

Letter to the Editor —

From M.J.N. Priestley*

Re: Concrete Filled Tubular Structures

I was fortunate to recently attend the International Speciality Conference on Concrete Filled Steel Tubular Structures, held at the Harbin Architectural and Civil Engineering Institute, Harbin, People's Republic of China, in August 1985. Although in New Zealand the only significant structural element that could be said to fall within the scope of the Conference is steel shell piles, wider use is made of concrete filled tubular structures overseas, particularly in Japan and China. In these countries the interaction between the steel casing and the concrete core is well understood, and utilised in design. Briefly, under axial load, the concrete casing contributes directly to axial load capacity, but also confines the concrete core, the strength of which is thus enhanced in much the same way as for spirally confined concrete. Under lateral loads, the confining effect of the casing greatly increases the ultimate compression strain of the concrete core, leading to very high ductility capacity.

After the Conference, the delegates voted to set up an International Programme for cooperation in research, design and construction aspects relating to Concrete Filled Steel Tubular Structures. As a first step towards this, the Harbin Architectural and Civil Engineering Institute will collate published information relating to the topic. I would be grateful if any of the readers of the Bulletin who have access to relevant published material could send copies to me (address below) for sending on to China.

The Proceedings of the Harbin Conference contain 30 papers covering a wide range of research, design and construction aspects, and make interesting reading. Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of the Proceedings may do so by sending US\$10 to:
 Prof. Zhong Shan-Tong
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