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# THREE PRECAST CONCRETE HIGH RISE

OFFICE BUILDINGS

# ABSTRACT

This thesis is concerned with the utilization of a system of precast and prestressed concrete to formulate the structure of a multi-story office building. Special attention is **given** to the efficient integration of the structural and mechanical elements concomitant with the simplification and continuity of design and construction.

# **PREFACE**

**By** presenting the three individual theses with a common analysis of material pertinent to the design of each thesis it is hoped that a more rich and extensive result has been attained.

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# Individual Theses:

Brunken, Alan W.

Henney, Thomas

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### INTRODUCTION

The precasting of concrete structural elements has been common practice since the conception of reinforced concrete as a structural material. However it is only in the last few years that precast concrete has been widely applied to structures in the U.S.A.

The first notable **all** precast concrete structure was the Richards Medical Building in Philadelphia. The building was designed **by** Iouis Kahn and the structural engineer was Dr. August E. Kommendant. This is an eight story rigid frame structure.

Since the now widespread use of prestressed concrete it has been possible to have longer spans in precast concrete. **In** the Norton Bailding in Seattle, a 20 story office building designed **by** Skidmore, Owings, **&** Mrrill, precast pretensioned girders span 70 feet. Using these new structural techniques it is now possible to envisage longer spans and taller buildings in precast concrete. In **1943** 1rron Goldsmith designed **a** project for an 86 story 1 x 3 **bay** building, **by** forming a verendell of six platforms. Between each platform there are 15 intermediate stories, seven of which are suspended from the platform above and seven are supported from the platform below. This was a very interesting project as he used prestressed concrete for his main structure, and it offered many good points to be considered.

Reinforced concrete is rapidly taking over from structural

steel as the major structural material for High-Rise Office Buildings, as used in the **C.B.S.** tower in New York and the Brunswick Building in Chicago. Concrete has many advantages **over** steel, the main one being that it is a fireproof material.

Precast concrete has many advantages over "in-place" concrete, and the potentials of precast concrete have been expressed in a few recent buildings. The material is essentially a dry construction and offers considerable saving in formwork and scaffolding. It has also, a much faster erection cycle. The material is manufactured under factory conditions, and can take full advantage of industrialized processes. This will ensure quality and dimensional control. Due to technological advance, the handling and transporting of elements is no longer a problem.

Stringent and unprogressive code requirements have been **<sup>a</sup>** drawback in the use of precast concrete for High-Rise Office Buildings. But one of the main reasons for it not being used more often is the problem of joints; the system has an inherent lack **of** stiffness. This is one of the main challenges to the ingenuity of the Architect and Engineer.

For a number of years most of the office buildings built in the **U.S.A.** have been clad in lightweight curtain walls. These walls have a flat and shiny appearance and lack modelling and texture. The strength and character of precast concrete cladding is one of the reasons for its current popularity. The Pan-Am building in New York is a recent building which is completely **clad** with precast panels.. Precast panels easily meet **the** fire

regulations. The quality of finish is excellent and can be expressed inside as well as outside. The surface absorbs some moisture, relieving pressure on the joints. Handling and transporting the elements is no longer a problem. The handling process, in fact, often puts more stress on precast wall panels than they will be exposed to after erection. In fact they are far stronger than their ultimate design demands. This prompts the designing of these precast pieces as load bearing elements.

There have been many low-rise buildings constructed using a precast structural facade. The Police Administration Building in Philadelphia **by** the Architects Geddes, Brecher, Qualls **&** Cunningham is a fine example of the flexibility of the system in its application to a curvilinear shaped building. Yamasaki's new Research Building at Harvard is an interesting example of the use of long span prestressed wall and floor units.

So far, little has been done to build High-Rise Structures using precast elements. We are making this the basis of our study and we are going to investigate the potentials of the system and its application to High-Rise Office Buildings.

### I. Advantages of Precast Concrete

The basic question whether it will be cheaper to erect an office building with a steel or reinforced concrete frame will depend upon the ratio of wages to cost of materials. Wage rates generally govern the cost of concrete construction, the opposite being true in the case of steel construction. Many- times the local trade agreements determine the wages and practices required in concrete construction. As an example, New York trade unions forbid the reinforcing steel to be prefabricated off the job site, thus adding to the cost of reinforced concrete construction. Assuming a situation free of distortions caused **by** unreasonable labor practices, reinforced concrete 'and particularly precast prestressed concrete has certain definite advantages over steel construction. The most obvious disadvantage of steel construction is that all its components have to be provided with fireproof casings which is not only expensive but which also destroys the distinctive features of steel construction, while precast concrete not only expresses its natural form but in most instances also functions as a finished surface. The advantage of being able to continue construction during cold weather which has been a definite advantage in the past in taller office buildings using steel has been eliminated with precast concrete. The precast members can continue being cast in the plant during freezing weather and assembled on the site in much the same manner as steel members. Precast concrete using prestressing techniques has an added **advantage of** longer spans with smaller depth than is possible with

steel members.

## II. Types of Precast Concrete Systems

# **A.** Floor Framing Systems

There are three primary types of precast prestressed floor systems; the two way system, the one way system and a combination one way and two way system. The simplest method is the one way system. It employs only one typical member if the core is continuous the length of the building or if not requires a girder which in turn frames into the core. Only in the most sophisticated applications of one way systems is both pretensioning and post tensioning performed, the pretensioning carrying the stresses lue to handling and dead loads and the post tensioning carrying the live loads and any topping used as a diaphram or finished floor. The two way floor system may involve only one typical member post tensioned in two directions or one or more typical beams pretensioned with filler panels which are post tensioned forming a two way matrix. In all cases two way systems require post tensioning which involves a more complicated procedure than prestressing. Post tensioning involves placing the jacks on the structure and tensioning the cables after they have been threaded through the members. In a system using pretensioned beams and post tensioned filler panels as in Kahn's Richards Medical Center the beams may carry only the handling stresses and dead load of the beams and filler panels during erection. The filler panels after post

tensioning take a portion of the dead load and live load and begin working with the pretensioned beams as a two way system when all prestressing is completed. Another two way system involves using only one typical unit which after being shored into proper positioning with other similar units is post tensioned in both directions and acts as a two way matrix. Although it eliminates the need for pretensioning this method requires the threading of cables and post tensioning in two directions. **A** combination one way and two way system involves using a one way system in the interior quadrants and post tensioning the corner quadrants to form a two way system. As with all two way systems a problem of high stress concentration at the corner of the core is created **by** one **half** the stresses of the corner quadrant being transfered to one point.

### B. Precast Vertical Framing Systems

There are essentially two types of framing systems above the first floor, the load bearing wall or window unit and the column an spandrel. In both cases the transfering of load from the unit above is a problem. **All** the load in the steel of the column or window unit above must be transfered through steel and not through concrete into the column below. Various methods are possible using shims and welding or bolting. Post tensioning of columns is to be avoided if possible since it reduces the capacity of the columns. On the ground floor the exterior bearing wall or columns if they are closely spaced may bear on a transfer girder which

transfers its load into base columns and into the footings. If columns and spandrels are used in the typical floors the columns may continue directly to the footings instead of bearing on a transfer girder if the soil conditions deem it practical. An example of a precast window unit bearing on a transfer girder is the new Police Administration Building in Philadelphia. Saarinen's C.B.S. Building and S.O.M.'s Chase Manhatten Bank in New York City are examples of a column and spandrel system not framing into a transfer girder.

## **III.** Planning

# **A.** Room Access from Corridors

The subdivision of an office building on plan may be based on either of two principles: the various rooms are accessible from corridors (in which case single double and triple layouts may be distinguished) or alternatively, access to the various parts of the layout is gained directly from the utility core and corridors are dispensed with.

Single, double and triple zone layouts are based on the provision of corridors giving access to the various parts of the layout.

Single-zone layouts are relatively expensive, as the corridor has rooms on one side only. Layouts of this kind are primarily suitable for buildings such as schools, where requirements of **hy**giene rather than economy are the determining factors.

The double-zone layout, on the other hand, may be regarded as the typical solution for a medium-sized office building. However access to a double-zoned layout may have to be provided in the form of a main and a secondary staircase, a central utility core, two utility cores of equal importance or one centrally located utility core in a connecting unit of the building.

In high multi-story buildings the space requirements for utility cores increase so considerably that the double-zone layout with utility cores located in the office zone becomes a questionable arrangement. The vertical circulation facilities take up valuable office space, and their location within the office zone complicates both the structure and the internal planning of the building. For these reasons the triple . Zone layout has been eyolved.

The triple-zone layout consists of a utility core with fire stairs, lavatories and service rooms at each end of the building forming two zones.. These two zones are separated **by** corridors which surround the vertical transportation concentrated in the central area which forms the third zone. This solution tends to restrict the flexibility of the plan to certain office proportions and the greater depth necessary for accommodating larger spaces in plan may not be available.

