a risk to life
- Collapse Prevention: Damage (structural or non-structural) which exceeds 30% of replacement value

Engineering analysis:
- How can you investigate a structure without destructive testing?
- Usually you can find ways
- Assumptions may have to be made
Code Upgrade Controversy

• For 2009:
  – The engineer is not required to evaluate more than the damaged member unless SSD thresholds are triggered
  – Dangerous is much more liberal and is not mandated to be abated
  – This solves the Denver snow example dilemma
  – But new dilemma’s are created, such as:

Case Study – Unreinforced Masonry
Investigation

- Jurisdiction has accepted IEBC
  - Qualifies as dangerous
  - Qualifies as substantial structural damage
  - Rebuild entire structure

- If chapter 2006 IBC Ch 34 were used:
  - Repair damage per IBC

Case Study – Unreinforced Masonry

- Lessons Learned
  - Unreinforced masonry structures will often require great repairs under this code

Case Study – Unreinforced Masonry

- Masonry Building, SDC ‘D’
- Partial Roof Collapse Under Snow Loads
- Which Code?
Dangerous?

• Historic Building
• Two Previous Fires
The Study of Failures

Importance of Failures

• Importance of studying failures
• We Learn From our Past Mistakes
  – GEN X & Y don’t believe it until you prove it

Caveats

• A view from the dark side
  – Overall performance of our building stock is excellent – catastrophic failures are rare
  – Performance, financial, and aesthetic failures are all too common
• Failures are powerful learning tools
  – Reminder of our responsibilities
  – Reminder of fallibility of our systems
  – Advance understanding and practice
• Structure-centric
The Code of Hammurabi – 1730BC

• If a builder builds a house for some one, and does not construct it properly, and the house which he built falls in and kills its owner, then that builder shall be put to death.

Failure Trajectory

The Devil is in the Details – Mighty Failures From Little Acorns Grow

For want of a nail, the shoe was lost.
For want of a shoe, the horse was lost.
For want of a horse, the rider was lost.
For want of a rider, the battle was lost.
For want of a battle, the kingdom was lost.
And all for the want of a horseshoe nail.
A Designer’s Worst Nightmare

Famous Failures

• Hyatt Regency Walkway
  – Walkways suspended by six 32mm hanger rods
  – Opened in 1980, 4 years to construct
  – July 17, 1981, 2000 ppl on atrium and walkways
  – Walkways collapsed, 114 killed, 200+ injured
Design Phase – Bridge Connection

- No rod size
- No reaction
- No rod strength

Changes During Shop Drawings
- Requested two rods by phone
- Approved by phone with caveat “submit through channels”

Design Drawings vs. Shop Drawings

Changes During Shop Drawings
- Requested two rods by phone
- Approved by phone with caveat “submit through channels”

The shop drawings are checked by a technician who did not work on the project. Questions are raised about the strength of the rod.
Design Drawings vs. Shop Drawings

* THIS CONNECTION WAS NEVER DESIGNED, NEVER DRAWN AND NEVER SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

Famous Failures

* Investigation revealed:
  - An impractical original design
  - No redundancy
  - Engineer approved contractor's change without performing calculations
  - Connection was near failure with just dead load
  - Even if the detail wasn't changed it likely would have failed due to inadequate bearing area

Famous Failures

* Lessons Learned
  - Redundancy is a good thing
  - Failures often occur at small connections, not big picture items
  - Peer review needs to be thorough
World Trade Center Towers

- 110 Stories
- 1362/1368' Tall
- Tallest buildings constructed since Empire State Bldg in 1931
- 9,500,000 Sq. Ft.
- Designed to withstand impact of B-707
- Public Works Project

World Trade Center Towers

- First use of wind tunnel for design
- Research regarding human tolerance for motion
- First use of structural dampers
- First use of computer for design
- Very lightweight structures
- First use of sky lobbies
- Many more...

Lightweight, highly optimized structure
Modular Construction
- Modular fabrication and erection techniques
- Three story high columns connected by deep spandrel plates (Trees)
  - Trees fabricated in shop, transported to site and erected
  - Tree modules staggered to offset column splices
  - Floors were 4-inch lightweight concrete over 1-1/2-in. metal deck (22 gauge)

Impact and Damage to WTC 2
- 78th to 84th floor affected
- 33 exterior columns severed; 1 heavily damaged
- 10 core columns severed; 1 heavily damaged
- 39 of 47 core columns stripped of insulation on one or more floors.
- Insulation stripped from trusses covering 80,000 ft² of floor area.
- Structure retained integrity and strength for 56 minutes

Simulation of Damage to WTC 2
Why not immediate collapse?

Redundancy & Redistribution of Load

- Column strains before and 10 minutes after impact on WTC-1
- Schematic of hat truss
Why Ultimate Collapse?

Fire Ignition

• At impact, each aircraft contained ~10,000 gallons of fuel
• Between 1,000 and 3,000 gallons of fuel consumed in fireballs
• Rest flowed down tower or remained on impact floors
• Most of remaining jet fuel consumed within first few minutes of fire
• Burning fuel ignited combustibles present on affected floors
Fire Development

- Since fire protection systems compromised, fire development and growth was unchecked
- Ceiling temperatures approximately 800 – 2000 °F (depending on location, fuel load, and ventilation)
- High temperatures heated structural steel within towers

Structural Response to Fire Loading

- Impact compromised fireproofing
- Elevated stress on columns due to impact and destroyed elements
- Portions of framing directly below partially collapsed area carried substantially greater loads
- Fire spread and raised temperatures further weakened structure until unable to support weight.

