

PRESS RELEASE

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New IABSE Publication: 'IABSE – The First 80 Years'

The History Book "IABSE -The First 80 Years" has been published. It has been written by Tom F. Peters, Switzerland, and was presented by President of IABSE, Predrag Popivic, on occasion of the Opening Ceremony of the IABSE-IASS Symposium in London on September 20, 2011. The publication was made possible by generous financial support from the IABSE Foundation for the Advancement of Structural Engineering.

This book is the first of its kind and is founded on the careful examination of many archival documents and interviews with past presidents and longstanding members. Valuable information and unknown details were uncovered that reveal new aspects and the long forgotten work of many pioneers.

IABSE was founded in the aftermath of World War I in 1929 to reconnect professionals who had lost contact through the isolation of war. From the very outset the Association established a worldwide platform for the spread of information on theoretical developments and the growing proliferation of engineering specialties and tasks, and it quickly became the international voice of the profession, forming a source of reference on the field and a basis for the social recognition of structural engineering as a political, economic and cultural force to be reckoned with in the development of the 20th century. In all these goals IABSE succeeded admirably, and this is the story of the development and the far-sighted founders and dedicated participants in the association's steady growth. It documents the events, the personalities and their ideas, talents, strengths and weaknesses, as well as what motivated them and guided the Association through the difficult years of World War II and into the expansive development in the globalized arena of the latter part of the century. It chronicles case studies in the evolution of ideas and the life of cultural organizations. This is the story of how, through whom, and why IABSE came to be what it is today.

The Author: Tom F. Peters is Lehigh University Emeritus Professor of Architecture and History. His writing ranges from the theory of technological thinking in civil engineering and architectural design, cultural theory in structural engineering, and pedagogical studies on teaching construction and materials, to treatises on construction history, a field he helped develop from the mid-1970s. He is the author of many influential books, reports, and articles and is known for his expertise in antiquarian books that deal with civil engineering and construction.

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The International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering (IABSE) comprises 4'000 members in 100 countries. Founded in 1929, IABSE deals with all aspects of planning, design, construction, maintenance and repair of civil engineering structures. To fulfil its mission, IABSE organises conferences and publishes a quarterly journal, Structural Engineering International, as well as books and reports. The Association has a number of technical groups and presents awards in recognition of outstanding contributions in the domain of structural engineering.

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