The University of Texas at Austin EERI student Chapter invited Mr. John Hooper of Magnusson Klemencic Associates to speak on the seismic design of tall building on March 21st 2007 as part of the Friedman Family Visiting Professionals Program. Mr. Hooper kindly accepted the invitation.

Seminar

Mr. Hooper’s presentation was titled “Seismic Design of Tall Buildings and Other Structures with Unique Architecture.” During the presentation he introduced the students to a variety of tall buildings that challenge the building code requirements. These buildings typically require implementation of an “alternative means and methods” approach. Typically, this approach adopts a performance-based seismic design method to show that the buildings seismic performance will be, as a minimum, equivalent to a prescriptive, code-designed building. The presentation outlined some of the unique approaches that have been implemented on a variety of building types and outlined a generalized performance-based seismic design approach that has been utilized on 15 high-rise designs in high seismic regions.

The presentation was well attended by both the faculty and students of the University of Texas at Austin.
Reception
Following the seminar a reception was held in order to give the students a chance to ask more questions and to talk to Mr. Hooper. The reception lasted for an hour and included an energized discussion on some of the topics from the seminar. Again the reception was well attended by students. The reception served pizza and drinks.
Social Activities

In addition to the reception and seminar, Mr. Hooper enjoyed some social activities in Austin. The evening before the seminar he enjoyed genuine Texas Barbecue at the County Line Restaurant. Also present at the dinner were EERI President Sarah Orton, Vice President Shiv Shanker, and UT professor Dr. Sharon Wood.

Before the seminar Mr. Hooper had the opportunity to talk with many of the UT faculty, including Dr. Wood, Dr. Williamson, and Dr. Engelhardt. After the seminar Mr. Hooper enjoyed a quick stop at Mt. Bonnell, a scenic overlook of Austin. Then, he toured the Fergusson Structural Engineering Laboratory and learned about some of the latest research work ongoing at UT. Mr. Hooper expressed how much he enjoyed the visit.
John Hooper, P.E., S.E.
Principal and Director of Earthquake Engineering
Magnusson Klemencic Associates

The seismic design of tall buildings and other structures with unique architecture presents unique code and design challenges. Many of these tall buildings and structures challenge the “basic” seismic force-resisting systems that are allowed by building codes requiring the implementation of an “alternative means and methods” approach. Typically, this approach adopts a performance-based seismic design method to show that the buildings seismic performance will be, as a minimum, equivalent to a prescriptive, code-designed building. The presentation will outline some of the unique approaches that have been implemented on a variety of building types and will outline a generalized performance-based seismic design approach that has been utilized on 15 high-rise designs in high seismic regions.

Wednesday, March 21, 2007
12:00 – 1:00 pm  @  ECJ 1.204
Reception: 1:00 – 2:00 pm  @  ECJ 4.304
FREE PIZZA and DRINKS

Any Questions? Please contact: Sarah Orton (sleton@mail.utexas.edu)