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Autor: Fanelli, M.

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Conclusions

M. FANELLI
Professor
ENEL
Milan, Italy

In this seminar we heard many interesting papers and had good discussions. In this respect the seminar was successful.

I would also like to mention the Poster Session on the use of computers. It was a new format for IABSE and it worked out quite well. In this format of presentation, people are probably more encouraged to contact the authors (and to ask for more details on their work) than they would be in a normal session, in front of a large audience. I think that the idea showed its worth and that it should be adopted again in future Congresses.

It was extremely interesting to hear the lecture on Computer Graphics by Professor Greenberg and to see the illustrative material.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that we originally asked for contributions not so much of a technical nature (on new computer programs, new methods of analysis etc.) as of a critical/organizational nature, in order to ease the transition of structural engineering into the computer era. We were only partially successful in obtaining the right kind of contributions.

However, I made quite clear the main problems that a structural engineer should have in mind in his use of computers as everyday tools:

1) Organizational problems: choice of hardware and software adequate to the technical tasks to be performed.

2) Information problems:
   - Input data certification, in relation to aims and stage of design;
   - Mathematical model certification, and
   - Software certification, as distinct from each other;
   - Result certification;
   - Structure behaviour follow-up and interpretation in the light of the correspondence of the design to the built structure.

3) Integrated management problems: how the structural engineer can tie up in the most efficient and painless way into a management system that is growing increasingly computer-orientated in all stages of the carrying out of a project, and not only as far as technical matters are concerned, but also in planning, accounting, logistics, coordination, economics etc.

These problems are already here to stay. They will not be solved in a short time, but the next generation will have a solution and will have to live with it. It is in the interest of our profession to think out a solution that is safe and sound rather than have it imposed upon us from external agencies. I would even go further and say that it is vital to the civil engineer to take the lead now, if the evolution of the computer is to serve his tasks in the most beneficial way.

Thank you for your attention.