

# Structural Design Education

## ideas, experiences



Dipartimento di Strutture  
per l'Ingegneria e l'Architettura



**Elena Mele**

Dept. Structures for Engineering and Architecture  
University of Naples Federico II

# DESIGN in Civil and Environmental Engineering

Wide theme

Several thought provoking workshop contributions

Great focus on interaction, integration and multidisciplinarity

A big thanks to FB for arranging such an unusual and valuable opportunity for discussion

... only some notes concerning structural design

# DESIGN

... basically, from thought to thing

The word cloud contains the following words:

- approach
- Case study
- open-ended problems
- constraints
- insight
- right-questions
- CULTURE
- cost
- time
- quality
- robustness
- license to imagine
- Back-of-the-Envelope
- open-mind
- big-picture
- awareness
- critical-thinking<sup>4</sup>
- method
- PROCEDURE
- intuition
- Judgment
- freedom
- MAGIC
- material
- mentality
- tools
- challenge
- biomimicry
- rationalale
- Cross-Fertilization
- sustainability
- have fun
- estimate
- Responsibility
- heroes
- Engineering
- principles
- prediction
- IDEA
- project
- VISION
- efficiency
- DESIGN
- innovation
- complexity
- SHARE
- wisdom
- solutions
- share



My experience 20+, 10 years

Design of r.c. buildings

Design of steel structures

Structures for high rise and long span buildings

Project-oriented

Open-ended problems

Design, not only modeling analysis checks

**MIX** education, research, practice (C. Gantes)

**Code vs. concept, or “code is not the BIBLE”**

**Steel structures – major focus to buckling problems and connections**

**Define concept, remind mechanical formulation (equations are synthesis)**

**Tradition vs. Innovation**

**Preserving Cultural Legacy while embracing flexibility (reconfigure)**

# Tall Buildings @



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI  
**FEDERICO II**

9 ECTS Course (Graduate Program, 2<sup>nd</sup> level Master)

**Structures for High-Rise and Long-Span Bldgs**

**working with students**

Project, Case Study, Research Topic, Thesis

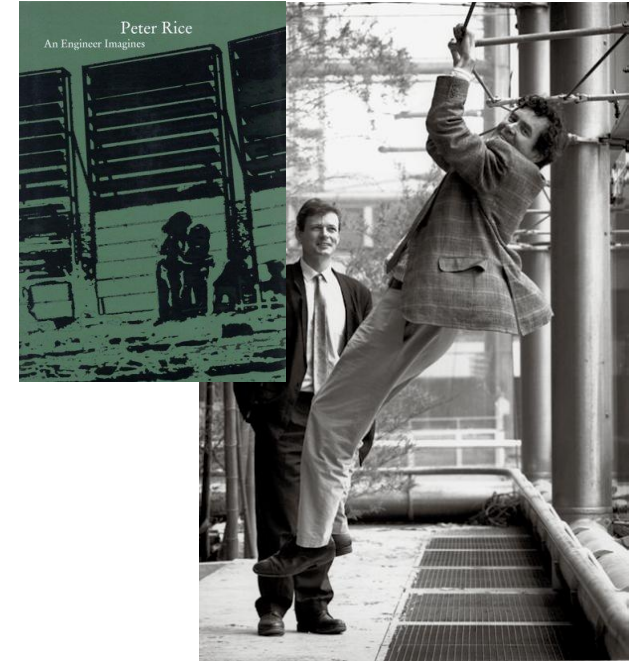
International Student Design Competition (CTBUH)

Outdoor internships

## An Engineer Imagines. Peter Rice

combined an innate understanding of structure and engineering with an equally strong desire to explore **IDEAS**

He has given engineers the license to imagine

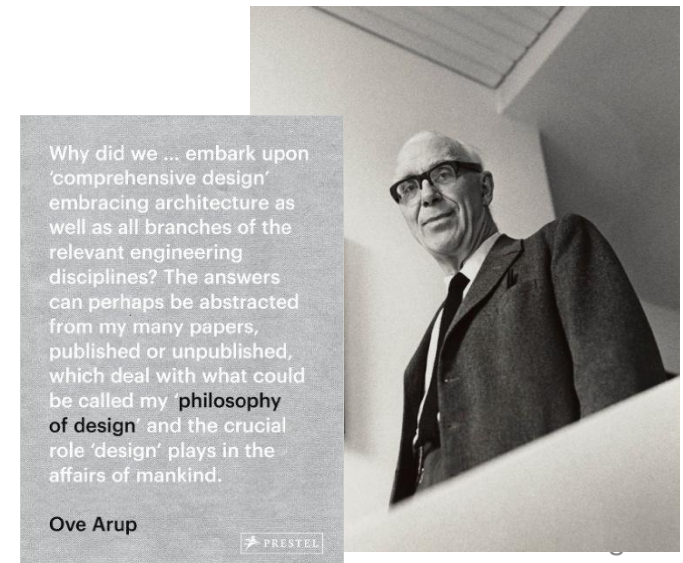


## Philosophy of design. Ove Arup

... many solutions, good, bad, indifferent.

The art is, by a synthesis of ends and means, to arrive at the solution.

It's a creative activity, involving imagination, intuition and deliberate choice → can't get it from computer



## Liquid Threshold. Neil Thomas

there are those people who look at the world as it is and ask why?

There are those people who look at the world as it might be and ask **WHY NOT ?**

Design culture: to have fun while pushing the boundaries of engineering - and it's a 'yes' culture

## Designing tall buildings. Mark Sarkisian

concepts and ideas for Tall Bldgs inspired by nature

Some suggestions: get where really forces are, think about buildings 3dimensionally, think about structures volumetrically, forget about beams and columns, can we do better ?, release the force, let the building move

→ fresh approaches, open minds



- design culture, sharp focus, open-ended problems
- learn how to apply design thinking, understand how to use intuition and judgment
- immerse (flow) in the problem, pose the right questions ...



- have ideas
- use analysis, but understand the principle beyond calculations
- insight, not (only) numbers
- consider quality, time, cost, and adjust them independently, ideally improving all three, adding value
- balancing risks of new ways of doing with tried and tested methods
- *proud* of what they achieve, *passionate* about what they do



**P.L. Nervi:**  
 good design requires  
 patience and **LOVE**



**R. Morandi:**  
 Final choice among  
 possible design  
 solutions is **SPIRITUAL**

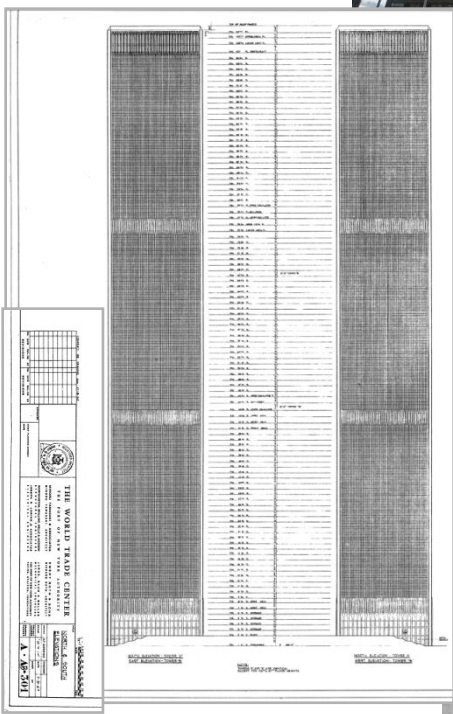
## choose heroes and learn from them



Fazlur Khan (SOM Chicago)  
a pragmatic visionary



William F. Baker (SOM Chicago)  
Engineering an idea



Leslie Robertson (LERA NYC)  
WTC towers of innovation



What to copy is a little bit trickier. Don't just steal the style, steal the thinking behind the style. You don't want to look like your heroes, you want to see like your heroes.