The determining factor in the layout and arrangement of the utility cores of a plan is the purpose for which the office building is to be used. In administrative buildings internal circulation is the dominant feature, whereas in buildings containing rented offices, traffic within the building will consist mainly of the movement of people going from the street to any particular office and vice versa. In the latter type of building the service area should be centrally located and should give access to the various offices on each floor without necessitating long corridors. For this reason triple zone layouts are unsuitable for buildings containing rented offices. These layouts are generally employed in high multi-story buildings which are predominantly administrative in character, which have relatively little pedestrian traffic to and from the street, but which do have a considerable volume of internal circulation between floors.

### B. The Open Iayout

The layout without corridors, which has large artificially lighted and ventilated rooms has been evolved in the United States. It is based on the subdivision of the office floor into large spaces in which smaller separate rooms are provided for senior staff only. This system permits better utilization of the available space, cuts out the considerable cost of rearranging partitions, facilitates supervision of employees and permits much more economical lighting installations. Noise is a disadvantage of the open layout; it can of course, be mitigated **by** suitable design of the ceilings and walls.

The answer as to whether office staff are able to work with greater or less efficiency in one large room rather than in a number of small separate rooms will primarily depend on the mentality of those concerned, but also what they have been accustomed to in

the past. In Europe the subdivision of the available space into small individual offices is preferred even though this arrangement is operationally less favorable and involves higher construction costs.

One of the most significant advantages **of** the layout is the saving in space. Whereas a net area of **80-90 sq.** ft. must be provided for each employee in a layout based on the two-person room, this figure can be cut down to  $43-54$  sq. ft. in the case of offices planned on the open layout principle. In the open layout individual rooms can also be varied not only in width but also in depth. In the layout of desks one should try to make this unit dimension identical with the planning module for the layout of the rooms. Depending on the desired distance between desks the unit dimensions will be between <sup>4</sup>ft. **6** in. and **6** ft. **A** multiple of this dimension will give the length of the smallest individual room. The recent tendency in the United States has been to arrange desks so as to provide the most favorable operational pattern. These groups **are** then separated **by** sound absorbing partitions of ceiling height or lower. This layout is based on a unit of area equal to that required for one employee's desk and chair or the unit module of such an area. **By** this means a more intimate atmosphere is created within the office, while the atvantages of the open layout are also retained.

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### IV. Mechanical Systems

The majority of office buildings constructed today in the **U.S.A.** have sealed windows and the enkironment is controlled. The air conditioning takes care of: heating, cooling, ventilating and humidity control. With controlled environment it means that the entire office floor can be arranged to suit any plan, and therefore complete flexibility.

The main.mechanical rooms may be located as follows: middle floor, top and basement floors, or in individual mechanical rooms located on each floor. The positioning of the mechanical rooms is a function of the height of the building and subsequently the length of vertical runs. Due to the amount of equipment and ducts the main mechanical- rooms will require a considerable volume of space.

There are many mechanical systems and the problem **is** to select the system for the correct situation. The first system is an "allair" two duct system, where one duct is for warm air and the other for cool air. These ducts are then linked to a mixing box, which then distributes the air to the rooms at the desired temperature. The second system is the High Velocity Periphery System. This is a combination of air and water. The air is supplied at high velocity into induction units at the windowmfrom which it is distributed into the room. Over the induction units are coils linked to hot and cold water pipes. The air temperature can therefore be controlled thermostatically at each induction unit. The periphery system can take care of all unbalanced solar temperature gains. In the interior zone of the building the atmospheric conditions remain

fairly constant throughout, the main thermal gain being from lighting, the employees and from machines. This build-up of heat has to be controlled in the warm weather, but in the winter the heat generated from these elements helps considerably to augment the heating system. The interior zone is usually conditioned with a low velocity system.

It is now fairly common practice to use a combination of the high velocity periphery system, and **a** low velocity system to service the interior zone. The low velocity system is divided into zones and can be controlled at the mechanical room with the aid of re-heat and cooling coils.

The main vertical supply lines are located in the core of the building and then the services are distributed horizontally at each floor. The high velocity vertical supply lines are frequently located on the periphery of the building as at the Blue **Cross** Building in Boston.

There are three systems of horizontal distribution for office buildings. The most popular system is when the supply and exhaust ducts are suspended below the structure and then covered **by** a suspended ceiling. The next system is the air floor, a continuous plenum sandwiched between the main structural floor and a secondary finished floor slab. This gives complete flexibility of distribution, eliminates a suspended ceiling and reduces the depth of the overall floor construction. Finally there is the system whereby deepening the beams the ducts can run through perforations in them. For an office building this is visually and acoustically unacceptable, besides being rather costly.

Supply and return grills are now being carefully integrated with the lighting and ceiling panels. Quite a considerable advance has been made in recent years. In some cases perforated metal ceiling panels are used for both supply and return. With a luminous ceiling the supply and return grills are located in continuous runners which divide the 'ceiling panels.' There is also open egg crate ceilings with the lights and diffusers positioned above.

Electric and telephone services are important in an office building. The system most commonly used is to distribute these services in concealed floor raceways. The modular distribution of raceways will ensure that **all** the floor area will be served. 'Ihis is consistent with the principles of flexibility. Because quite a large proportion of the working area is away from the windows **a** high level of artificial illumination will be demanded.

Careful consideration must be given to the acoustical treatment as it is an 4mportant factor of controlled environment. When the office area is partitioned it is essential in the interests of privacy that the noise isolation properties of the partitions be effective. As the noise level in the office areas tend to be high, noise control **by** means of acoustical absorption will be necessary.

Vertical circulation will **pe by** means of high speed elevators. The number of elevators will be a function of the number of employees per floor, and the height of the building.

In the core of the building is situated the constant elements required for the efficient functioning of the building: vertical

supply lines, vertical transportation, mechanical rooms, toilets, fire stairs, mail chutes, etc.

It is becoming more important that there should be closer coordination between-the Architect, Structural Engineer and Mechanical Engineer. Technology is advancing rapidly and it will take the concerted effort of all members of building teams to keep pace.

#### V. Analysis of Existing Buildings

**A.** Police Administration Building

This is one of the most interesting buildings to have been constructed using precast concrete elements. The Architects Geddes, Brecher, Qualls and Cunningham designed a building of serpentive shape, which is generated from six points, three interior and three exterior. This gives three circular elements of **50** feet radius, a basic core and two wing elements. Out-to-out dimension between the two wings is 284 feet. Two gently curving arcs join the two wings and the core element at the rear, and a larger are connects the front.

Office space on the typical floors is generated **by** a continuous curved path of a constant  $32$  feet width. The column free arrangerent offers both flexibility in partition layout and **highly** efficient use of space.

The structure contains about **90%** precast concrete elements, comprising: precast structural facade, colums and ribbed floor slab units. Cast in place concrete is limited to core elements.

Key elements in the structural framing are the precast concrete bearing wall panels: *5* feet wide and *35* feet high **(3** storys high). The ribbed floor slab units are identical throughout, slab is  $2\frac{1}{2}$ <sup>"</sup> thick. The ribs are  $17\frac{1}{2}$ " deep for a span of 32 feet.

The design of the precast wall and slab units was precisely coordinated with the mechanical design. Recesses, depressions and rib spacings are detailed to enclose piping, heating units, air conditioning ducts. **All** this eliminates the need for a suspended ceiling.

The first floor framing was post-tensioned and the structural facade was supported **by** units cantilevered out 12 feet from the base columa.

B. Richards Medical Center

Basic Structure: Eight story rigid frame.

The span is *45* feet with prestressed trusses on H columns. Two of the four main trusses are cut into three pieces. Stepped spandrel beams cantilever out from the columns which are at their third points. The bays formed **by** the spandrel beans and the trusses are spanned **by** secondary trusses. These trusses are' not necessary for the basic structural **sys**tem, but are used as supports for the pipes and duct work. The secondary trusses do help support the cantilevered spandrel beams.

Joints:

1. Column, truss, spandrel and columm:

The inner flange at each column is cut short to form a niche for the truss and spandrel which rest on the column below. The prestressing rods in the columns pass through the spandrel and truss and are prestressed with a force of **90** tons. 2. Truss to truss:

*Two* of the four main ,trusses are cut into three pieces. The truss to truss connection is formed **by** a niche in the ends of the cut trusses fitting into a niche in the sides of the one piece trusses. When in place the three sections are post stressed to form a continuous member duplicating the one piece truss.

**3.** Secondary truss to main truss:

The secondary trusses join the main trusses in the same manner as the truss to truss connections. But they are not post tensioned.