Structural Response to Fire Loading

- As floor framing and slabs
Progression of Collapse

• As unsupported height of freestanding columns increased, they buckled at bolted column splice connections and collapsed
• Initiation of collapse converted potential energy into kinetic energy
• Progressive failure as floors above accelerated and impacted floor below

OK City & WTC Lessons

• Increased attention to Progressive Collapse (Disproportionate Collapse)
• Increased attention to relationship between fire ratings and structural systems
• Increased attention to fire safety in highrises

OK City & WTC Lessons

• Collapse mechanisms are readily explainable if structural systems are understood
• No need for, nor legitimate evidence of, any conspiracy related to structural damage and collapse
Closure

• Most failures are a sequence or intersection of multiple events and are preceded by warning signals
  – Heeding warning signals averts failure!
• The Devil is in the details
  – A chain is only as strong as its weakest link!
• Innovate and create, but
  – Be skeptical

Case Studies in Failures

Construction Defect Case Studies!!
Construction Defects

“As every dam engineer knows, water also has one job, and that is to get past anything in its way” – Macauley 2000

Moisture Intrusion

• Building science
  – Many materials are porous
  – Know the product, EIFS, Stucco, Flashing, Roofing, etc..
  – Ask for installation instructions

Case Study – Moisture Intrusion

• Background
  – 3 Year Old Home
  – $1.1 Million
  – Above Grade Deck with Outdoor Living Area Below
  – Water Damage to Soffit Below Deck and Walk Out Basement
  – EIFS Bulging
  – Rim Joist EIFS Detaching
Case Study – Moisture Intrusion

Case Study – Moisture Intrusion

Case Study – Moisture Intrusion
Case Study – Moisture Intrusion

• Background:
  – Finished Above Grade Deck
Case Study – Moisture Intrusion
**Inadequate Ventilation**

- Attic Ventilation
  - First Required in 1964 UBC
    - “Enclosed attics shall have clear ventilation area to the outside of not less than one square inch (1 sq. in.) per ten square feet (10 sq. ft.) of horizontal attic area.”

**Inadequate Ventilation**

- Attic Ventilation Code Changes
  - 1967 UBC
  - Cross Ventilation
  - 1991 UBC
    - Vapor Barriers

**Inadequate Ventilation**

- Language in the Code:

  "The net free ventilating area shall not be less than 1/150 of the area of the space ventilated, except that the area may be 1/300 provided at least 50 percent of the required ventilated area is provided by ventilators located in the upper portion of the space to be ventilated at least three feet (3') above eave or cornice vents.”
Inadequate Ventilation

• Why ??
  – Summer
    • Heat Build Up In Daytime
      – +70 Degrees
    • Cool Down At Night
      Adds Moisture Into Insulation

Inadequate Ventilation

• National Design Specification (Wood Code)
  – Sustained exposure to elevated temperatures up to 150 degrees results in up to a 50% decrease in the structural capacity of a wood member.

Inadequate Ventilation

• National Design Specification (Wood Code)
  – Sustained moisture contents of greater than 19% results in up to a 33% decrease in the structural capacity of a wood member.
  – Elevated Temperatures and Moisture Content results in accelerated “creep” deflection.
Attic Ventilation

Inadequate Ventilation

[Diagram: Attic Ventilation]

Inadequate Ventilation

[Image: Inadequate Attic Ventilation]

Inadequate Ventilation

[Image: Inadequate Attic Ventilation]
Inadequate Ventilation

• Summary
  – Heat-Cool Cycle
    • Causes Condensation
    • Reduces Strength of Wood
    • Causes Wood to Rot
    • Causes Wood to Deflect

Case Study – Inadequate Ventilation

• Background
  – 7 Year Old Commercial Buildings
  – Smells Musty
Case Study – Inadequate Ventilation

• Lessons Learned
  – All attic areas need ventilation
  – Accomplished GC’s make mistakes

Case Study – Inadequate Ventilation

• Background
  – 7 Year Old Home
  – Stick Framed Roof
  – Depressions in Roof
  – I’ve Been Doing in That way for 30 years….
Case Study – Inadequate Ventilation

Lessons Learned
– Stick Framed Roofs Need Ventilation
– Past Experience is Not Always a Good Indication of Future Performance
Construction Defects

Structural

"When utilizing past experience in the design of a new structure we proceed by analogy and no conclusion by analogy can be considered valid unless all the vital factors involved in the cases subject to comparison are practically identical. Experience does not tell us anything about the nature of these factors and many engineers who are proud of their experience do not even suspect the conditions required for the validity of their mental operations. Hence our practical experience can be very misleading unless it combines with it a fairly accurate conception of the mechanics of the phenomena under consideration."

- Karl Terzaghi 1939

Case Study – Structural

• Background
  – Recently Completed Riding Arena
  – PEMB
  – SNOW!!
  – RAM Tough™
PEMB Design: EOR

• Really That Important?

• Answer is... YES!

• Engineer-of-Record (EOR):
  – Design Load Oversight
  – Coordination Between Trades and Engineers
  – Coordination Between Engineers

Case Study – Structural

• Lessons Learned
  – Dodge’s are strong
  – Knowledge of AutoCad...
  – Understand PEMB’s
  – EOR is CRITICAL!!!
Case Study – Structural

• **Background**
  – PEMB
  – Snow Load Problems

Case Study – Structural

• **Alleged Defects**
  – Inadequate Resistance to Snow Load
  – Inadequate Foundations
  – Design Errors

Case Study – Structural

• **Issues:**
  – Large Expansive Roofs and Drifting
  – Ground Snow vs. Roof Snow
  – Failure in 2003, 2006
  – Reduction of Snow Loads (0.7)
  – Importance Factor
  – ASD vs. LRFD
  – Unique Design of Moment Frames
  – Load Paths
• Background
  – PEMB
  – Aircraft Hanger