## choose heroes and learn from them – case studies

➤ not simply “READING STRUCTURES”

- reverse engineering - informatics
- learning from precedents - architecture
- steal like an artist – art, poetry, creativity industry

## Steps in Engineering Design

1. Identify the need
2. Define the problem
3. Search for information
4. Set Design Criteria and Constraints
5. Consider a number of solutions
6. Analyze the design
7. Make a decision
8. Develop specifications
9. Communicate the design solution

**sometimes it helps to first  
“reverse engineering” and then design**

- Dissecting a product
- Understanding how it functions
- Learn basic principles

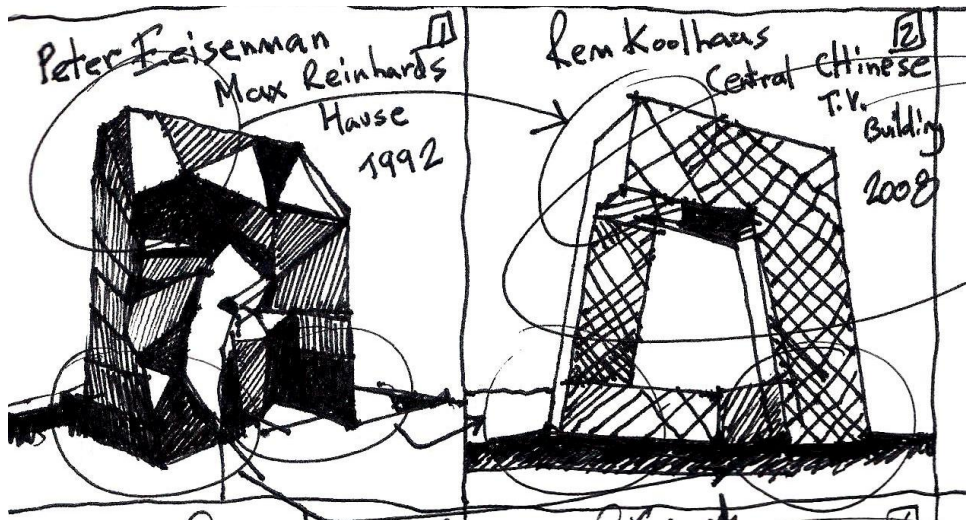


- Design/build a new product with the knowledge acquired from dissection



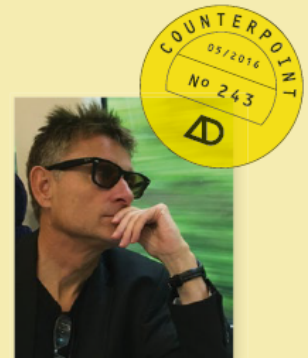


# Influence Inspiration Replication Copy ?



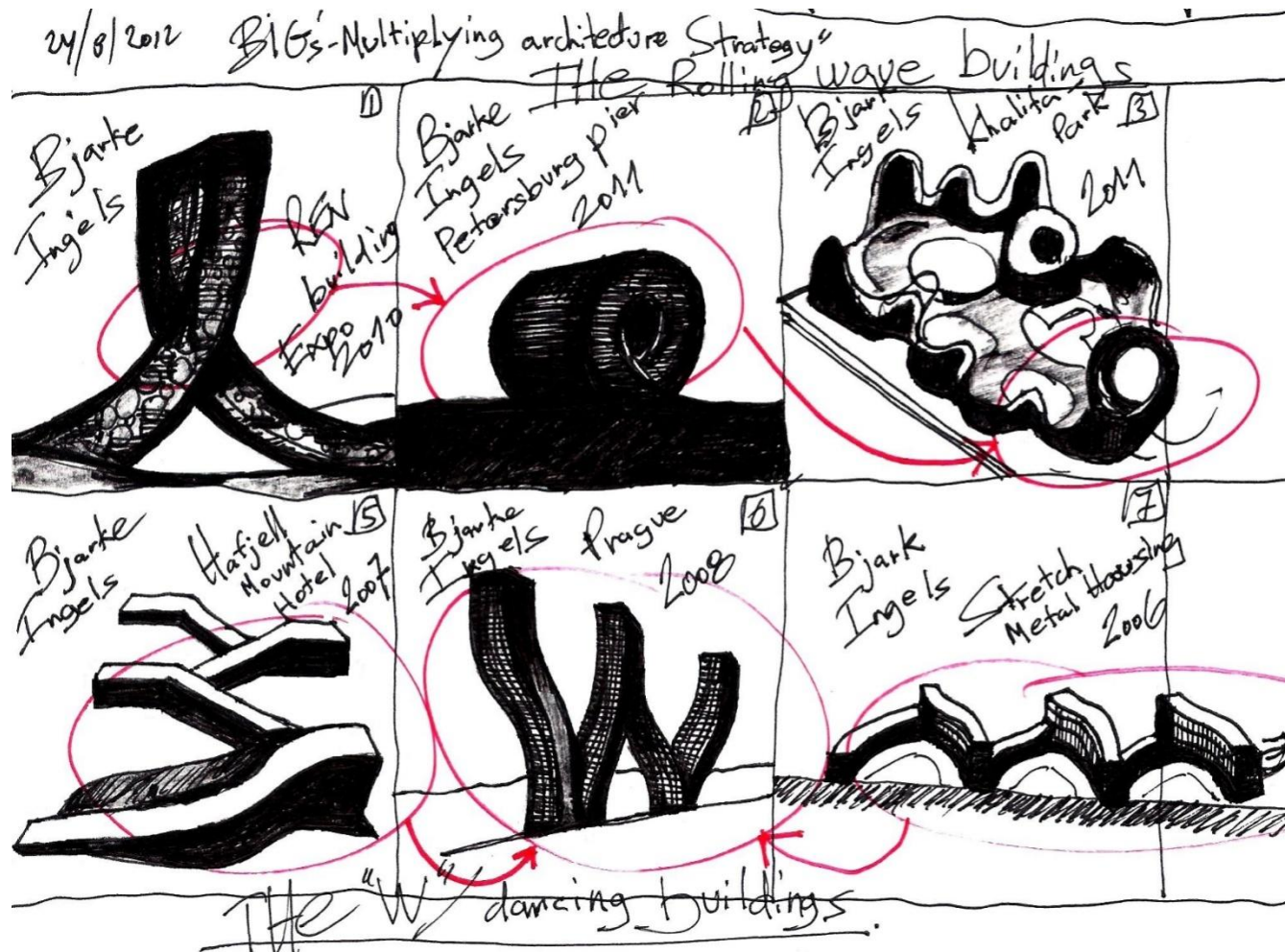
## The Culture of the Copy

Neil Leach



Is copying necessarily a bad thing? Theorists from Walter Benjamin to Richard Dawkins, and from Judith Butler to Homi Bhabha, have suggested not. Drawing on their work, **Neil Leach**, Professor of Digital Design at the European Graduate School and Visiting Professor at Harvard Graduate School of Design, challenges the notion of authenticity and argues that the entire history of human culture is built on a constant process of replication.

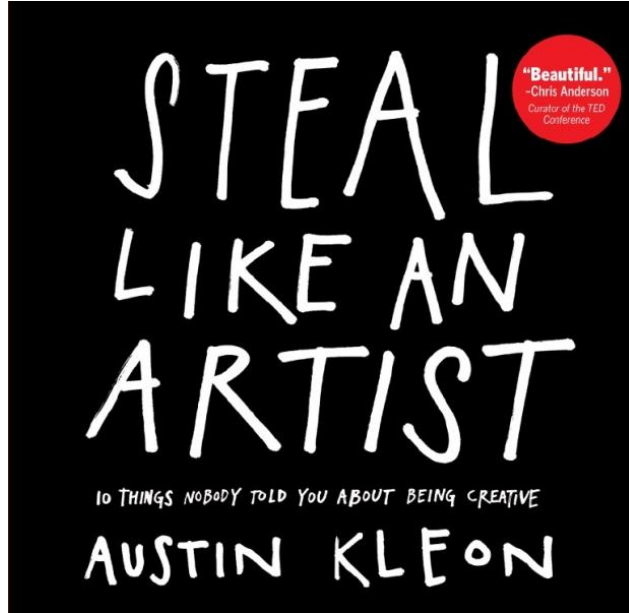
## self-inspiration



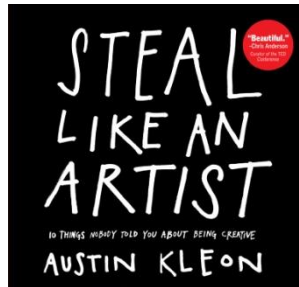
## Poetry

### **Tradition and the Individual Talent - Thomas S. Eliot**

relationship between the individual artist's creativity and the heritage of tradition, understood as an element paradoxically necessary to poetic originality

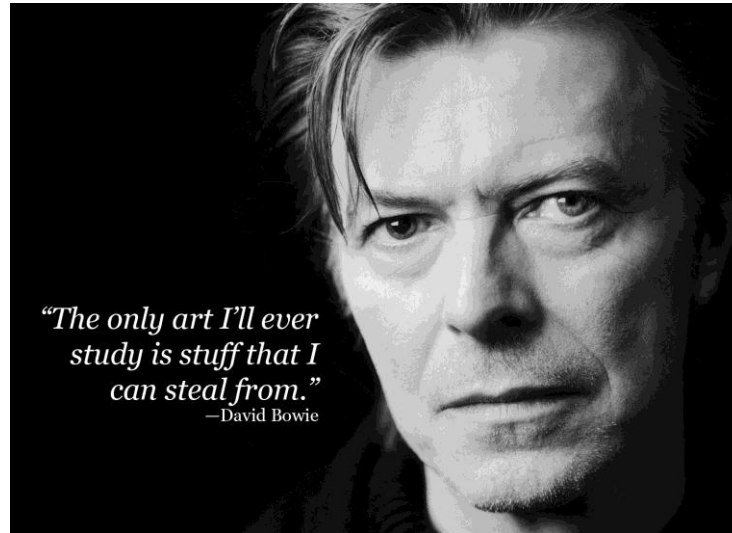
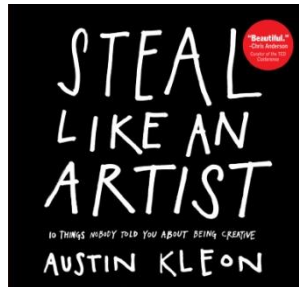


NOTHING  
is  
ORIGINAL.