4. Secondary truss to secondary truss:

One of the two secondary trusses in each bay is cut into

two pieces and bolted together after being set in place. Conclusion:

The speed of erection is attributed to the joining system which provides seats for **all** members thus assuring faster and more accurate placement than would be pbssible if welded plates or castin-place sections were used at the joints. The rate of erection was three floors a **week.**

## **C.** Poor Man's Precast Office Building

In Chicago an office building designed **by** Harry Weese employs a composite method of building construction of precast concrete and poured-in-place.

The building has a pinwheel framing plan with exterior bearing walls. Steel connections in the precast members are welded and then the members are grouted in solid to make the structure monolithic. The bearing walls consist of precast H-frame sections. The frames are two story units which are staggered vertically so each pair of welded joints will always have a pair of continuous columns between them. This facilitates an easier erection process and provides for a stiffer building.

The floor slab consists of precast hollow beams, the lower surface of which serves as an exposed ceiling and the upper **sur**face needs a 2 inch concrete slab to top it off. Each beam has three "fingers" at each end which hook into the core or onto **a** beaa at one end and onto the middle bar of an H-frame or neighboring precast lintel at the other. The beams are arranged in four rafts around the core so that only four load-carrying beams are needed.

The space within the hollow slab is used to move air, run wiring and drainage lines. Because of this the mechanical system reflects the structural system since the hollow tubular beams are used as ducts and the framing plan also becomes the ventilation plan. Alternate cores are used for hot, cold and return air. Every lighting fixture becomes a mixing box with a power thermostat so that each one has its own control. The fan room is two floors

in height and interconnected to the balancing system since the air does not always return to the same fan room it goes out from.

Speed and economy are realized **by** the composite construction of precast and poured in place. The core could possibly be **slip**formed around the clock with the precast elements set in at the lower floors before the core is finished, permitting erection on all four sides of the building simultaneously.

Once the system has been absorbed **by** the building trades and carefully scheduled it should be possible to erect a multistory office building in thirty days.

# **A** MULTISTORY PRECAST **CONCRETE**

# OFFICE BUILDING

**by**

#### **ALAN** WAYNE **BRUNKEN**

B.ARCH., Oklahoma State University

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**(1962)**

SUBMITTED *IN* PARTIAL FULFILLMENT

OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE

DEGREE OF MASTER OF

# **ARCHITECTURE**

at the

**MASSACHUSETTS** INSTITUTE *OF*

# **TECHNOLOGY**

June, **1963**

Signature of Author *Author <b>Alan Wayne* Brunken

Certified by ...........................

Eduardo Catalano Thesis Supervisor

Accepted **by**

Lawrence B. Anderson Chairman, Department of ArchitectureJune, **1963**

Pietro Belluschi, **Dean** School of Architecture and Planning Massachusetts Institute of Technology Cambridge **39,** Massachusetts

Ŧ.

Dear Dean Belluschi,

In partial fulfillment for the degree of Master in Architecture I hereby submit *this* thesis entitled, **"A** Multistory Precast Concrete Office Building."

Respectfully,

Alan W. Brunken

# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I am grateful to the following people for their invaluable advice and assistance during the thesis:

Dr. Howard Simpson.

**Mr.** Charles **A.** Crowley

**Mr.** William Connolly

Eduardo Catalano, Thesis Supervisor

and the members of the M.I.T. faculty who participated

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in the preliminary jury, May, **1963.**

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## I. Introduction to the Problem

As in all architectural problems it was necessary in the design of the proposed office building to determine a hierarchy of requirements as to design. **By** this is meant which problem must be solved first, second and so on, inethe context of trying to solve them all. In approaching the problem of the office building many aspects of its design were considered; the structural frame, aesthetic considerations, functional requirements and mechanical services. After approaching the problem from many directions using the different aspects of its design, a principle approach was determined. It was decided while always trying to achieve an environment architecturally pleasing and also conducive to an efficient working space to first solve the mechanical services of a typical office floor and their relation to the structural framing, the goal being to integrate the two systems in an efficient and logical manner letting the building function **as a** whole and retain a certain integrity of design throughout. One of the results of trying to achieve this integration of mechanical and structural systems was the reduction of the floor thickness which in turn achieves the maximum number of floors and hence the greatest amount of floor area in the total height of the building. Consideration was also given to the techniques used in precast concrete, the shape of the beam unit being somewhat determined **by** these techniques. The aesthetics of the building, especially the transition from exterior -space through the facade into the typical

floor space, was one of the basic considerations. It was hoped to create a transition space between these two large volumes which the curtain wall on most of today's highrise office buildings ignores.

# II. Plan

## Design Criteria

Through researth it has been found that office floors become efficient for office layout planning as well as economics near 14,000 gross area. **A** total building cubage staring at **150,000** to 190,000 has been found to be the minimum for desirable investment. Office planners desire a core to exterior wall depth of thirty to forty feet. This allows for an office, corridor and secretary pool of efficient proportion without creating excessive interior offices, which are not desirable psychologically. The net office area should be equal to or greater than **75** per cent of the total gross floor area. This is an accepted standard of efficiency.

Because the exterior wall is a main contributor to the cost of the building and a main source of load on the mechanical system, it is desirable to keep its surface area to a minimum. For this reason a square plan is advantageous since it is the rectangle which most nearly approximates a circle. The possibility of renting a floor to one, two, three or more clients is desirable to allow flexibility in rental areas.

The anscillary facilities required on each floor include elevators, fire stairs, mechanical shafts, men and women toilet facilities, electrical and telephone switching gear, plumbing chases, janitor closet, water fountains and mail shutes.

### Description

The envelope of the building is nearly square being **130 by** 120 feet, giving a floor area of **15,600** sq. ft. The net office area is eighty per tent. This does not include any circulation in the core area. I restricted the number of mechanical floors to two which limited the number'of floors to fifteen, the practical run for mechanical shafts being six to eight floors.

The net office area is kept completely free of columns for naximum flexibility in office arrangement. **A** module of five feet was chosen to integrate the lighting, mechanical services and office furniture into a grid giving efficient office sizes.

The circulation space in the core was designed to provide the maximum number of possibilities for tenants per floor. This plan gives the possibilities for one to four tenants to occupy **a** floor without a perimeter corridor.

#### ELEVATOR SELECTION

Controls -- Type **A** Number of floors served 14 Floor to floor height **11'-0"** Capacity of building

Useable floor area 120x130x.80 **12500** sq.ft. **Sq.** ft. **/** employee **125** Number of employees **12500/125** 100/flr. Capacity of building 14x100 1400 employees. Desired interval equals **30** to 40 seconds

Total travel 14x11 154 ft.

Assume average traffic **of 13 %** of population

 $\text{traffic}/5 \text{ min.} \quad .13(1400)$ 182- employees

Minimum travel speea **500** FPM use **700** FPM

Assume 4000 **lb.** elevator

Round trip time 140 secs.

Elevator capacity 21 passengers/trip

Capacity per five minutes  $\frac{60x5x21}{140}$ 

45 passengers/car/5min.

Number of cars required **182**

4 cars

Check: interval

Round trip time Number of cars

 $\frac{140}{4}$ 

**35** seconds.

**PLUMBING** SELECTION



Use 2 drinking fountains.

#### III. Structural System

# Design Criteria

Assuming precast concrete as a parameter to design a structural system taking advantage of precasting techniques and at the same time integrating the mechanical services and structural system to achieve minimum ceiling to floor height, to provide adequate noise control within the space and attenuation between spaces when partitions are used. The module inherent in the structure should allow the placement of partitions in a manner giving flexibility in sizes of private office areas and location of partitions, integration of lighting, electrical, telephone and signal systems into the module to allow flexibility in the location of office furniture.

