



The *Art* of Structural Engineering: Creating Lasting Icons for a City and Its People

One of a Three Part Series



“Skyscrapers of the Far East: Engineering Harmony Between Structure, Religion and Culture”

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ABSTRACT

Structures, they are more than steel and glass, they are icons for entire communities, cities and nations. It is in the process of engineering icons that structural engineering and architecture join to create a product that becomes symbolic of a collective people. With the evolution of skyscrapers in the Far East, engineers and architects were faced with the challenge of transforming the Western symbol of the skyscraper into something uniquely Eastern. The results of these efforts in Hong Kong, China, Malaysia and Japan were literal fusions of engineering with religion and cultural tradition. This seminar will discuss how harmony between structure, religion and culture was achieved in icons such as the Bank of China, Jin Mao Building and Petronas Towers, by reviewing the visual record assembled by the speaker in her travels under the SOM Foundation Structural Engineering Traveling Fellowship.

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