GOOD THEFT	VS.	BAD THEFT
HONOR		DEGRADE
STUDY		SKIM
STEAL FROM MANY		STEAL FROM ONE
CREDIT		PLAGIARIZE
TRANSFORM		IMITATE
REMIX		RIP OFF





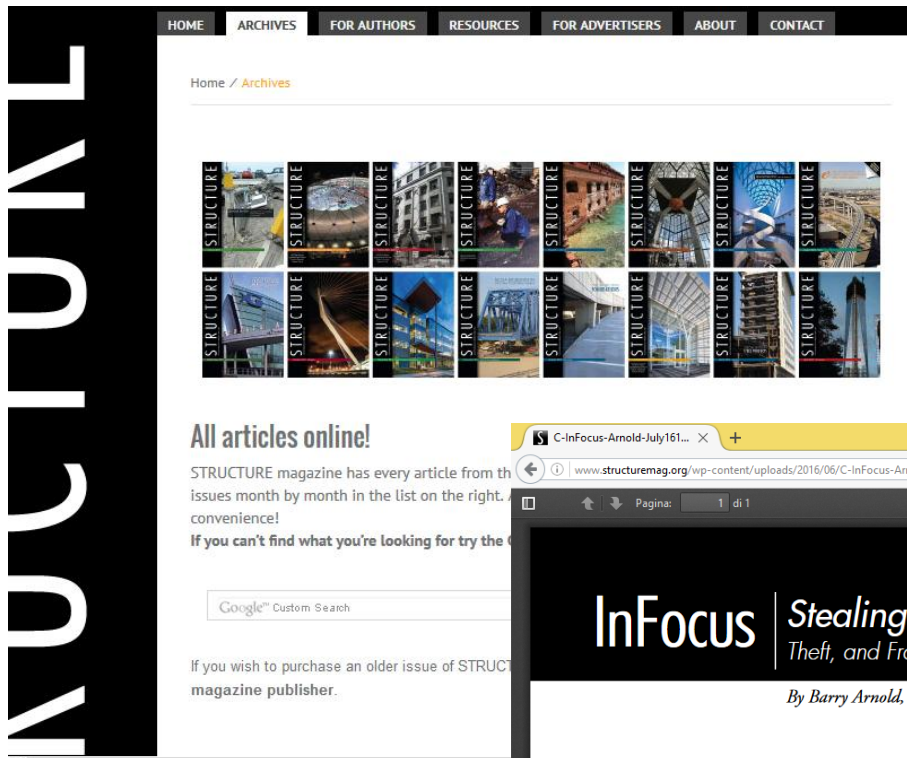
THE ARTIST  
IS A  
COLLECTOR.

"I'VE STOLEN FROM THE  
BEST. I'M A SHAMELESS  
THIEF."  
— WOODY ALLEN



"Start copying  
what you love.  
Copy copy copy  
copy. At the end of  
the copy you will  
find your self."  
—Yohji Yamamoto  
Fashion Designer





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If you wish to purchase an older issue of STRUCTURE magazine publisher.







- Dissecting a product
- Understanding how it functions
- Learn basic principles

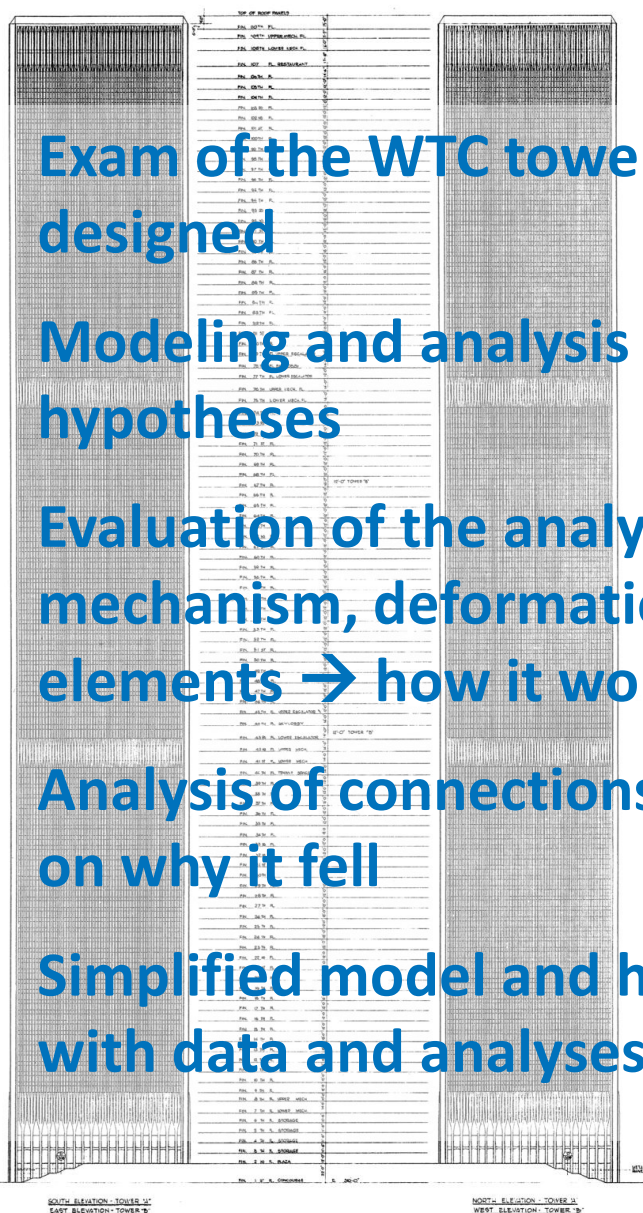
**Analysis of a tall  
bldg case study**



