



Earthquake Engineering Research Institute
Brigham Young University Student Chapter
David Friedman



The Brigham Young University EERI Student Chapter was happy to have David Friedman come to visit on October 27, 2011. David had been invited to present in an undergraduate seminar hosted by the Civil Engineering Department in which over 400 students were registered to attend. The title of his presentation was “The Practice of Structural and Earthquake Engineering Today and Unique Structural Engineering Projects.” During his presentation, David discussed the role of a structural engineer while putting some of his recent Forell/Elsesser projects on display.

Despite the varied age, interests, and degree emphasis of the students in the seminar, all of the students attending were captivated by the magnitude of the problems David’s firm was asked to handle. The projects he presented from his firm involved geometrically challenging architecture combined with building on unstable slopes or directly over a fault line. Unique in his message was the theme of sustainability and enduring structural integrity, regardless of environment.

After listening to David’s presentation, members of our student chapter presidency, an ASCE student chapter presidency member, and two faculty members were able to enjoy lunch with him. We enjoyed learning more about his perspective as a managing member of a nationally recognized firm, and gained a more personal insight into design principles he finds guiding. We would urge any who have the opportunity to meet and hear from David Friedman to do so. His visit made a wonderful impact on our students.