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ASCE ILLINOIS SECTION STRUCTURAL GROUP MARCH DINNER MEETING

Willis Tower Skydeck Ledge Presentation and Tour

Terry McDonnell, P.E., S.E., SECB
Principal
Halcrow Yolles

Abstract:

The 1,350 high Willis Tower (formerly known as Sears Tower) was looking for a grand attraction for their Skydeck in 2008. Few structures in the world have glass floors (both interior and exterior) and almost all are continuously supported along their edges with steel supports. In order to create a dramatic, unimpeded view of the City of Chicago the Skydeck owner's conceived of a glass platform that would protrude out of the building envelope and enable tourists, guests, and long time residents of the City to walk outside the building and look down the 1,350 foot exterior to the sidewalk below and have unimpeded views of the city at the same time. The structural glass floor system was designed to be supported by glass wall panels on three sides. In addition, the entire platform was constructed to be movable – into and out of the building. By allowing the glass observation box to move, it could be constructed on the interior of the building and enable the automated window washing system for the rest of the building to continue functioning unobstructed as well. This presentation will cover an overview of the retractable systems, the wind loading requirements, the steel design, the structural glass design, the connections used, and the incorporation of building systems into the overall design.

Speaker:

Terry McDonnell has 12 years of experience working with high performance architecture and urban projects in Chicago. His structural glass success in these areas include the Willis Tower Observation boxes, Ritz Carlton glass bridge, glass cable net wall design, glass stair component designs, and glazing analysis on high rise buildings. In addition to glass work, Terry joined Halcrow Yolles as the Regional Director of the Chicago office for the company. With Halcrow Yolles, Terry leads a team of engineers and technicians to provide adaptive re-use, renovation, building envelope, and life cycle solutions to property owners. His strong leadership and past experience with complex construction sites and life cycle design enables him to produce value-driven solutions that meet complex and diverse building systems. Terry has additional design specialties in earthquake engineering, renovation and re-use of existing buildings, and emergency stabilization and recovery engineering.

Date & Time:

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Cocktails at 5:00 pm; Dinner at 5:30 pm **Note earlier start time**

Presentation and tour of Skydeck Ledge following dinner.

<http://www.theskydeck.com/theledge.asp>

Guests are welcome to attend.

Location:

Pazzo's

311 South Wacker Drive

Chicago, IL 60606

Self-service parking is available south of the building for \$10

Cost:

\$45 (\$25 for fulltime students) – RSVP on or before March 12, 2009

\$50 – without/late RSVP

Cost includes Skydeck tour. Make checks payable to ASCE Structural Group

PDH:

1.0 PDH will be awarded for continuing education

RSVP:

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