- Designing/building a new product with the knowledge from dissection

**Project of a  
tall bldg**

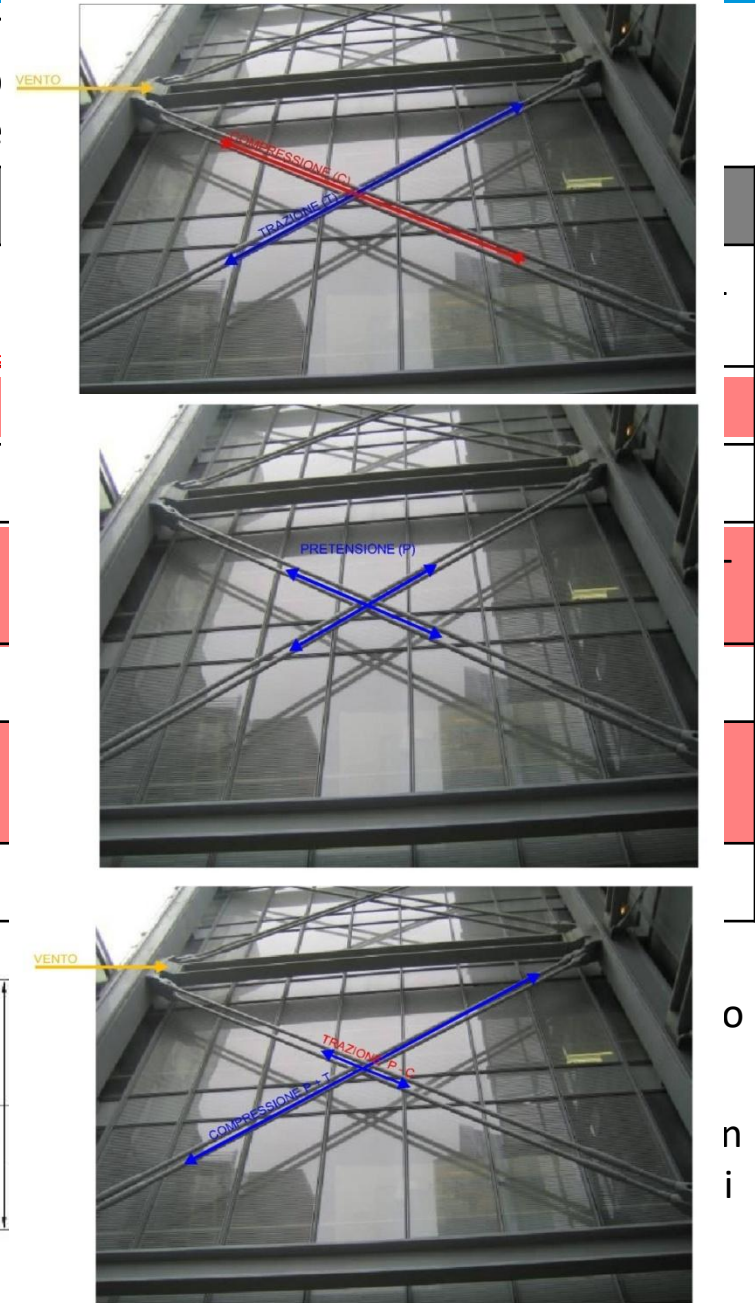
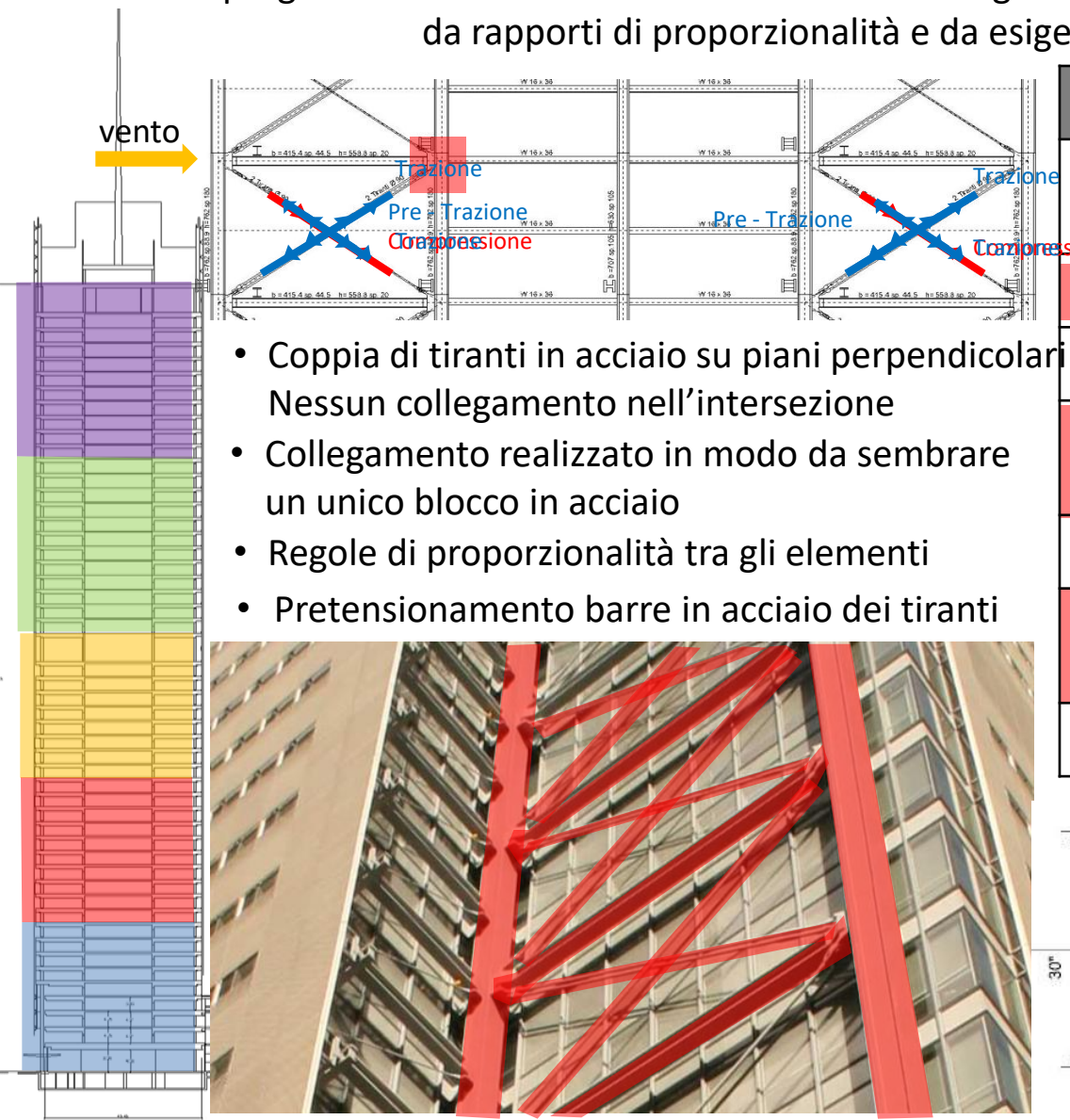
- [illegible]





I telai con i controventi a X sono completar

La loro progettazione viene influenzata oltre che da esigenze da rapporti di proporzionalità e da esige





## DIREZIONE X - tre modelli

### Modello I – No outrigger ; No contr. A X

Max Deform. = 1.12 m = 1/200 H  
NON ACCETTABILE

Max  $\Delta_x$  = 0.68 % = 1/145  
NON ACCETTABILE

### Modello II – Outrigger ; No contr. A X

Max Deform. = 0.60 m = 1/370 H  
NON ACCETTABILE

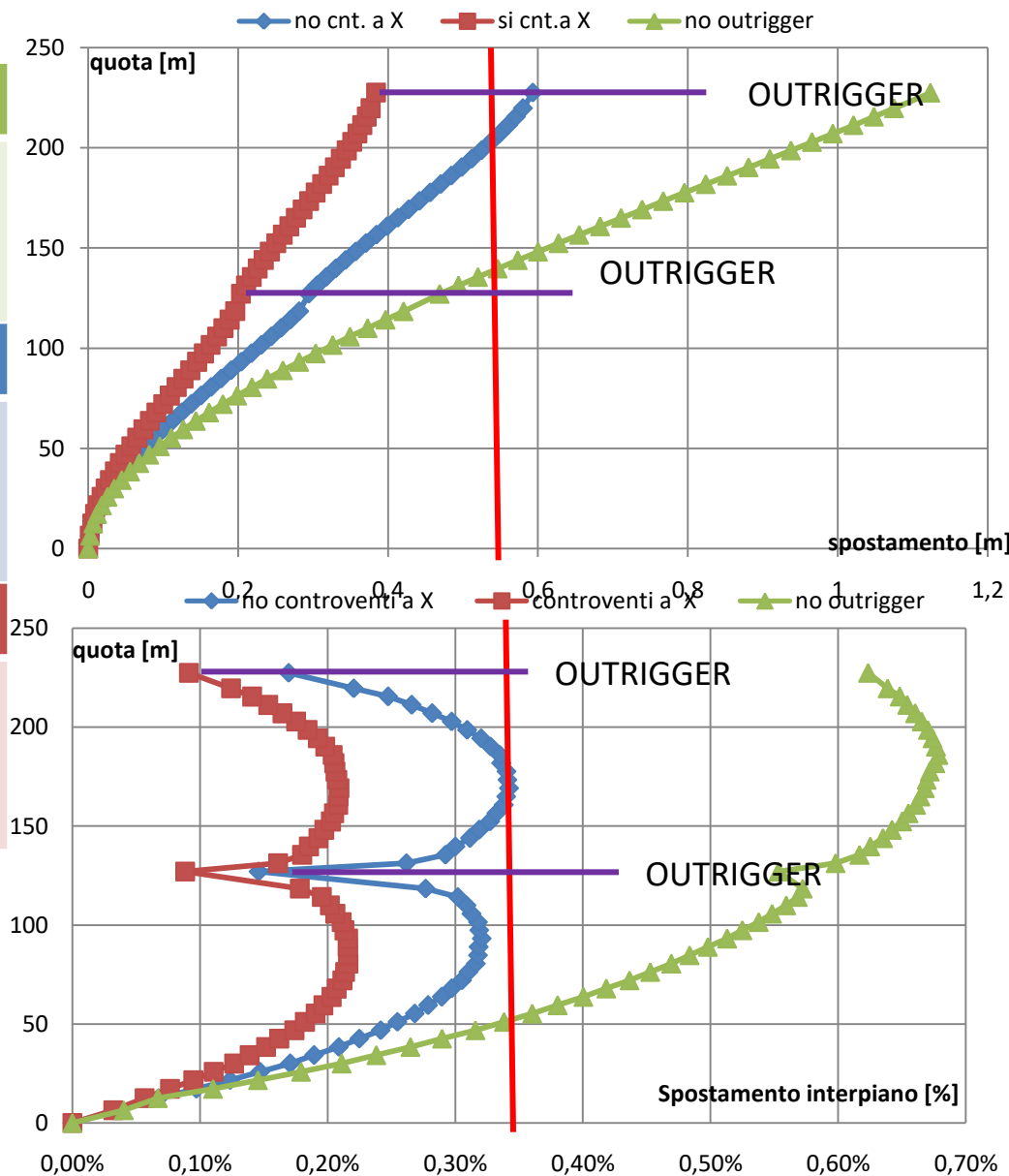
Max  $\Delta_x$  = 0.34 % = 1/290  
NON ACCETTABILE

