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# ILLINOIS SECTION AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

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## ASCE ILLINOIS SECTION STRUCTURAL GROUP JUNE DINNER MEETING

### The Design of the Burj Khalifa

**William F. Baker, PE, SE, FASCE, FStructE  
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP**

**Abstract:**

Bill Baker of Skidmore, Owings, & Merrill LLP will describe the evolution of the design of the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building. From the project's initial concept through construction, the combination of several important technological innovations results in a building of unprecedented height. This lecture will describe some of the design methods, materials, and construction techniques which enable the creation of this superstructure.

**Speaker:**

William F. Baker is the Structural Engineering Partner for Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. Throughout his distinguished career, Bill has dedicated himself to structural innovation—most notably in the design of tall buildings within the urban landscape. His most recent contribution has been to develop the “buttressed core” structural system for the Burj Khalifa, a system which, in conjunction with sophisticated wind engineering, makes it possible to construct skyscrapers of extreme elevation. The Burj Khalifa is the world’s tallest manmade structure. According to the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH), three of the five tallest buildings to top out in 2009 are credited to Baker: Burj Khalifa (Dubai), Nanjing Greenland Financial Center (Nanjing), and Trump International Hotel and Tower (Chicago).

In addition to working at SOM, Bill is actively involved with numerous institutions of higher learning, as well as various professional organizations. Bill is the 2008 recipient of the Fazlur Rahman Khan medal from CTBUH and is the 2009 recipient and first American to receive the Fritz Leonhardt Prize. He is a Fellow of both the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and the Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE). Bill frequently lectures on a variety of structural engineering topics within the U.S. and abroad.

**Date & Time:** Wednesday, June 16, 2010  
Cocktails at 5:30 pm; Dinner at 6:00 pm  
Presentation following dinner

**Location:** Pazzo’s  
311 South Wacker Drive  
Chicago, IL 60606  
Self-service parking is available south of the building for \$10

**Cost:** \$40 (\$20 fulltime students) – RSVP on or before June 11, 2010  
\$45 – without/late RSVP  
Make checks payable to ASCE Structural Group

**RSVP:** Victor E. Van Santen, [victor.vansanten@hdrinc.com](mailto:victor.vansanten@hdrinc.com),  
(773) 380-7966