

# editor's note



**IN THIS ERA OF BELT TIGHTENING EVERYONE IS LOOKING TO CUT EXPENSES WHEREVER POSSIBLE.** And while normally the two major engineering conferences in the U.S. would be competing for your attendance, in 2010 the events have joined together to create a one-time mega-conference for the entire structural engineering and steel construction community.

On May 12–15, Orlando will play host to what promises to be an amazing event: a joint conference combining NASCC: The Steel Conference and the Structural Engineering Institute's Structures Congress. And for good measure, it also will include the Council of American Structural Engineers Spring Risk Management Convocation, SSRC's Annual Stability Conference, the 19th Analysis & Computation Specialty Conference, and NISD's Annual Meeting.

Wow. Sessions range from "Floor Levelness in Tall Buildings" to "122 Design Ideas in 90 Minutes." We'll even have a Pecha Kucha session on eight of the most interesting recent structures. (Pecha Kucha? Each presenter shows 20 images for 20 seconds apiece to stimulate discussion and an exchange of ideas.) There are sessions from some of the leading practitioners, from the top academics, and from the people who fabricate and erect buildings. In addition, there'll be an exhibit hall with everything from design software to fabrication equipment (yes, some of the exhibitors will be slicing up steel beams and plate right on the exhibit floor).

Keynoting the event is Rick Fedrizzi, founding chair and president of the U.S. Green Building Council (the group in charge of the LEED rating system). Sustainability is vying with BIM as the industry's leading buzzword and this is an opportunity to meet and hear the nation's leading proponent.

Despite offering nearly 200 sessions, we're intent on making the conference as affordable as possible. If you're a member of AISC, SEI, NISD, or CASE, registration to this exciting four-day event is just \$390. (And if you're not a member, why haven't you joined yet? Visit [www.aisc.org/join](http://www.aisc.org/join) and sign up today.)

The full program will be available in January but I wanted to give you a heads up so you could mark your calendar now. So whether you're looking for technical information, the latest products, a wonderful networking opportunity, or just an excuse to visit Disney World (I know I'm trying to convince my wife to pack up the kids and bring them to Orlando), this conference promises to be the most talked about event of the year for the entire design and construction community.

Check out [www.aisc.org/nascc](http://www.aisc.org/nascc) after January 10 to see the full program and to register. If you can only attend one event next year, Orlando from May 12–15 is the place to be!

**SCOTT MELNICK**  
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