

How do we achieve global interoperability in a complex world?



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We live in a world complicated by the many standards and codes on which we base our designs. We live in a world where the competences and experiences of built environment professionals have been tested, certified, licensed and accredited in different ways and to different benchmarks. We live in a world where traditional materials are being pushed to new levels of exposure and performance and where innovative materials are being adopted without benefit of evaluation of historic performance.

Place all of this into a world driven by cost and delivery pressure, together with the demands of expectant clients, and we have every reason to celebrate the successes of iconic structures.

That, however, is only part of the story. It is important that we look beyond the 'wow' of our triumphs and learn how the construction experts involved in these structures overcame conflicting challenges: how they took forward decisions that pushed the boundaries of materials, codes and standards in the achievement of their projects. The learning experience from others and the transfer of knowledge is an essential element in our ability to meet the future demands and expectations in the countries where individually we live and work.

The excitement surrounding our iconic structures, and the certain knowledge that some of their novel methods will eventually filter into and influence more modest structures, places an obligation on the

profession to think through and address the structural safety of our decision making. Surely this is the prime consideration for us all and the fundamental obligation we have in service to the public at large.

This is why, for the first time in our histories, the Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE) and the Structural Engineering Institute (SEI) of the American Society of Civil Engineers have combined their experience and outreach to host a joint international conference: Iconic Global Structures – What Can We Learn?

With keynote speakers and in-depth panels, we will explore in detail nine different iconic structures, to compare and contrast how similar structures were executed in various places in the world, what worked well, what challenges were faced and what the project team might do differently next time. The conference will take place in Dubai, an iconic hub and the perfect location in which to consider global iconic structures: where east meets west and north meets south, well demonstrated in the veracity and dynamism of its buildings.

As the IStructE and SEI look increasingly at the opportunities and importance of breaking down international barriers to the sharing of knowledge, Dubai is very much the place to be this September. We hope you'll join us, along with many construction industry experts, to help drive forward the discussion and debate.

Find out more at <https://structuresdubai2019.cvent.com>.

Website update: Five changes you can expect

All through 2019 everyone at the Institution has been working hard to prepare our new website for launch. Colleagues from across departments have been collaborating to ensure that the new site launches with the resources and information you expect, under a new brand that better reflects the modern profession. Here, we highlight just a few of the improvements to expect on the new site.

The Structural Engineer front and centre

We know that *The Structural Engineer* magazine is one of the membership benefits you most value. You'll now find the

magazine and archive are an integral part of the site.

An integrated bookshop

Our bookshop holds some of our best content – we're delighted to say that on the new site you'll be able to access all the great manuals, guides and guidance notes previously accessible at shop.istructe.org via the main site.

Tagged, pooled, searchable resources

In addition to bookshop items, we're bringing together all our webinars, case studies, opinion pieces and online training in one searchable location – tagged by subject, so you can find related

content more easily.

Printable event pages

If you're planning an event through your Regional Group and want to put up posters, you'll be able to print off the event page in a ready-to-go, branded flyer format – a simple way to save your precious time and spread the Institution's new brand.

Easier membership applications

We're aware that our current process could use improvement. That's why we're refreshing the application process for Student, Graduate and Chartered Membership to make it a smooth, one-visit process, without the

need to download forms and submit via email. This improved feature will roll out in the months following launch.

More to come...

These are only some specific improvements: from the moment the site launches we'll be continuing to develop, supporting your needs throughout your career.

We'll keep you updated on social media and via email as we move towards our launch. Expect further information about the new brand coming soon – and thank you again to all members who contributed their time to our website project.