### Modello III – Outrigger ; contr. A X

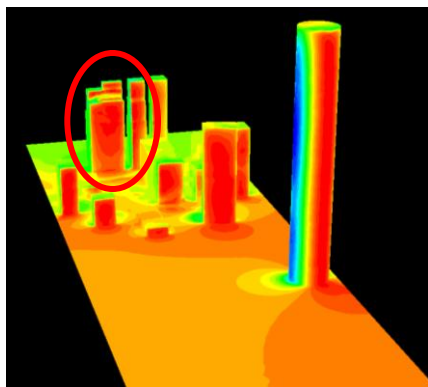
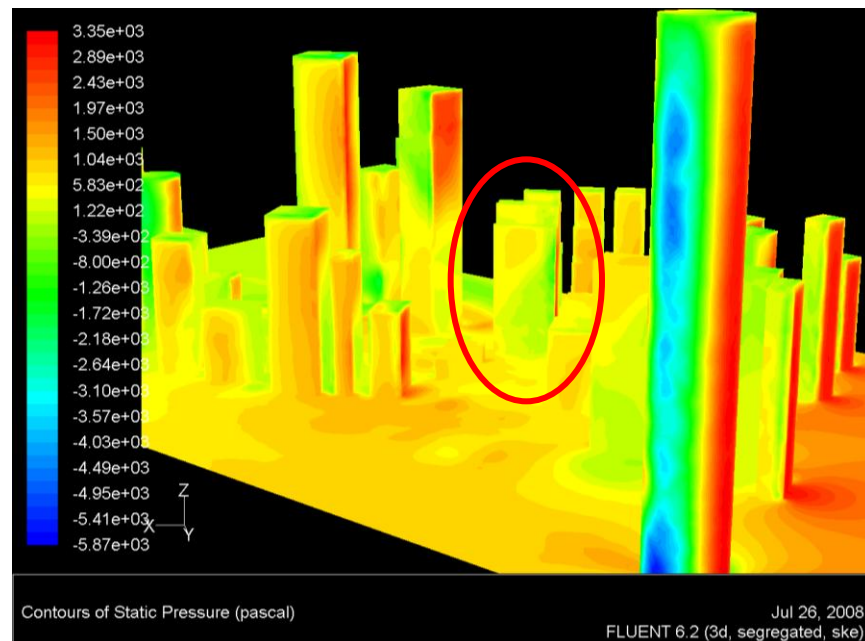
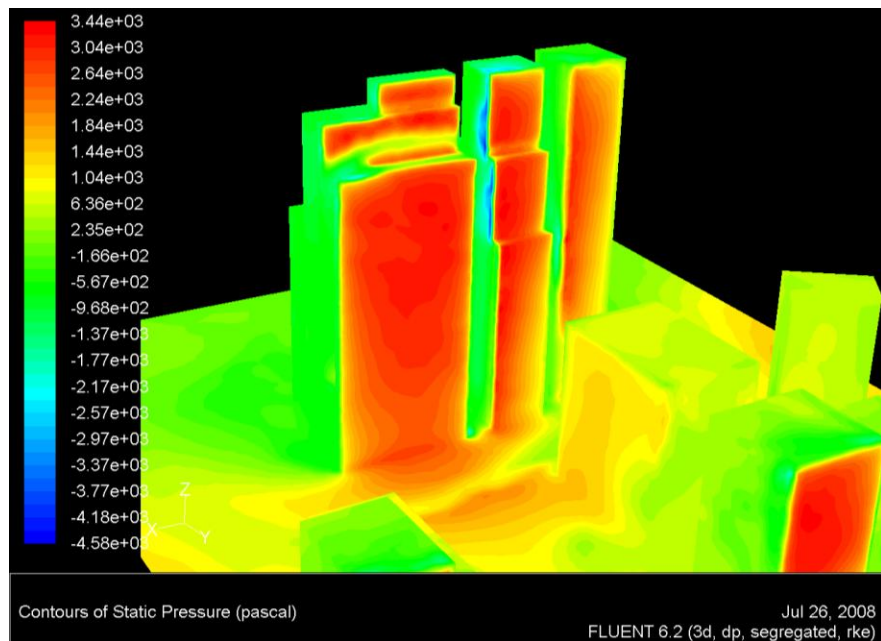
Max Deform. = 0.402 m = 1/450 H  
ACCETTABILE

Max  $\Delta_x$  = 0.22 % = 1/450  
ACCETTABILE

- Modello I, senza outrigger si deforma come una semplice mensola incastrata
- Gli Outrigger sono necessari per limitare la deformazione laterale, esercitando un ritegno alla rotazione del nucleo centrale
- Si conferma la necessità dei controventi a X esterni data l'eccessiva deformabilità.
- L'edificio soddisfa i limiti di normativa

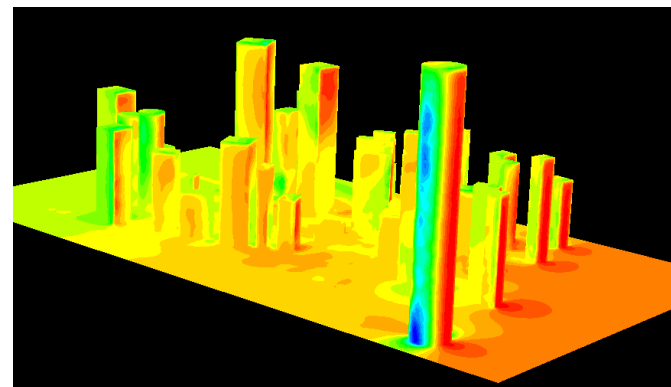


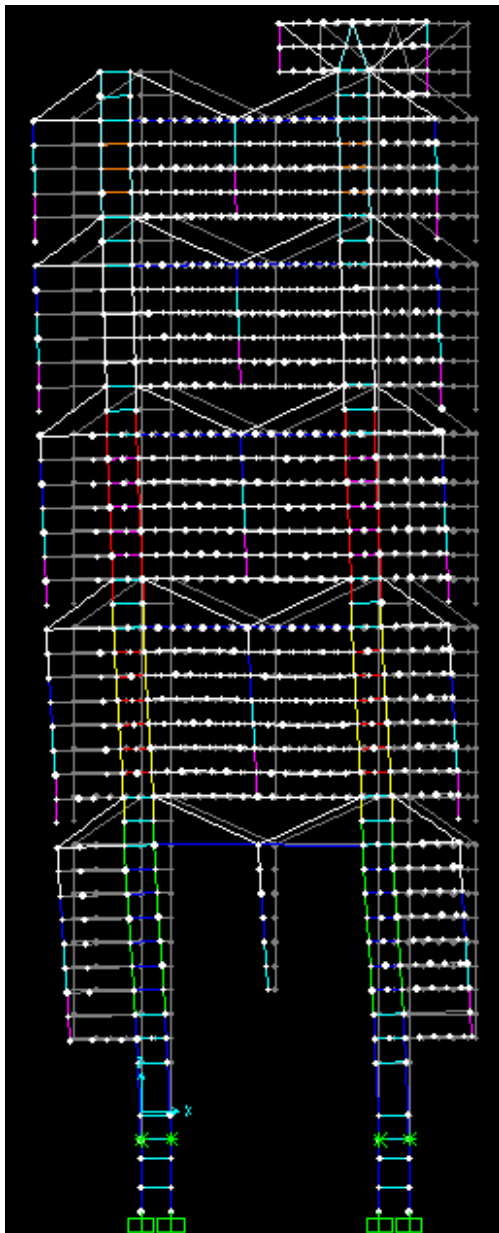
Per verificare la validità delle approssimazioni sono stati analizzati vari modelli FEM dell'edificio impiegando il software Fluent del gruppo Ansys simulando un flusso d'aria a **50m/s**



← Flusso d'aria da N

Flusso d'aria da N-O





*Lo spostamento max ottenuto dall'analisi FEM risulta:*  
 $\delta_{max} = 26,68\text{cm}$

*Dal calcolo manuale si ottiene:*

- $\delta_{Ass} = 10,3\text{cm}$
- $\delta_{M,col} = 2,9\text{cm}$
- $\delta_{V,col} = \text{trascurabile}$
- $\delta_{M,beam} = 11,6\text{cm}$
- $\delta_{V,beam} = 5,3\text{cm}$



*Nonostante si tratti di  
 un edificio alto  
 prevale ancora la  
 deformata tagliante!*

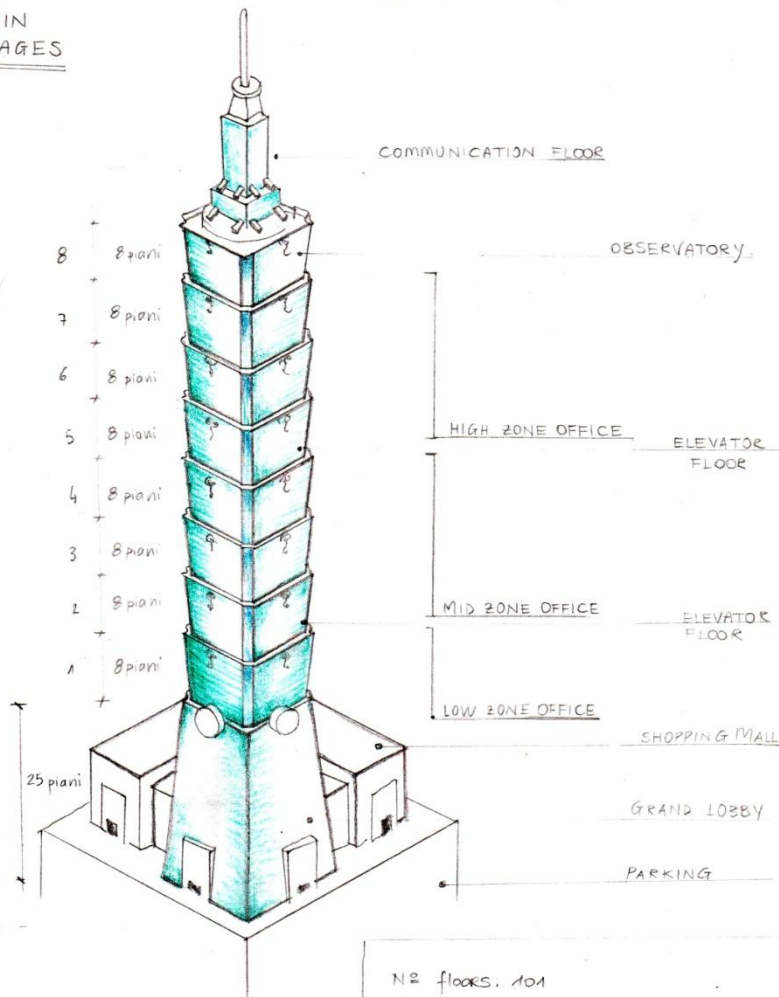
$$\delta_{tot} = 30,2\text{cm}$$

*E' del 13% maggiore rispetto a quello ottenuto  
 dall'analisi FEM ma è accettabile considerando che in  
 genere il calcolo manuale sovrastima le deformazioni  
 non considerando le dimensioni delle zone nodali*