#### Description

The structure consists of a one way system of beams framing into the core which acts as a sheer wall. **A** one way system was chosen in light of precasting techniques. It allows one typical member to be used and also the use of prestressing. The one way system eliminates the need for post-tensioning which a two way system requires and simplifies the erection process. The shape of the beam and the module inherent in it were determined **by** the needs of the mechanical services as to the desired module for lighting and ventilating and also the functional requirements of the system. The requirements for good acoustics were also considered as basic in the design of the beam unit. The building is

framed in the following manner. The beams on either side of the core frame into a prestressed girder spanning between the core and an exterior column. The section modulus of the girder, since it is one of the critical members on the system has been calculated. See page **11.** The beams framing into the core frame into beams which carry the load into the core. This allows free movement of mechanical duct work. The column at the core which receives the load of the girder has been calculated to determine its area. See page **15.** The capacity of the typical beam has been calculated and found to be adequate. See page **110** for the calculations. The beams are welded at the diaphragm points to insure uniform deflection of the beams under live load and to resist racking **by** the wind thereby transfering the wind load to the core. One diaphragm at midspan of the beam section is required **by** the ACI cole for handling purposes. The additional diaphragms distribute throughout the beam the shear caused **by** the welds restraining unequal deflection and racking **by** wind. The wind load is transfered to the core since the columns are designed to take no moment. The core takes all wind loading and transfers it to the footings and into the soil. The two and one-half inch topping of concrete placed over the floor beams is not required structurally since the beams are welded. It is needed only as a finished floor. **A** precast topping therefore was contemplated to eliminate the need for pouring wet concrete but was abandoned because of the difficulty encountered of concealing the joints between panels and of the panels warping. **All** joints in the structure are made **by** precasting

milled steel plates into the members. The plates are then welded together. Adjustment in the column joint and other joints where necessary is achieved with petal shims . After the shims are in place the joint is welded. Wheel plugs are used to align the column in the horizontal direction. To eliminate shrinkage cracks in the columns when they are precast only one bearing plate will be welded to the column steel during the casting process. After the column is cast and the concrete is allowed to shrink the second bearing plate is welded to the column steel at the proper elevation. Grout is injected under pressure between the bearing plate and column if it is needed.

**<sup>A</sup>**comparison of the quantity of concrete required of my inverted 'V' beam system as compared to a 'T' beam system was made.





*S4.* /A//44 *IgOT// 3* 3/5 'A3 5Q. /A. **t5D -v**



**AREA** OF **5ECTION** *96 x* **15** - /44  $3x 44 = 132$  $d \times 18.5 = 148$ TOPPING  $4 \times 96 = 384$ *06 6;t Al.* 5*Q. IN. /IN. WIDTH* = 808/96 = 8.4 SQ. IN.



6x60 **-60 z x** 4 .Z224 664 5Q. IN

KT. 59. FT = <del>144x</del>
# GIRDER DESIGN TOTAL LOAD ON GIRDER

DEAD LOAD = 100x40 + 115x5 = 4575 LBS/FT.

LIVE LOAD = 80x45 **-3600LBS/FT.** 

TOTAL LOAD = 8175 LBS/FT.



= 11,000 M.K.

SECTION MODULUS

Z6 = MIN. ALLOW. SECTION MODULUS



fbi \* ALLOW. COMP. **BOTTOM FIBER** AT TRANSFER 6fc=3600PSI

to = ALLOW. TEN. STREES  $=67.6$  $-468$ 

 $M_r$  = Mo.L. + ML.L.

## $n = .85$

ACTUAL SECTION MODULUS





7 = <u>6230</u><br>7 = 584  $10.2''$ 

 $I = \frac{1}{3} [60(10.3)^3 - 60(4.2)^3 + 16(19.3)^3 - 16(5.3)^3]$ 

 $=$  1/3 [63700 - 4450 + 124,000 - 3/20]

- $=60,040$  in  $4$
- $Zb = \frac{60,040}{19,8}$ =  $3/00$  in.<sup>3</sup>  $<$  3/25 in 3





$$
\overline{y} = \frac{689}{684}
$$

- 9.3″

, sec

 $I = \frac{1}{3}$ [100(9.3)<sup>5</sup>-40(6.8)<sup>3</sup>-60(5.3)<sup>3</sup>+16(20.7)<sup>3</sup>-16(6.7)<sup>5</sup>]

 $=$  1/3 [80, 500 - 12, 550 - 2160 + 142,000 - 4800]

 $\frac{1}{3}$ [203,000]

 $I: 67, 666$   $104$ 

 $Z_6$   $\frac{67,666}{207}$ 

 $= 3230 \text{ m}^3$  > 3125  $\text{m}^3$ 

13.

SHEAR AT SUPPORT

 $V \cdot \frac{WL}{2}$  $. \frac{8/75 \times 50}{2}$  $-123,000$   $L89$  $A = 2 \times 12 \times 14 + 2 \times 8 \times 16$  $= 336 + 256$ = 592 50. IN.  $v = \frac{V}{A}$  $=$  $\frac{123,000}{592}$ 

 $= 208$  PSI

ALLOW.  $U$  = 240psi

NOTE: WHERE HOLE OCCURS INSERT A STEEL PIPE SLEEVE WITH EQUAL SHEAR. STRENGTH AS THE AREA OF CONCRETE EEMOVED.

AREA OF CONCRETE = 10.5 X2  $= 126$  5Q. IN.

SHEAR CAPACITY = 126x 240  $330,300$  LBS. REQUIRED PIPE THICKNESS = 1/2 (30300) 12  $=$   $.$  /  $M$ .



20ADS  
\nGILDER V = 
$$
\frac{W}{2}
$$
  
\n=  $\frac{3/75 \times 30}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}$   
\n= 61,500 LBS  
\nBEAM V =  $\frac{W}{2}$   
\n=  $\frac{(100 \times 22.5 + 80 \times 22.5)20}{2}$   
\n=  $4050$  LBS  
\nTOTAL V = 61,500 + 4,050  
\n= 65,600 LBS.  
\n2EGUIRED APEA  
\n=  $\frac{1}{2!36}$  + 57  
\n=  $\frac{985.6}{2!3(6) + 24(04)}$  f6  
\n=  $\frac{985.6}{2 \cdot 24}$  f5  
\n= 440 sq. IL

AXIAL LOAD 15 (65.6)  $985.6K.$ = 6000 L<del>BS/S4</del>.IN.

.40fy<br>24,000 LB6/SQ. IN.

 $P_9.04$ 



TOTAL LOAD ON BEAM

DEAD LOAD = 100x 2.5 = 250 LB5/FT.

LIVE LOAD = 80x 2.5 = 200 LBS/PT.

TOTAL LOAD . 450 LBS/FT.

 $Mr = \frac{W^2}{8} \times 12$  $=$   $\frac{450(20)^2 \times 12}{8}$ 

 $= 270,000$  IN. 185.

SECTION MODULLIS



ACTUAL SECTION MODULUS



$$
\overline{y} = \frac{3470}{250}
$$
  
= 13.9 M.

 $I = V$ 3bh<sup>3</sup>

$$
Zb = \frac{21,970}{16.1}
$$

 $= 1,360 \text{ m}^3$ 

### IV. Mechanical System

#### Design Criteria

To provide a system giving maximum flexibility and control of the climate in the work space to allow the placement of equipment with high heat producing characteristics where ever desired. This equipment may include accounting machines, duplicating equipment or tabulating machines.

#### Description

**<sup>A</sup>**high velocity dual duct mechanical system with mixing boxes placed in the work area was chosen. An outline of the system is as follows. (See sheet three for plan of system.) Mechanical floors are located on the basement level feeding the entrance level and seven typical floors above, also on the fifteenth floor feeding down seven floors. From the mechanical equipment floor the conditioned air moves vertically at a high velocity through the shaft in the core to the floor served. On each floor the air **moves** from the vertical shaft at a high velocity through ducts down **each** of the girders as shown on sheet seven. From this duct branch the ducts running between 'loor beams which supply the hot and cold air to the mixing boxes. The strucutral system provides possible mixing box locations on a module five feet **by** seven and one-half feet. Each location will be stubbed to receive mixing boxes. **The** mixing boxes control the static pressure in the system and reduce

 $\mathbf{r}_3$  .

the speed of the air to lower velocities before injecting it into the work space. The mixing boxes are controlled **by** thermostats located in the work space they serve. If desirable it is possible to have more than one mixing box controlled **by** a thermostat. **All** ducts have been sized with the aid of Mr. Crowley and have been drawn to scale on the drawings. One inch of insulation is required on both hot and cold ducts. The return air is located between the two. lighting coffers in the floor system and draws the heat from the lighting directly into the return air plenum before it enters the work space. The return air plenum is also a pipe chase to allow the installation of wash basins in executive offices if they are desired. The return air travels through the plenum in the floor system and into the plenum in the girder and into the core area, or simply into the core area if it doesn't frame into a girder. **A** damper is located at the end of the plenum in the floor system feeding into the girder plenum or. core area to control the static pressure. The return air in the vertical shaft of the core takes the air to the mechanical floor. It is mixed with fresh air, filtered, conditioned to the proper temperature and enters the system again as supply air.

Using this system a degree of flexibility of control ranging from a large space using three to five mixing boxes controlled by one thermostat to the control of one mixing box **by** one thermostat where desired is possible.

**By** using double glazing composed of heat absorbing glass on the outside and plate glass on the inside, the solar heat transmission was reduced from ninety to fifty per cent of that incident

*19-*

on the glass area, while the light transmission has been reduced in from eighty-eight to sixty-eight per cent. The double glazing also has the advantage of eliminating condensation from forming on the inside surface of the glass during winter months.

