Erratum

October 2006 Issue

An article published in the October 2006 issue of STRUCTURE® magazine, entitled *Unique and Effective Sampling Method Saves Money and Time* (*Practical Solutions, page 42*), incorrectly identified the project engineer for the 2003 Cline Avenue bridge project completed for the Indiana Department of Transportation. Contrary to the text in the third paragraph in the article, the project engineer was Ken Herceg & Associates, Inc., an engineering firm located in South Bend, Indiana. The Project Engineer is correctly identified in the Team listing on page 42.

We sincerely regret the error, and apologize to Ken Herceg & Associates. The on-line version of this article has been adjusted with the correct information, and can be obtained at **www.STRUCTUREmag.org.**

Send Letters to the Editor to
publisher@STRUCTUREmag.org

John Earley and the Baha'i Temple

July 2006

Thanks to Kimberly Kramer for the excellent article. As a Baha'i and structural engineer specializing in investigation and repair, I have an ongoing interest. The ACI designated the House of Worship as a site of note with Wright's Falling Water House. There is an abstract, but the information package is no longer available. The renovation is in itself a project of note, being the ICRI Repair Project of the Year and the cover article for Sept/Oct 1993.

Bob Armbruster of the Armbruster Co. has been overseeing the project, which is nearing completion. He is the prime source of information and made a presentation to our ICRI chapter. Plans for a new visitor's center have just been announced. If you are in the Chicago area (Evanston/Willmette/Skokie) please take the time to visit this beautiful site.▪

Thomas S. Hayes, P.E.
Sutton-Kennerly and Associates

Learning from Failures

InFocus

July 2006

I just read Jon Schmidt's InFocus article in the July edition of STRUCTURE® magazine, and found it interesting. It is true that we would naturally try to avoid talking about our past mistakes. But as Jon also mentioned in the article, learning from those mistakes and even sharing them with others are the keys that would hopefully prevent them from happening again!▪

Farzin Zafaranian, P.E.
Walker Parking Consultants, Inc.

I enjoyed Jon Schmidt's InFocus article in the July issue of STRUCTURE® magazine. I am of the opinion that engineers need to think "out of the box" for continuing education and do some study in forensics as a part of their continuing education. I was not aware of Mr. Petroski and his articles and books, so I am interested in further reading.

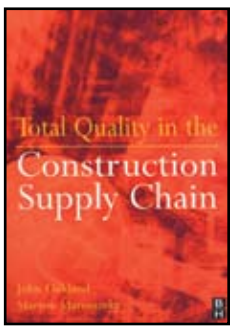
Thank you for your article.▪

Donald E. Willhouse, P.E.
H.R. Gray Construction Services

Total Quality in the Construction Supply Chain

A book by John Oakland, Leeds University Business School, & Marton Marosszeky, University of New South Wales Butterworth-Heinemann, an Imprint of Elsevier 2006

Reviewed by Richard Hess



This book is the result of collaboration between John Oakland, who teaches and has written a book on *Total Quality Management* in business, and Marton Marosszeky, who teaches and consults on matters relating to construction management and innovation. The book, in seventeen chapters, discusses aspects of achieving quality in the "Construction Supply Chain" through planning, partnerships, human resource factors, performance measurement, and monitoring. This is followed by fifteen case studies from engineering and construction firms located around the world.

The text and the case studies will be interesting for those engineers who enjoy reading about situations in the construction industry that are different from their own, which may stimulate ideas for improvement of their own quality assurance and control programs. Human relations issues are at the core of our success, and there is a lot to learn.

While there is definite value in reading these authors' perspectives on quality in construction, this reviewer questions the validity of the implied conclusions, which assume a crossover from the manufacturing and business service sectors to most construction projects. The real value of this book may be that it differentiates between product, process, and service quality. This is important because it helps to define why achieving quality in most construction projects, where the "product" is the completed building or facility, is fundamentally different from what is applied to most manufactured product and business service situations.

There are exceptions, and these provide most of the subject matter for the case studies. However, the typical construction project is more like setting up a new business and then disbanding it after completion, rather than proceeding to produce quantities of the same or similar products.

Where the construction industry relates more to manufacturing is in the production of tract homes, for example, or a specialty item produced repetitiously for one client, such as computer clean rooms. Therefore this book points the way for further exploration of this distinctive quality of our industry, albeit in a way that the authors may not have intended.▪

Richard L. Hess, S.E., SECB, Fellow ASCE is a member of the STRUCTURE® Editorial Board.