SARA CATOLICO

TAIPEI 101, Hsinyi District, Taipei

MAIN  
USAGES



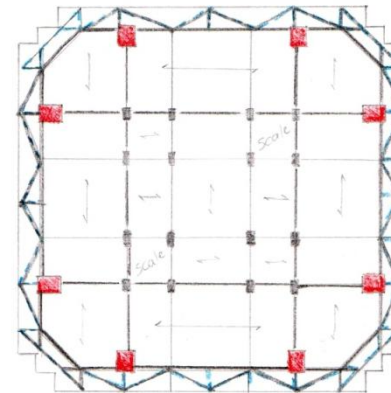
N<sub>B</sub> floors: 101  
 $H_{TOT} = 508\text{ m}$   
 Floor area  $\approx 375\text{ m}^2$  Plan area:  $50 \times 50\text{ m}$

Architect: C.Y. Lee & Partners

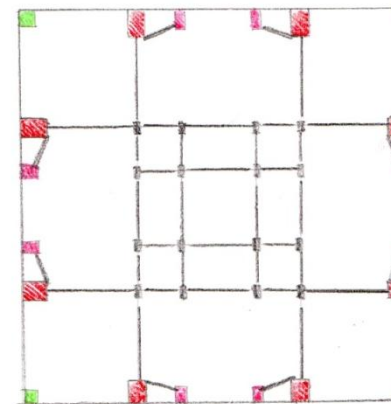
Structural Engineers: Shaw Shieh

Year started: 1998 / completed 2004

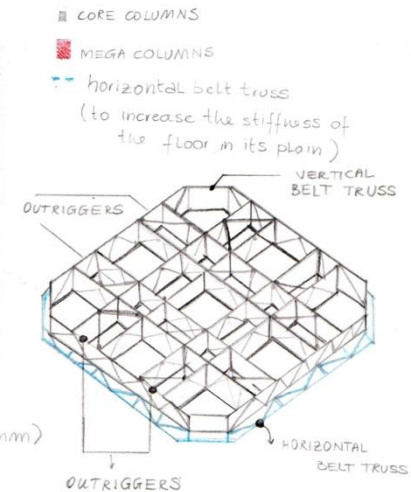
FLOORS → COMPOSITE FLOOR : 3 different plants



1) MECHANICAL FLOOR (s 200mm)  
 1 EVERY 8 STORIES.



2) LOWER STORY (s 135mm)  
 up to 26<sup>th</sup> floor



On the basis of the following **guidelines**, you should carry out a critical assessment / discussion of the building structure; you have the tools and knowledge to do it

Important in the development of the case study exam are:  
clarity, depth, extent of the assessment;

including meaningful details; comprehension of the global behavior.  
Be precise in reporting sources, references, bibliography.

Both a report (file .doc) and a presentation (file .ppt) should be prepared.

## .... 5. Critical assessment and discussion on the structural system

- define load paths and resisting mechanisms

under gravity load

under wind load → identify resisting elements and force type / distribution

under gravity + wind loads

- define major, predominant deformation mode under wind (\* qualitatively, if possible quantitatively)

- evaluate and discuss structural efficiency (\* qualitatively, if possible quantitatively):

bending efficiency: BRI

shear efficiency: SRI (relationship between SRI and shear lag)

unit structural quantity: put value on available diagrams and/or compare with similar buildings

- define simplified models for preliminary hand calculations / approximate analysis of structural behavior



.....

- some indexes useful to assess structural behavior:

compressive stress / force level due to gravity load

increase/decrease due to wind (accounting for shear lag effect)

$D_{top}/H$ ;  $d_i/h$ ; floor accelerations

- Approximate evaluation of lateral deflections (sway):

cantilever beam with equivalent inertia

consider that inertia usually varies along height; values at base and at top: average value, stepwise or linearly variation (variation of BRI)

accounting for SRI

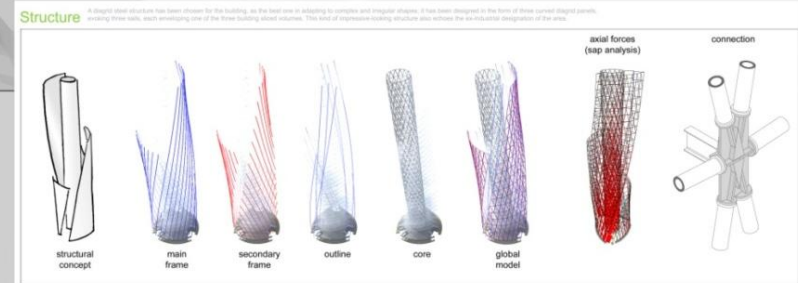
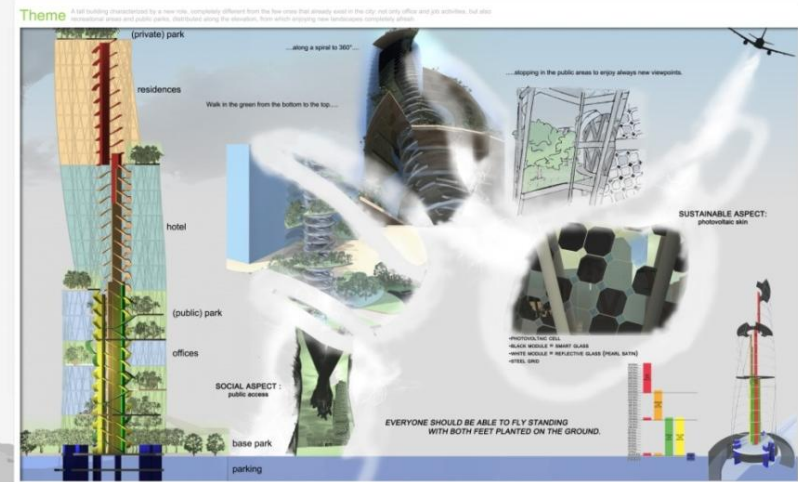
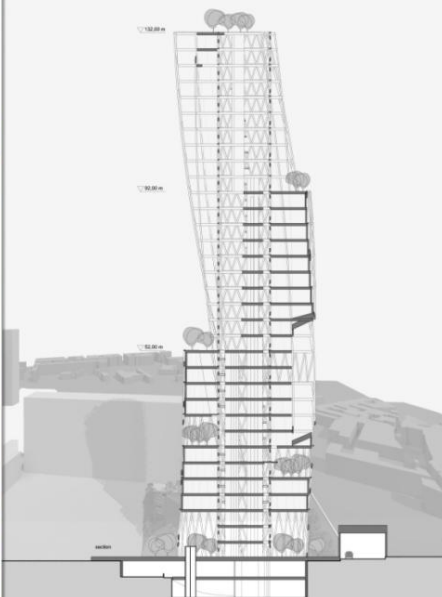
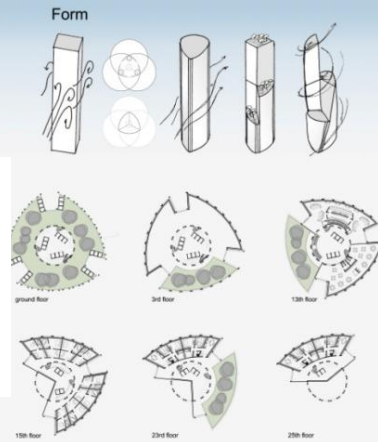
wind force distribution: pressure / surface  $\Rightarrow$  force (average value  $\Rightarrow$  constant / variable)

- Considerations on robustness

De Gregorio, Franzese, Lamberti.



