

Announcements

Architects and Engineers Forum

The San Mateo County, California, Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), with joint sponsorship by EERI and the Structural Engineers Association of California, will hold a forum in San Mateo on Saturday, October 28, 2000.

Architects and engineers will make presentations on a variety of topics that are at the forefront of concern in the seismic architecture and engineering community. The forum's speakers will include:

- Eric Elsesser, Forell/Elsesser Engineers, on new trends in seismic design and architecture.
- Christopher Arnold, FAIA and President of EERI, on the basics of the nature of ground motion and its effects on buildings.
- Evan Reis, Comartin-Reis Engineers, on performance-based design and seismic retrofit at Stanford University and U.C. Berkeley.
- Mary Comerio, Vice-Chair of the U.C. Berkeley Department of Architecture, on the studies of seismic vulnerability at U.C. Berkeley.

In addition, an architecture and engineering panel will engage the audience in a discussion of present issues on the seismic problem as it relates to the two professions.

The forum will start at 9:00 A.M., with registration at 8:30 A.M. The fee is \$75 for members of the sponsoring professional societies and \$85 for nonmembers. To make a reservation, call Connie Barton at the AIA/San Mateo County Chapter office at 650/348-5133.

For questions about the forum content, call Christopher Arnold at 650/462-1812, or Bob George at 650/872-3330.

News of the Institute

Annual Meeting Travel Scholarships Available

As in years past, several scholarships are available to enable student members and younger EERI members (out of school no more than three years) to attend the Annual Meeting, thanks to support from FEMA. The financial support will be contingent upon the applicant's participation in the Poster Sessions, either through a research project, or as a representative of a student chapter depicting the chapter's activities (see the article on page 1 for poster abstract specifications). Each scholarship will cover registration, lodging at the conference hotel for three nights, and roundtrip excursion airfare. To apply, send a letter of request to the Student Activities Committee in care of the EERI office by **December 1, 2000**. Applicants should describe their current involvement in earthquake engineering or a related field and their status as students or professionals.

News of the Profession

Magnitude 5.2 Earthquake Strikes Napa, California

A moderate earthquake hit Northern California's wine country on Sunday, September 3, at about 1:30 A.M. The earthquake was reported to cause 25 injuries, at least one of which was serious. Water and gas mains were broken, about half of Napa County lost power, and there were numerous cases of shattered windows. The city of Napa declared a state of emergency to cope with the aftermath of the event, although officials reported that most of the damage was nonstructural, affecting windows, contents, and chimneys.

The earthquake was centered near Yountville, about 50 miles north of San Francisco. The USGS reported that strong-motion instruments recorded unusually high levels of shaking in the city of Napa. Peak levels there were amplified five to eight times relative to a station located in the mountains less than a mile from the earthquake's epicenter. One instrument located north of the city of Napa and about 6 miles from the epicenter recorded a peak ground acceleration of about 0.5g. Another located south of the city recorded 0.34g.

A reconnaissance report on this earthquake will be included in an upcoming issue of the *Newsletter*.



Broken bottles at Emil's Liquors in Napa, California following the 5.2 earthquake (San Francisco Examiner photo/Chris Hardy)