#### V. Electrical System

## Design Criteria

To provide an electrical system giving freedom in the location of electrically operated office machines, telephones, and signal apparatus. The system shall also be capable of changing as the need arises allowing new or additional wiring to be placed where needed.

#### Description

On two sides of the core are located electrical galleries housing the electrical power, telephone and signal switching' gear. Each gallery serves one-half the office floor. The wiring is fed through a main raceway duct which in turn feeds down secondary raceways between beams. The main raceway is located in the **two** and one-half inch finish floor slab while the secondary raceways lie within the depth of the beam. **By** being able to locate **my** secondary raceways within the depth of.the beam **I** save an inch and one-half in floor depth $\ell$  The secondary raceways serving all the

area are on a five foot module with each access strip being five

feet wide.

#### VI. Lighting System

## Design Criteria

To integrate the lighting into the structural system in a. manner sympathetic to the "structural and office furniture module. **A** minimum amount of glare is desirable to reduce eye strain. Fifty to sixty foot candles of light intensity is desired on the work surface as set forth in the Illuminating Engineers Society recommendations.

#### Description

The module selected of five feet allows fluorescent light bulbs and fixtures to be easily integrated into the module, the standard length of light bulb being four feet. The white tectum or insulrock cast into the coffer of the floor unit has **a** reflection factor of between eighty and ninety per cent. This is within the recommendations given **by** the Illuminating Engineers Society. **By** using the coffer of the beam unit as the light fixture the structural system is revealed giving harmony to the supporting framework and the work space below. The coffers, by offering the possibility of recessing the light fixtures also eliminates the need of a hung ceiling which would increase to ceiling to floor height. **By** recessing the fixtures the amount of glare is reduced keeping the direct light to a minimum. This reduces the contrast of

surrounding surfaces while providing adequate foot candles on the work surface. **By** varying the number of fluorescent tubes in each fixture the intensity of illumination can be adjusted. The heat absorbing glass used in the exterior glazing reduces the amount of natural light transmitted. This also reduces the contrast with surrounding surfaces and lessens the amount of glare.

#### VII. Acoustics

## Design Criteria

To provide acoustical comfort in the work space **by** eliminating distracting noises and **by** maintaining a level of background noise conducive to an efficient working environment. This **level of** background noise lies between forty and fifty decibels.

## Description

The double glazing on the exterior wall reduces the transmission of outside noise into the building. Ordinary  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch plate glass has a noise reduction coefficient of thirty decibels while the double glazing has a noise reduction coefficient between forty and fifty decibels.

The additional surface area created **by** the coffers increases the area of absorptive material **by** two hundred thirty per cent. The equivalent noise reduction is given **by** the equation:

> N.R. **10** log a a **10 log 2 10(-36) 3.6 db**

This gives an apparent noise reduction to approximately three quarters the original sound using a flat ceiling. The insulrock or tectum has the advantage of being able to be painted while still maintaining its acoustic properties.

**All** flooring will be laid over resilient material to eliminate impact noise.

D4 **fj**



SURFACE AREA OF COFFER

 $2x1.75x4.5 = 15.75$  sq.  $FT$  $2x1.25x1.75 = 4.40$  6Q. FT.  $-5x4.25:2.13$  $A = 22.285Q.$  PT.

SURFACE AREA OF PLAT CEILING

 $2x$  4.75 = 9.5 sq. FT.  $A = 9.55Q.F.7$ 22.3 ×100 PERCENT INCREASE = - $\overline{9.5}$ 

 $= 230 \%$ 

## **A** PRECAST **CONCRETE** HIGH-RISE

## OFFICE BUILDING

**by**

## **THOMAS HENNEY**

D.A.(Edin.) Edinburgh College of Art

**(1959)**

SUBMITIED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT

OF **THE REQUIREMENTS** FOR THE

DEGREE OF MASTER OF

## ARCHITECTURE

at the

**MASSACHUSETTS** INSTITUTE OF

**TECHNOLOGY**

June, **1963**



Accepted **by ........**

 $\frac{1}{2}$  .

Lawrence B. Anderson Chairman, Department of Architecture June 17, **1963**

Pietro Belluschi', Dean School of Architecture and Planning Massachusetts Institute of Technology Cambridge **39,** Massachusetts

Dear Dean Belluschi:

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master in Architecture, I hereby submit this thesis entitled: **"A** Precast Concrete High-Rise Office Building."

Respectfully,

Thomas **Henney**

## ABSTRACT

This thesis is concerned with an investigation of precast concrete structural elements, and its application for a high-rise office building. Special attention is given to the integration of the structural and mechanical systems.

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Abstract

Acknowledgements I. Design Criteria **1** Design Requirements **1** Structural Requirements 2 Mechanical Services Requirements **3** II. Building Concept 4 III. Structural Concept **6** Structural Facade **6** 6 Floor System **7** Thermal Expansion **9** Wind Loading **9** Transfer Girder 9 IV. Mechanical and Electrical Services 11 Lighting 12 V. Drawings **13**

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#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I am grateful to the following people for their invaluable advice and assistance during the thesis:

-Dr . Howard Simpson

Mr .'William Connolly

Mr. Charles **A.** Crowley

Eduardo F. Catalano **.......** Advisor

The members of the M.I.T. Faculty who participated in **the**

preliminary Jury, May, **1963.**

## I. Design Criteria

In order to formulate a program for the design of a prototype office bui'lding, it is essential to outline a set of goals. In any building there must be a group of constants that will ensure the liveability and efficient function of the building. To give a total architectural expression all these constants must interact. The organization of the building must be clearly defined and can be expressed by an hierarchy of elements, In order to stimulate life within the building, the building must have good dimensions. This will give a good space for flexibility and richness of area distribution.

The complexity of the servicing in a contemporary office building will demand a rational and systematic solution to the design. The mechanical systems should be integrated with the structural system to express a clear organization of elements:

The building will have a center of gravity, which will **have** the concentration of vertical communication and supply lines; also constant, ancillary areas.

### Design Requirements

In an office building, it is important to have a good ratio of office space to ancillary space. The ratio is approximately **80%** of the total gross floor area to be alloted to office space. The dimensions of the service core will have a direct relationship between the total floor area and the total number of floors. To

ensure flexibility the floor area should be of generous dimensions and be free of columns and other vertical elements. The core is the center of gravity of the building and should be carefully organized to act as a servant space for the general office space. The service core should be efficiently distributed so that all vertical circulation elements are clearly defined and the circulation is contained within the core.

The office space should be designed on a modular basis. The size of the module will depend on the optimal size of rooms required. There should be an integration between the building module and the structural and mechanical systems so that these elements interact to give complete flexibility of partitioning and space distribution.

#### Structural Requirements

The building is to be constructed of precast concrete elements using prestressing techniques. In the interests of flexibility it would be advisable to have a clear span of the floor from the window wall to the core wall. The main load-bearing elements will be on the periphery of the building and around the core. To give stiffness to the building and give it the capacity to resist wind loading and shear, the core of the building will require to be constructed of cast-in-place concrete. Careful study will be required to be given to the joints and also how all the elements relate. Also to be considered is the relationship of the building to the ground level.

2.

## Mechanical Services Requirements

An investigation must be made to find the correct location for the mechanical equipment rooms. Also the location of the vertical and horizontal supply lines so that they will all comply with the general design criteria. The right air conditioning **sys**tem should be selected. The electrical and telephone raceways should be. systematically distributed to give service to each module. Lighting should be positioned on a modular basis to give a good general level of illumination.

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## II. Building Concept

The **36** story office building has a total gross square footage of 1,200,000 square feet. Each floor has a gross square footage of 34,000 square feet, with a total rental space of **27,000** square feet which is approximately  $80\%$  of the total area. The flexible office space has a **50'-0"** or ten module span in all directions from the .core to the facade. The building is set out on a *5'-0"* **x 5'-0"** module, and the module line is on the inside face of the column so as to conform to a standard module for movable partitions. The underside of the floor structure is left exposed and the ribs form a **5'-0" x 5'-0"** grid, which will allow partitioning to be located on the underside of the ribs. On the soffit of each matrix is located a fluorescent light fixture with either **supply** or return grills combined into the fixture. Acoustical material is placed on the ceiling above the fixture, which is designed to make full use of this acoustic absorption.

Above the structural slab is positioned an air floor which integrates the air conditioning, power and telephone services.

The floor plan was designed so that all primary circulation is contained within the core, all secondary circulation will be contained within the general office space. The office space was considered for one major rental. It can be sectioned off to accommodate up to four tenants per floor.

There are 20 automatic elevators serving the building; they will be staged so that ten elevators will serve up to the first

eighteen floors and the other ten will serve the remaining floors. Both groups of elevators serve on to the transitional eighteenth floor. The core will also contain: fire stairs, vertical service risers, mechanical rooms, toilets and janitors' rooms.