## Reimagining Tall: Considering Context, Sustainability & Efficiency



D'Agostino, D'Amico, Iovane, Ricci

## VERTICAL UPGRADE

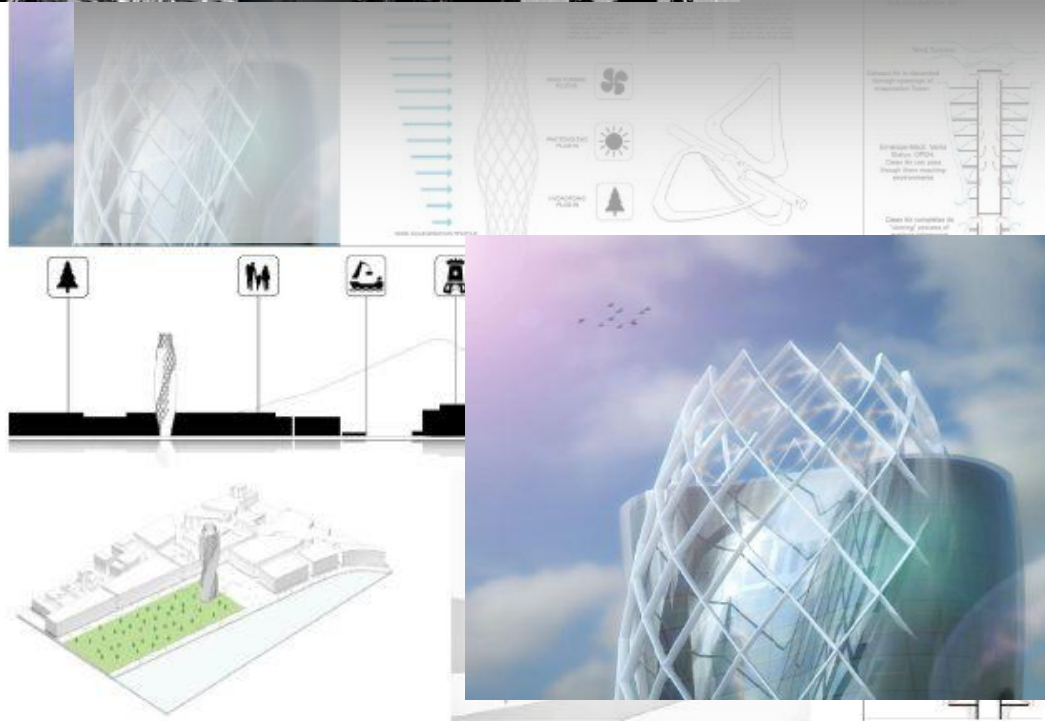
### Reimagining Tall:

Considering Context,  
Sustainability & Efficiency

2012

## HYBRID

STRUCTURAL DEVICE > SUSTAINABLE DEVICE > PLUG IN





Raffaella De Falco (thesis)  
**Edificio alto con solette post-tese e diagrid in c.a.**  
**il caso della Torre Corporativa di Guadalajara**



Luis Bozzo Estructuras y Proyectos, S.L.




Salvatore Varriale (thesis)

## Nuove tendenze progettuali dei grattacieli residenziali a New York : forma e struttura



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI  
FEDERICO II

- Prof. Ing. Elena Mele



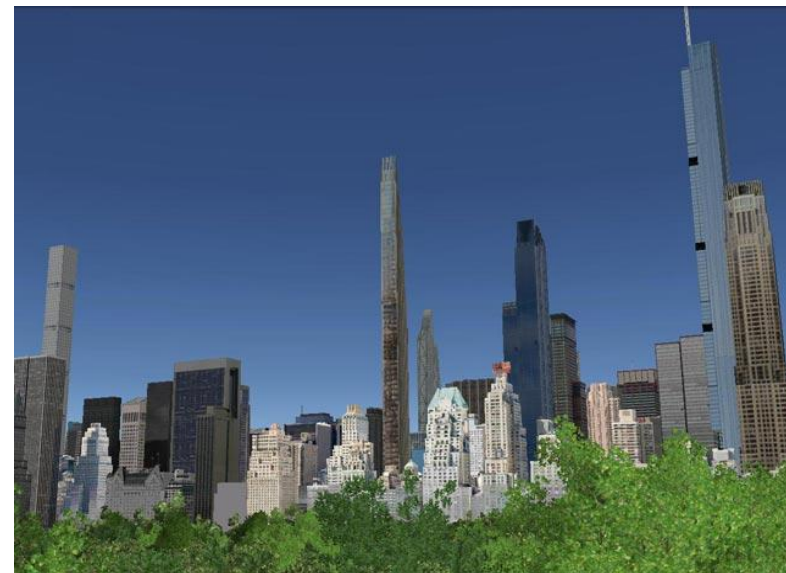
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

- Prof. Ing. Rene B. Testa



WSP Cantor Seinuk  
Structural Engineers

- Ing. Stefano Braganti





# Seismic performance improvement of highrise buildings with BRB outrigger system

A Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements  
for 2<sup>nd</sup> level Master Degree in

Emerging Technologies for Construction

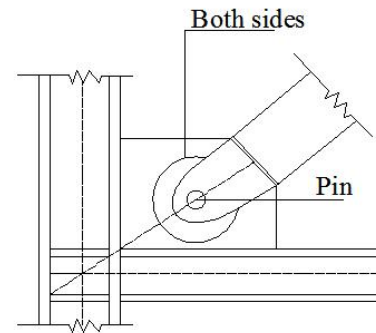
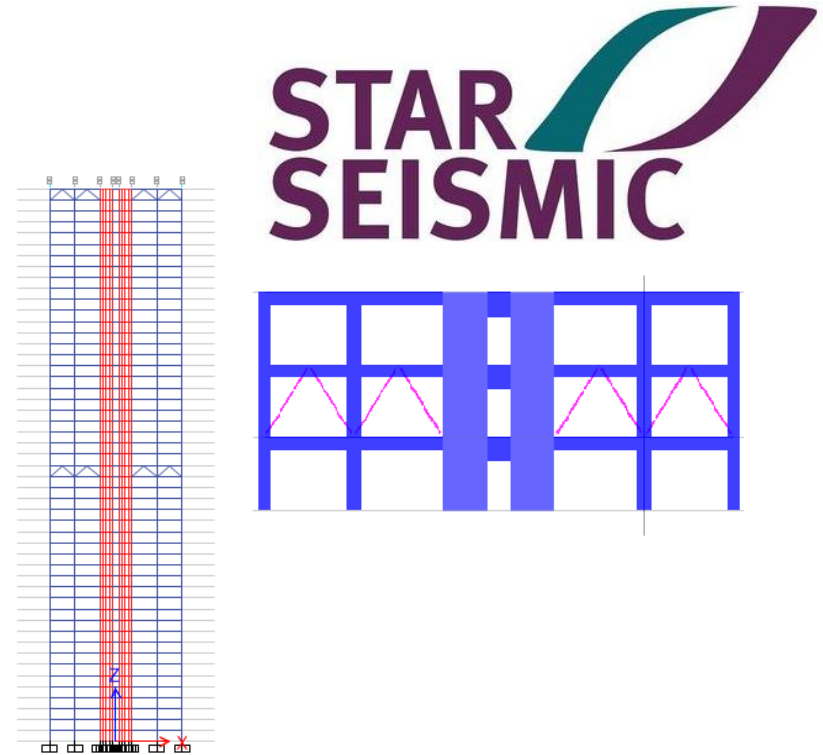
By

**Leopoldo Pisa**

Supervisor: Prof. Elena Mele

February, 2015

Department of Structures for Engineering and Architecture  
Università degli Studi di Napoli "Federico II"





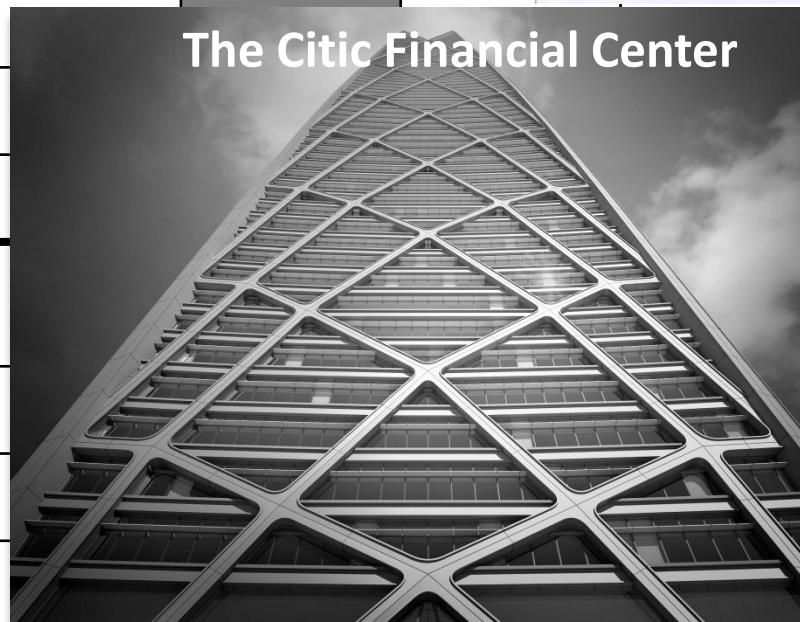
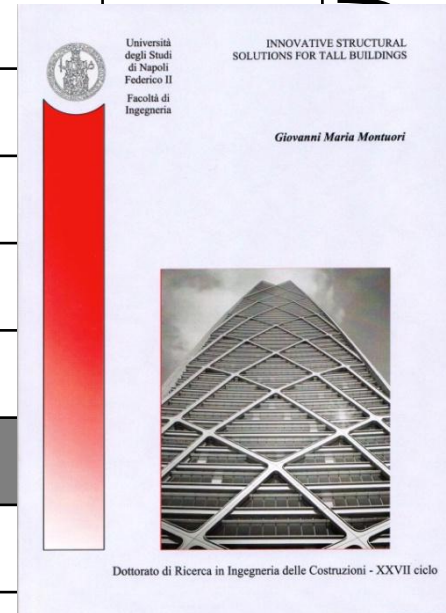


