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FOREWORD

The first suggestion for the Colloquium came from Professor Sherbourne before resigning the Chairmanship of the Task Group "Use of Computer in Structural Engineering" and the Italian National Group of IABSE - in particular ISMES - was very interested in picking it up.

The possibility of realizing the Colloquium was discussed in general terms during the meeting of the Computer Task Group in Bergamo (February 1977) and the preparation work was carried into effects by means of the Italian proposal presented by Prof. Fanelli and Dr Riccioni at the T.G. Meeting, held in Zurich (September 1977).

The executive Committee of IABSE gave the official approval in November 1977 and confirmed that a Special Topic related to the Colloquium was planned in the "Vienna Congress" of IABSE, September 1980.

The Colloquium was intended to discuss about the use of computers and programmes for automatic analysis of structures as a powerful tool at the disposal of the civil engineer, but it is necessary to decide how to use it too, restricting the present spectrum which ranges from total disbelief and lack of trust in the results of automatic computations to blind faith in whatever comes out of a computer. Clearly, a more balanced viewpoint is required and the use of computer must be put in proper focus in the frame of an integrated design activity: ideally, some commonly accepted guidelines should be laid down, so that a minimum of a uniform understanding can be reached.

Provisional terms of reference for each theme were the following:

- Technical implications.

(Interactions between design and computations; "standards of practice", namely commonly accepted guidelines to which programmes and their attending documentation should conform to ensure a certain minimum degree of confidence in their accuracy and quality, as well as to avoid incertitude in their routines use. Qualification of programmes, future trends in hardware and software).

- Organizational implications.

(Structure of computing services in relation to design needs; problems of language and communication between designers and computer people, graphical outputs; costs/benefits of computing; mini and micro computers; educational implications, etc.)

- Professional responsibility.

(Should it fall entirely on the designer? If not, how is it to be sub-divided between designer and computer people? etc.)

- Case Histories.

(Practical cases of use of computer in big-civil engineering projects, detailing how the different technical, organizational, responsibility problems were solved or approached in each case).

The Colloquium was restricted to a limited number of specialists and researchmen who were deeply engaged in the related field.

Place of the Seminar : Congress Hall of ISMES (Istituto Sperimentale Modelli e Strutture) - Viale Giulio Cesare, 29 - 24100 Bergamo, Italy.

Sponsor : ISMES

Official Language: English

Organizing Committee:

(Alphabetical Order)

Chairman	Prof. Ing. M. Fanelli, ENEL (DSR/CRIS)
Vice-Chairman	Dr. Ing. R. Riccioni, ISMES
Members	Prof. Ing. L. Finzi, Technical University, Milan
	Prof. Ing. E. Fumagalli, ISMES
	Mr. A. Golay, IABSE

Prof. Ing. G. Maier,
Technical University, Milan

Prof. Ing. A. Marazio,
ISMES

Secretary Dr. Ing. A. Pistocchi,
ISMES

The Seminar was divided into four Working Sessions:

I MAIN SESSION

Wednesday, August 30th 9.00 h. - 13.30 h.
15.00 h. - 17.30 h.

Topic: Technical Implications

Reports Presented: 11

II MAIN SESSION

Thursday, August 31st 9.00 h. - 13.30 h.
15.00 h. - 17.30 h.

Topic: Organizational Implications

Reports Presented: 14

III MAIN SESSION

Friday, September 1st 9.00 h. - 13.00 h.

Topic: Professional Responsibility

Reports Presented: 7

SUPPLEMENTARY SESSION

Friday, September 1st 14.00 h. - 18.00 h.

Topic: Case Histories

Reports Presented: 7

Each main Session was chaired by a Chairman chosen among the Participants. Ordinary Speakers had 15 minutes to show and comment their papers; General Reporters, who gave the keynote to each main Session, had 20-30 minutes.

Authors were kindly requested to avoid merely reading their papers, and to bring some new information.

The present volume reproduces:

- the 39 reports presented
- a summary of the free discussion after the main session.

The Participants received the Preprints at the beginning of the Colloquium.

The free discussion has been edited on the basis of the tape recording.