**jb**

## III. Structural Concept

#### Structural Facade

The structural facade is constructed of precast concrete window units. The mullions are 12" x 12" on the top floors and they increase in width and depth to 14" x 42" at the base. **6,000 p.s.i. concrete** is used throughout and the strength of the steel **75,000** p.s.i. The mullions were tapered out **so as to express the** accumulation of stresses as they gather loading. The glass line remains constant so that the modeling of the facade will get progressively stronger as it drops to the base of the building. As shown on drawing #7, the mullions are fixed to each other vertically **by** means of dowel joints. The reinforcing in the mullion section is welded to bearing plates. This is all done in the precasting process. When the window units are placed, the dowels slip into sleeves and the bearing plates are shimmed with steel shims to get the correct elevational alignment. The dowels and the .joint between the bearing plates are then pressure grouted. The window units are fixed laterally **by** welding the reinforcing together in preformed pockets left in the column; the pockets **are** then pressure grouted. The joints are designed to have hinge action, so that all dynamic and bending stresses will be deflected via the floor slab into the structural core walls. The window units are finished with an exposed white quartz **aggragate. The** units will be vibrated after being cast, using the Schokbeton system. This will give a dense section and the **edges** and form

will be sharp and clean. The formwork will have curved corners and beveled surfaces to give ease of pouring and removal of forms. This plastic modeling of the units will truly express the homogeneous nature of the material. Special attention will be given to the joints between units, so that they are carefully gasketted and caulked. The glass will be fixed **by** neoprene gaskets which are fixed to steel angle frames cast into the concrete.

The precast floor units will be fixed **by** welding the bottom of the ribs to the continuous boot lintel on the window unit.

#### Floor system

Different types of precast floor systems were investigated, and it was decided to use a one-way system. Basically the precast floor unit is a channel section with diaphragms at **5'-O"** centers. The webs of the channel are pretensioned and the unit is five feet wide and spans **50** feet from the facade to the core. The bottom of the ribs and diaphragms are checked to take the partitioning. At the corners the units are framed into precast concrete girders which span from heavy columns to the buttressed corners of the structural core. The heavy column will have a precast shell and the core will be cast in place. This column will help to give rigidity to the building. The precast girder will be lifted up into position in three sections and then post-tensioned.

Consideration was- given to making the corners of the building operate as a two-way system, by post tensioning the units laterally through the diaphragms. This system had the advantage of making

**7.**

the row of side columns participate in the support of floor loads. After weighting up the pros and cons of the two systems it was decided to use the one-way system. To post-tension each diaphragm at 5'-O" centers on all four corners of the building would have meant using rather complicated structural techniques. It would have been a time-consuming process which would have negated the reasons for using precast units.

The 'side columns which stretch from the corner of the building to the big structural support column, are not actively participating as structural load-bearing elements. However, they are necessary for the continuity of the modular planning. They give a consistent window mullion treatment all the way around. They will be expressed differently from the load bearing mullions, **by** keeping the units a consistent depth all the way down the height of the building.

The floor units are welded together at quarter points and the ,joints are grouted. They are also welded at the facade and core seatings.

The core wall is cast in place and is constructed **by** using slip-form methods. The walls shall increase in thickness as it picks up the loads of the structure. The corners of the structural core wall will thicken out to fora buttresses to support the precast floor girders.

The erection procedure will be quick and efficient. The core walls will be constructed first in stages using slip form. Two climbing tower cranes will be used to lift the elements

8.

straight from the truck into position. The window unit is placed first and then the floor unit. The building will rise consistently in story height stages.

#### Thermal Expansion

Thermal expansion is one of the primary structural design considerations. **By** a special study of the connections on the top ten floors, the floor units can be designed so that the end that rests on the core has a hinge connection and can rotate freely. The beam is then able to fluctuate and adjust to the thermal movement of the facade. Another problem is for the floor to rack at the corners. This can be solved by careful designing. Movable partitions on the top ten floors are designed so that any deflection of the floors can be accommodated without damaging or distorting the partitions.

## Wind Loading

It is assumed that the structural core will take the greatest proportion of the stresses due to wind loading. Residual stressed will be taken up **by** the double row of columns that are parallel to the direction **of** the wind.

## Transfer Girder

To provide a satisfactory connection at the ground the structural facade will be supported **by** a cast-in-place concrete transfer girder. The ground floor columns are then spaced at wider spans.

The advantages of the structural concept are as follows:

- **1.** The facade expresses the structure and the module used in the building.
- 2. Using precast elements will speed up the erection time and ultimately a saving in cost.
- **3.** The difrerent types of precast elements are reduced to a minimum as the building is systematic, and universal sections have been used.
- 4. The office space is free of columns which provides efficient and flexible use of office space.
- **5.** The soffit of the floor units are left exposed, and express the structure. They give additional height and interest to the ceiling.
- **6.** The core walls are structural and allow freedom of planning inside the core.

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#### IV. Mechanical **and Electrical Services**

The mechanical rooms are located on the second floor, eighteenth floor and on the roof. On the second floor the full depth of the transfer girder is utilized for the mechanical room. The vertical distribution is divided into four zones of eight floors. The second floor mechanical room serves the bottom eight floors. The roof mechanical room serves the top eight floors and the intermediate mechanical room serves the remaining sixteen floors. Vertical service risers are located in the core of the building.

Horizontal distribution for each floor is divided into zones, governed **by** the **exposure of** the building.

The periphery of the building is served **by** a high velocity system. The interior space **by** a low velocity system.

The distribution of the systems is **by** means of an air floor which allows the passage of ducts and services above the structural floor. The ducts and services supply the floor above and the floor below. The plenum of the air floor is used as an exhaust system. The supply and return grills for the ceiling are combined with the fluorescent lighting fixture. These units are controlled by damper. The window induction units are supplied by a high velocity single duct system, which has integral re-heat and cooling coils. These coils will be served by water. Each unit is thermostatically controlled.

Heat loads have been reduced **by** using tinted heat resistant

glass. Provision is made for the installation of venetian blinds or drapes.

The columns and spandrils are insulated on the internal face and are furred out and plastered.

## Lighting

 $\mathcal{L}^{\mathcal{L}}$ 

Each 5"-0" **x 5'-o"** module has a fluorescent light fixture to ensure a good general level of illumination. Underfloor ducts serve telephone and electrical services to each module.

**A** MULTI-STORY PRECAST **CONCRETE**

OFFICE BUILDING

V

**by**

RODNEY **AMES** WESTBURY

B.ARCH., **CLEMSON COLLEGE**

**(1961)**

SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT

OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR **THE**

DEGREE OF MASTER OF

ARCHITECTURE

at the

**MASSACHUSETTS** INSTITUTE OF

**TECHNOLOGY**

June, 1963



Chairman, Department of Architecture

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June, **1963**

Pietro Belluschi, Dean School of Architecture and Planning Massachusetts Institute of Technology Cambridge **39,** Massachusetts

Dear Dean -Belluschi,

In partial fulfillment for the degree of Master in Architecture, I hereby submit this thesis entitled, **"A** Multi-Story Precast Concrete Office Building.

s.

*Respectively, ,,* 

/Rodney **f.** Westbury

**v**

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I am grate ful to the following people for their invaluable advice and assistance during the thesis:

Dr. Howard Simpson

**Mr.** Charles **A.** Crowley

Mr. William Connolly

Eduardo Catalano, Thesis Supervisor

b

and the members of the M.I.T. faculty who participated in the preliminary Jury, May, **1963.**
# **I.** Design Criteria

In the examination of a building an inductive sequence must take place with established architectural requirements. The building concept must reflect the design requirements, the structural and mechanical considerations and the methods of construction and economr.

#### **A.** Envelope

The envelope of the building consists of precast curtain wall window units of lightweight concrete. These units are a direct expression of the module and contain the induction units of the periphery mechanical system. The quality of finish in these units is excellent and can be expressed inside and out. The precast elements easily meet fire regulations. They also present a rigid surface in a continuous line around the perimeter of the building to receive interior partitions. Expression of the floor and ceiling line is achieved along with considerable solar protection to the glazed surface areas.

# B. Design Requirements

Investigation has shown that recent buildings under construction or completed have a minimum of  $14,000$  square feet rentable office space per floor. Each floor in the proposed office building will have a total gross square fottage **of 17,590** square feet with a net rentable area, excluding the core, of  $14,800$  square feet or approximately  $85\%$  of the gross square footage. The 20 story

office building has a total square footage of **351,800** square feet. The opportunity for flexible arrangement of office partitions will be provided on each floor. Each floor will contain a column **free** interior with a central service core of elevators, stairs, toilets and service shafts. Each floor will be- designed around a 4' - **6"** working moduleswith all structural and mechanical elements related to it. This module gives more flexibility in planning of office layout, and standard wall and ceiling materials may be used.