DIST

**SOM**

SKIDMORE, OWINGS &amp; MERRILL LLP

		2012	2013	2014	2015
<b><u>DIAGRID SYSTEM</u></b>	State of art				
	Design Procedures				
	Publication				
	Alternative geometries				
	Local problem studies				
	Publication				
<b><u>ALTERNATIVE STRUCTURAL PATTERN</u></b>	State of art				
	Structrual Design Study				
	FE models and analysis				
	Publication				
<b><u>CITIC FINANCIAL CENTER</u></b>	Structural behaviour study				
	FE models and analysis				
	Special studies				
	Final Design				



DIST



# Martina Buttaro – internship June 2015 / June 2016

## comparative analysis of different solutions

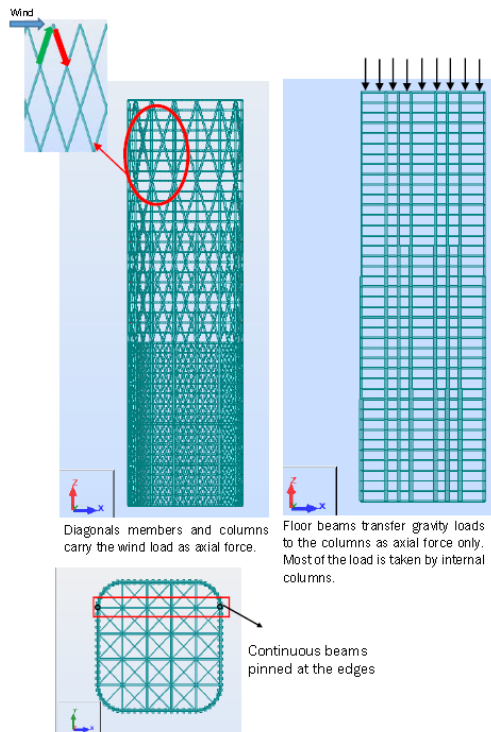
### for the design of a timber tall building



atelier one

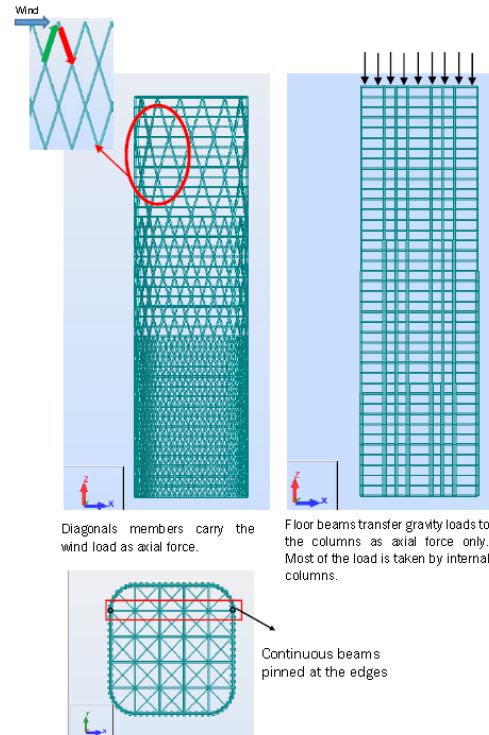
#### Option 3 – Diagrid System

The tower is braced through a diagonal grid regularly spanning on the façade which helps to resist to the lateral loads. Therefore the grid carries wind load mainly as axial force, avoiding the columns to be excessively loaded. Gravity loads are taken both by the external skin and internal columns. The floor system is a pinned frame, therefore there is no moment transferring between beams and columns.



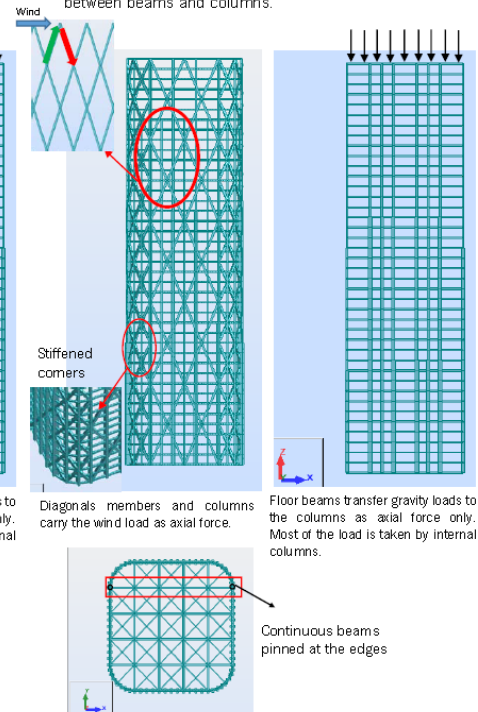
#### Option 4 – Diagrid System (No Column)

The façade is composed by diagrid only, which carries the lateral loads mainly as axial force. Therefore the external skin is free from columns. Gravity loads are taken both by the external skin and internal columns. The floor system is a pinned frame, therefore there is no moment transferring between beams and columns.



#### Option 5 – Braced Tube

The tower is braced through a diagonal grid regularly spanning on the façade which helps to resist to the lateral loads. Therefore the grid carries wind load mainly as axial force, avoiding the columns to be excessively loaded. The grid is tightened in the corners of the building where the effect of wind is greater. Gravity loads are taken both by the external skin and internal columns. The floor system is a pinned frame, therefore there is no moment transferring between beams and columns.

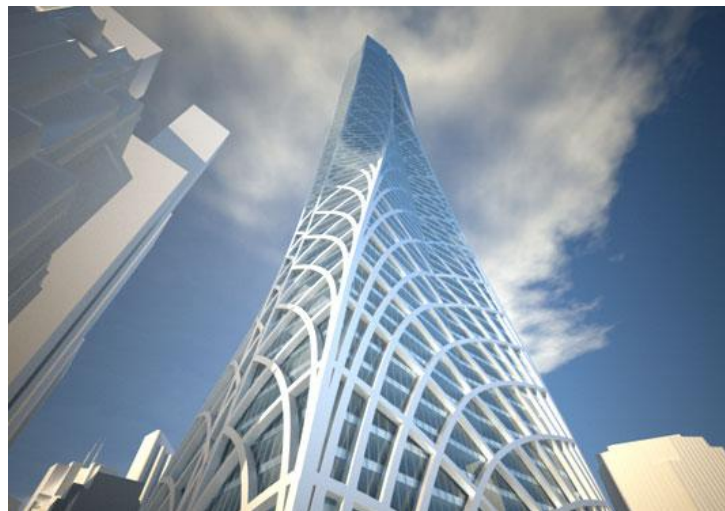


Laura Leone - 6 months internship (from Sept. 2016)

**Form Finding, Form Improvement, Form Optimization**

Stefano Di Paola - 6 months internship (from Sept. 2016)

**Seismic behavior and improvements of wind-designed  
diagrid structures**



**San Francisco**

Luis Bozzo, Barcelona

Columbia University, New York  
WSP, New York

StarSeismic Inc., Budapest

SOM, San Francisco

Atelier One, London





# Tall Buildings @



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI  
**FEDERICO II**

## Structures for High-Rise and Long-Span Bldgs (9 ECTS Course - Grad., Master)

### student outdoor internship

Luis Bozzo, Barcelona

Luis Bozzo Estructuras y Proyectos, S.L.

Columbia University, New York

 **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

WSP, New York

 **WSP** WSP Cantor Seinuk  
Structural Engineers

StarSeismic Inc., Budapest

 **STAR SEISMIC**

SOM, San Francisco

 **SOM**

Atelier One, London

 **atelier one**  
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS

international student design competition

International Student Competit  
D'Agostino, D'Amico, Iovane

VERTICAL UPGRADE HYBRID



De Gregorio, Franzese, Lan



- case studies  
*learning from precedents*
- stiffness vs. strength design  
*posing the right questions*
- secondary bracing systems  
*a hidden design problem*
- non-regular triangular patterns  
*exploring non-conventional*

Diagrid



- **Hexagrid** - patterns, modeling, design
- from Hexagrid to **Voronoi** patterns

**MICRO-MEGA**

**Nature inspired structures for tall buildings:  
patterns, modeling, analysis**

