

Closing remark

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CLOSING REMARK

We saw that engineering structures can be beautifully shaped. Many good looking bridges find the approval of the majority of our fellow-men. The shells of Isler can fill us with enthusiasm. The majority of the authors agreed that the formulated guidelines have some validity.

However, we have heard also different opinions about aesthetics. I wish now that we reflect on these opinions, that we come to findings by analysing aesthetic qualities of structures, to findings which allow us to design our engineering structures with regard to aesthetics with more security than it is the case at present.

An oral discussion in such a large audience is usually not fruitful. The Task Group will, however, be grateful to receive written comments and suggestions to this subject. The Task Group intends to continue its work for this subject and to present at a later occasion.

The aesthetic aspects for the design of our structures must be taken as serious as the static analysis to secure the safety of our structures. More must be done in order to reach this aim, so that the fellow-men of our generation and especially our children can have more joy by well shaped structures and buildings. We should not underestimate the effect of aesthetic qualities of the built environment on our fellow-men. The wide-spread aversion and condemnation of technical achievements are partially based on the ugliness of many buildings or structures of the last decades. We must get aware that it was wrong to look primarily for the cheapest solutions and that in social respect it pays to spend some extra money for pleasing designs, for integration and for harmonic colouring.

The growing consciousness for environmental qualities will some day make us dismantle ugly buildings of the past and replace them by beautiful ones. I am even convinced that public money will be used for such work, similar to the tax money which presently is spent for saving and restauring beautiful old buildings, especially in historic city centers, as it was caused by a wave of nostalgia. If we should stop spending billions for defence and armament, then there would be sufficient tax money available for the embellishment of our environment.

What makes the attraction and charme of this City of Vienna? It are its beautiful old buildings in connection with well kept gardens and parks.

I wish that we become beauty-conscious in our profession and that we give emphasis and energy to the necessity of aesthetic design.