**C.** Structural

The office building structure will be precast prestressed concrete. The structural bay will have a clear span of  $49'$ -6" **x** 31'-6" This creates a column free interior space with maximum flexibility. The floor system shall be prestressed concrete and the ceiling to floor depth shall be kept to a minimum to reduce the overall height and cost of the building. Attention will be given to forming and methods of construction.

**D.** Mechanical and Electrical

**<sup>A</sup>**study will be made to determine the location of the main mechanical equipment floors and also the vertical and horizontal distribution and the individual supply and return grilles. The electrical lighting will be integrated with the modular system and give the proper illumination at desk level. The power and telephone supply will also be established on the modular system to insure flexibility.

### II. Building Concept

Rapid advancements in the mass production of precast prestressed concrete components have enhanced the utilization of these elements in high-rise buildings. Where the framing **sys**tem must have a clear span of 30 feet or more, the utilization of these components tied together compositely with cast-in-place concrete ean bring about very significant cost savings.

Experience has shown that simplicity of erection and handling of utilities can be achieved **by** utilizing a combination of precast units and cast-in-place concrete in a composite system. Framing for a typical floor in this system requires precast prestressed channels and girders with stirrups in the top flange to develop composite structural action with the cast-in-place floor slabs. On the job the units are individually hoisted into position. To achieve the highest efficiency, all connections between precast units should develop full bearing and continuity. The connecting ends will rest on the intersecting units. Mild reinforcing will be added in the poured topping to serve as continuity ties along with steel bearing plates and weld points. The precast prestressed channels have grooves formed in the top flange in which the mild reinforcing will be laid and grooves in the bottom of the webs to receive partitions. To express the floor structure the ribs of the one-way channels will be exposed along with the soffits of box girder webs. This will allow partitioning to be attached to the bottom of the ribs. Where partitions run perpendicular to **the**

3.

one-way channels precast concrete diaphrams will be inserted which will be flush with the bottom and sides of the channels. This will tie the partitions into the structure and will contain acoustical reverberation within the rooms.

The space between the webs of the channels and the box girders will be used to run mechanical ducts. The ducts will feed out from the core within the box girder which will be perforated to allow the ducts to branch off and run down the channels. The channels are one module in width. Every alternate channel will house a supply duct and the adjacent one will contain a return air duct. This will give a **9'-O"** mechanical module containing both a supply and return air duct. The electrical raceways will be contained within the poured topping.

The structural core will be poured one floor at a time. The precast columns will be secured into position. The box girders and spandrel girders will be positioned and the channels will be let into position onto their bearing ledges. Reinforcing and electrical raceways will be laid out. The topping will then be poured. The precast window units will be let into place and secured. Mechanical equipment ductwork and acoustical panels will be installed, completing the main structural and mechanical work for the floor.

Eight automatic elevators will be housed in the structural core to provide high speed service from the lobby to all floors. Toilets, janitor closets, stairs and service shafts will also be housed in the structural core.

4.

## III. Structural Concept

The structural framing consists of box girders spanning from the poured-in-place structural core to the precast load bearing columns on the exterior walls. Spandrel girders will span the distance between tpe column supports within the exterior wall on the short side of the building. **All** girders will be precast and prestressed using **6000** PSI concrete. They will be **2'-6"** in depth with a clear span **of 32'-0".** The box girder will be precast with a three inch top flange with steel reinforcing extending above the surface. The girder will then be hoisted into position and mild reinforcing will be placed over the girder and will extend into the grooves in the top of the channels. Wire mesh reinforcing will be laid on top of this and extend out on both sides of the girder. This will activate additional strips on both sides which may be considered as eight times the thickness of the topping or in this particular case 2'-O" in effective width. The **3"** topping will then be poured in place. This will give a **6"** upper flange to the box girder and also create a continuous joint connection in the channels which will negate the dead load moment at the middle of each span.

All girders will bet cast with collapsablee steel forms. The spandrel girder will have a void in the center to reduce the dead weight as this section in area is structurally inert. The box girder will be cast with perforations in the webs to permit mechanical ducts to branch out on both sides.

Ledges will be formed at the bottom of the webs on the box girders and on the interior lower side of the spandrel girders. Neoprene pads will be placed on the ledges. The channels will be **27"** in depth with a clear span of 49'-6". The webs of the channels will be notched at the bottom with a steel bearing plate cast into the web which will rest upon the ledges of the girders. The saffit of the channel webs will be grooved to receive partitions. The top of the channel webs will be groved to receive mild reinforcing which will be laid across the top of the girder and extend a sufficient distance on both sides of the girder to achieve a continuous bond. The extension of the mild steel reinforcing will also be an insurance against any cracking in the floor topping along the joint lines.

The entire structural network will be united harmoniously **by** the **3"** poured topping which will, in effect, create a monolithic structure.

The precast columns will be tapered in cross section from the first through the thirteenth floor. This reduction in area will be directly proportional to the diminution of stress as the number of floors acting on the column decreases. The columns will be precast in collapseable steel forms. Cylindrical steel rings will be cast into the sides of the columns to permit mechanical pipes and ducts to pass through to the induction units in the window elements. The columns will be notched to rpceive the girders which will bear upon neoprene pads. **A** steel channel will be cast in the top of each column section identical to the channel cast in

6.

top of the girder. Each column section will be precasted one floor height which will establish the top of the column section at the same elevation with the girder. **A** steel rod will be welded to the column channel and girder channel producing a fixed end connection.

Steel dowels will extend from the top and.bottom of each column section with a recess in the interior face of the column which permit the insertion of a steel jacket coupler. The columns can then be dry-packed and bolted together. The recessed slabs will be grouted in to make the joints continuous.

The columns containing mechanical equipment will have a cover panel on the interior to permit access for maintainence and alterations.

The advantages of this structural concept are as follows:

**1.** The floor structure is exposed and expressed the structure, giving additional height order and visual strength to the ceiling.

2. The forms used for the girders, channels, columns, and window units may be reused.

**3.** The facade is an expression of the module and structure of the building.

4. When the core waIls are structural it allows for maximum freedom in planning of the core.

# IV. Calculations

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Subjects covered in calculations:

Box Girder Calculations Spandrel' Girder Calculations Column Calculations



 $40B$ 

8316

 $\frac{8316}{409} = 1011$  $\overline{g}$ MOMENT OF INERTIA  $I \tau = I \wedge +I \varepsilon + I \varepsilon$  $I_T = \frac{1}{16} |3(20)^5 - 6(3)^3 - 6(0)^5 + 30(0)^3 - 24(4)^3 + 24(0)^3 - 24(1)^3|$  $I_T = \frac{139600}{3} = 46.535 \text{ N}^4$ SECTION MODULUS  $7b = \frac{I_T}{I}$  $\frac{46533}{10}$  = 4694 IN<sup>4</sup>) 4512 IN<sup>4</sup> = ZbMIN

BOX GIRDER CALCULATIONS

MINIMUM SECTION MODULUS: Zb MIN

 $A6 = 5.43$   $5QFT$ 5.43 FT<sup>2</sup> X 150<sup>#</sup>/FT<sup>5</sup> =  $800$ <sup>#</sup>/FT; D.L. GIRDER  $w_{\text{o}} = .8^{\kappa}$  $5"1OPPING: 51.5#/FTX45' = 1600*/FT$ <br>LIVE LOAD : 80 F/FT X 49.5 = 1600 = 17<br>also a in CHANNEL :  $90^{\frac{1}{5}}$ FT X 45<sup>1</sup><br>3<sup>||</sup> TOPPING : 51.5<sup>#</sup>/FT X 45<sup>1</sup>  $=4050$ # $/$ FT  $W_a = 9.1<sup>K</sup>$  $Wa = 9.7X 32^{1} = 510^{k1}$  $Ma = \frac{WL}{3} = \frac{310 \times 32}{9} = 1240^{k1}$  $W_P = .8 \times 32 = 26^{k!}$  $MD = \frac{WL}{B} = \frac{16 \times 52}{B} = 104$  $Mr = 1344 k1$ 

 $Zbmin = \frac{Ma + Md}{nliiml}$ 

 $fbi = ALLOW$ . COMP. IN BOTTOM FIBER @ TRANGFER.  $Ab = ALLOW$ . STRESS IN BOTTOM @ WORKING LOAD. n = RESIDUAL PRESTRESS FRACTION



\n
$$
\begin{aligned}\n &\text{fbi} = .6 &\text{fic} \\
 &\text{fic} = 6000 \text{psi} \\
 &\text{fbi} = 3600 \text{psi} \\
 &\text{fbi} = -460 \text{psi} \quad \text{fCE} \quad \text{fic} = 6000 \text{psi}\n \end{aligned}
$$
\n

$$
\angle bMM = \frac{1344}{5528} \times 12000 = 4572 \text{ in}^4
$$

ANALYSIS OF SECTION @ PERFORATION FOR SHEAR



 $V = 42K$  $d=10<sup>1</sup>$  $M = 42X15 = 51.5$  $V = \frac{52000}{12 \times 10} = 267$ #

 $VALLOW. FOR  $\angle E = 5000PSi = 140PSi$$ SECTION REQUIRES ADDITIONAL STEEL IN STIRRUP REINFORCING @ POINT.

