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## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATIONS



# PRESS RELEASE

## NCSEA Announces Award Winners

*Impressive array of winners at the 2009 NCSEA Excellence in Structural Engineering Awards*

**Chicago, October 23, 2009:** The National Council of Structural Engineers Associations (NCSEA) announced the 2009 Excellence in Structural Engineering Awards during its 17th Annual Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona on October 17, 2009. Surpassing last year's record number, this was the most challenging contest for the judges yet. The award winning projects and structural engineering firms are as follows:

### **New Buildings Under \$30 Million**

Outstanding Project: Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center by *Beaudette Consulting Engineers, Inc.*<sup>1</sup>

#### Award Finalists

Project Frog Modular Unit by *Degenkolb Engineers*  
Congregation Beth Shalom by *Forell Elsesser Engineers, Inc.*

### **New Buildings \$30 million to \$100 Million**

Outstanding Project: The Ritz Carlton Club & Residences by *Middlebrook + Louie*<sup>2</sup>

#### Award Finalists

Schermerhorn House by *Robert Silman Associates*  
New Museum of Contemporary Art by *Guy Nordenson and Associates with Simpson Gumpertz & Heger and SAPS-Sasaki Associates*

### **New Buildings over \$100 Million**

Outstanding Project: The Cathedral of Christ the Light by *Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, LLP*<sup>3</sup>

#### Award Finalists

Shanghai World Financial Center by *Leslie E. Robertson Associates, R.L.L.P.*  
Richmond Olympic Oval Roof by *Fast + Epp*

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## **Bridges and Transportation Structures**

Outstanding Project: Kingsway Bridge by *Fast + Epp*<sup>4</sup>

### Award Finalists

The New I-35W Bridge by *FIGG*

Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge by *HNTB Corporation*

## **Other Structures**

Outstanding Project: The University of Illinois Memorial Stadium Phased Development by *HNTB Corporation*<sup>5</sup>

### Award Finalists

Utah State Capitol Seismic Base Isolation and Restoration by *Reaveley Engineers & Associates*

Marriott Marquis Atrium Ballroom Addition and Renovation by *Uzun & Case Engineers, LLC*

## **Descriptions of Outstanding Projects**

Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center<sup>1</sup>  
Beaudette Consulting Engineers, Inc.

The Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center is located along the Snake River, situated between the Snake River and the Teton Range, a few miles outside of Jackson, WY. The construction of the building utilizes materials consistent with the landscape and climate, with multiple Douglas Fir log frames supporting a glulam rafter roof system. A vast sloping window wall system looks out to the Teton Range and is supported by custom steel mullions. The lateral system is a combination of concealed braced frames, moment frames, and wood shearwalls. This structure posed special challenges with 300 psf roof snow loads combined with high seismicity of the area.

The Ritz Carlton Club & Residences<sup>2</sup>  
Middlebrook + Louie

This transformation of an historic San Francisco office building into a modern residential tower is a testament to the engineer's key role in revitalizing the urban landscape. The original 8-story building (by Burnham and Root of Chicago) was built in 1890 and expanded several times in the 1900's. In designing an essentially new facility, our tasks included evaluating the historic structural elements; designing systems that incorporated these existing historic elements; and providing a new, upscale 24-story building. The resulting project is an attractive 24-story tower with over 250,000 s.f. of luxury facilities.

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The Cathedral of Christ the Light<sup>3</sup>  
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, LLP

The Cathedral of Christ the Light is defined by sacred geometries and designed for lightness by using seismic isolation to manage ground motions and reduce the demand on the superstructure during an earthquake. The play of light transforms the structure and its material throughout the day. The Cathedral incorporates a highly innovative use of natural, yet ordinary, materials with an ethos of sustainability. Glued-laminated timber from sustainable forests, exposed reinforced concrete using replacement fly ash, recycled high-strength steel, aluminum, and glass create the symbolic form. The Cathedral is the centerpiece of a 21,000-square-metre complex with a complement of facilities that includes a mausoleum, a conference centre, health and legal clinics, administrative offices, bishop and clergy residences, a bookstore, a café, and community-serving ministries.

Kingsway Bridge<sup>4</sup>  
Fast + Epp

Kingsway Bridge is an elegant, one-of-a-kind bridge structure consisting of a suspiciously thin concrete walkway suspended from a composite timber and steel arch. The covered wood portion of the arch structure features a series of bi-axially curved glue-laminated beams that are anchored by custom shaped steel haunches at both ends. The timber components exude warmth, enhance the dynamic, multi-material expression of the bridge, and demonstrate the viability of using a rapidly renewable resource in a construction sector that is dominated by steel and concrete. It is believed to be the first bridge ever to feature a timber drop-in span between steel haunches tied together by a post-tensioned concrete platform.

The University of Illinois Memorial Stadium Phased Development<sup>5</sup>  
HNTB Corporation

The University of Illinois embarked on sweeping updates and renovations to their historic Memorial Stadium which included adding luxury suites, club seating, press areas, larger concourses, concessions and other fan amenities, and a new north end-zone seating bowl and training facility. The plan called for extensive modifications to the existing structure all done while preserving its historical façade. Some of these modifications included seismic upgrades to current codes, removal of existing columns, threading new structure through the existing, and new transfer trusses to support the portions of the main existing transfer trusses and upper balcony girders that remained.

***NCSEA, representing over 10,000 structural engineers nationwide, advances the practice of structural engineering and, as the national voice for practicing structural engineers, protects the public's right to safe, sustainable and cost effective buildings, bridges and other structures.***

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