ANALYSIS OF SECTION @ PERFORATION FOR LOCAL BENDING.  $\bar{\mathcal{A}}$ 

$$
d=\sqrt{\frac{M}{kb}} \qquad k=393 \quad FOR \quad l'c=5000 \text{Pbi}
$$

 $\mathcal{L}$ 

$$
d = \sqrt{\frac{32\times1000\times12}{393\times12}} = 9^{\frac{1}{1}}
$$

 $\sim 10^7$ 

 $\sim 10^{12}$ 

 $\mathcal{L}^{\pm}$ 

SPANDREL GIRDER CALCULATIONS





$$
\bar{y} = \frac{8900}{620} = 15.5^{\circ}
$$

MOMENT OF INERTIA  $I_T = \frac{1}{2} \left[ 30(13.5)^3 - 14(3.5)^3 - 8(5.5)^3 + 22(16.5)^3 - 14(6.6)^3 \right]$  $I_T = \frac{168.224}{3} = 56.1001N^4$ SECTION MODULUS  $\vec{f}b = \frac{f_r}{c}$  $76 = \frac{56100}{16.5} = 3500114$  3490 IN<sup>4</sup>

14. GIRDER CALCULATIONS SPANDREL



CHANNEL:  $40 \frac{t}{T}$ FTX 25 = 2250  $57.5$ <sup>+</sup>/FT X 25 = 938 TOPPING: WINPOW UNIT: 500#/FTX | = 500 80#/FT X 25 = <u>1000</u> LIVE LOAD:

 $Wa = 56BB = 5.6k$ 

 $GIRDEF.$   $A_9 = 4.560$  FT X  $150 = 645$ # $/$ FT X  $1 = 645$  $wd = .6k$  $\lambda$ 

$$
Wa = 224 \times 40 = 224
$$
  
\n
$$
Ma = \frac{224 \times 40}{8} = 24
$$
  
\n
$$
Ma = \frac{2.4 \times 40}{8} = 24
$$
  
\n
$$
Ma = \frac{2.4 \times 40}{8} = 11
$$
  
\n
$$
Mr = 111
$$

 $Zb$ MIN =  $\frac{1111}{3528}$  × 12000 = 3490 IN<sup>4</sup>

COLUMN CALCULATIONS



GIRDER: 118 PSF CHANNEL: 90 PSF TOPPING: 38 PSF DEAD LOAD: 506 PSF LIVE LOAD: BO PSF TOTAL 586 PSF  $16X54 = 850(386)$ LIVE LOAD REDUCTION

WEIGHT OF COLUMN



N = A (.215 f/c + fs Pa)  
\n
$$
f/c = 60000 \text{psi}
$$
 : .215 f/c = 1290 Psi  
\n $f\gamma = 60,000 \text{psi}$   
\n $f\delta = .85(40 f\gamma) = .85(24,000) = 20,400 \text{psi}$   
\n $Pa = .04$   
\n $20,400 \times .04 = 816 \text{psi}$   
\nA =  $\frac{N}{1290 + 816} = \frac{7,418,625}{2106} = 3551 \text{ sec/N}$   
\n $\frac{8951}{21} = 110 \text{ sec/N/fLR}$  REDUCTION OF A.

# V. Mechanical and Electrical Systems

The main mechanical areas are located on the eighth floor and the penthouse. The eighth floor mechanical area feeds down seven floors and up seven floors. The penthouse mechanical area feeds down six floors. The mechanical areas have been located in the most advantageous positions, as it is easier to move air with gravity and the intermediate mechanical floor feeds in both directions. Fresh air will be taken in as well as exhausted at each mechanical floor.

Several visual expressions exist for mechanical floors at the midpoint of the building; it can be ignored or expressed, played up or down. I have elected to recess the mechanical floor. Setbacks differentiate special areas of the building; offer contrapuntal punctuation in its surface, and enhance the post and beam character of its structure. In an urban environment such recesses give vitality to a building.

Two mechanical systems have been employed in my building. One is a high velocity periphery air-conditioning system which is supplemented **by** the second system. The second system is **a** low velocitY central system supplied from the service core. The high velocity periphery system will be-supplied **by** vertical risers within the two interior columns on each facade. These columns will then be the major structural and mechanical columns on every side of the building. There will be run-outs on each floor feeding in both directions from the columns into the precast window units. A flexible

connection will be made to each induction unit beneath the window sills. Hot, cold, return and condensate pipes will also feed out along with the air duct. This periphery system will have individual controls at each unit which will obviate any zoning of the building. These induction units can handle a maximum depth into the building of **23** feet. **My** layout will be for a depth of three modules or approximately 14 feet. The majority of the air. in this peripheral zone will not be returned but will pressurize this area and dissipate back into the core.

The periphery system will function in conjunction with the low velocity central system. The ducts of this system will emanate from the central core with the main trunks running within the box girders from whence the ducts will branch off into the channels. Every other channel will have a supply duct with the adjacent channel housing the return. This gives a mechanical module of **9'-O"** which will then contain both a supply and return air duct. The low velocity system will have a temperature and air**volume** control on each floor with a re-heat coil situated in the core. The return air grille will be combined with the lighting fixture which will be perforated to allow heat to be removed from its main source. The supply grille will be the same size as the lighting fixture.

**By** integrating these two systems flexibility and efficiency will be realized. Running vertical riser ducts up the columns will save on square footage otherwise necessitated in the core which in turn would usurp rentable office space. The need for

1T.

ceiling ducts will be reduced, thereby reducing the floor construction from that required **by** an all duct system from the core. Another advantage of the system is the creation of continuous surfaces on the interior wall space. No columns or ducts project into the interior space. It is also possible with the application of heat removal techniques to evidence considerable saving in the operating cost of cooling and heating systems.

#### Lighting

**A** continuous strip of lighting will be contained in every other channel which will also be a heat removable troffer. This will provide the required foot candle capacity at desk levels in the office spaces. Telephone and electrical service will be situated in under floor ducts with access at the center of each module. Electrical bus conduits will be contained in the structural and mechanical columns and the telephone service will originate.from electrical closets located in the service core on each floor.



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SOUTH ELEVATION



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WEST FLEVATION

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REFLECTED CEILING PLAN of CORNER

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A MULTISTORY PRECAST CONCRETE<br>OFFICE BUILDING<br>Alexandre W. Brew Area<br>Moster of Architecture Thesi<br>M.L.T. .



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EXTERIOR ELEVATION



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ENTRANCE LEVEL  $\ddot{a}$  50 FEET

A HIGH RISE PRECAST CONCRETE **1** MASTER IN ARCHITECTURE THESIS THOMAS RENNEY M.LT. JUNE 1983.

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A HIGH RISE PRECAST CONCRETE 2 **HASTER IN ARCHITECTURE THESIS** THOMAS HENNEY MLT. JUNE 1963

**TYPICAL LOW RISE FLOOR PLAN**  $\overrightarrow{a}$   $\overrightarrow{a}$   $\overrightarrow{b}$  $\overline{z}$ SO FEET  $\iota$ 



TYPICAL HIGH RISE FLOOR PLAN  $0 \rightarrow 0$   $20$  $20 - 10$  $\begin{array}{ccccc}\n\ddots & & & \text{in} & \text{in} & \text{in} & \text{in} \\
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A HIGH RISE PRECAST CONCRETE 3 OFFICE BUILDING **MASTER IN ARCHITECTURE THESIS** THOMAS HENNEY M.L.T. JUNE 1963

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LIGHTING & STRUCTURAL GRID



ELECTRICAL MECHANICAL & STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS

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SECTION THRO. GIRDER

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PLAN

STRUCTURAL AND MECHANICAL DETAILS

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FRONT ELEVATION<br>0 5 10 20 30 FEET

A HIGH RISE PRECAST CONCRETE<br>OFFICE BUILDING<br>HASTER OF ARCHITECTURE THESIS<br>RODNEY AMES WESTBURY M.I.T. JUNE 1963



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A HIGH RISE PRECAST CONCRETE<br>OFFICE BUILDING<br>HASTER OF ARCHITECTURE THESIS<br>RODNEY AMES WESTBURY MILT JUNE 1967