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STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING CERTIFICATION BOARD

PRESS RELEASE



SECB applauds the engineering of the tallest building

Burj Dubai is unique opportunity for SOM engineer William F. Baker SE, CE, SECB, PE, FASCE

Chicago, January 4, 2010: The Structural Engineering Certification Board (SECB) congratulates the structural engineers of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM), Chicago, Illinois, along with the rest of the design, ownership and construction teams, upon the completion and opening of the world's tallest building, the Burj Dubai, on Monday, January 4, 2010.

The new world's tallest building features 160 stories capped by a spire that reportedly reaches a height of 2,684 feet. The building returns the title of 'world's tallest' to the Middle East – the first time since the Middle Ages, when Europe's Gothic cathedrals rose taller than Egypt's Great Pyramids.

The building's superstructure and foundations feature innovative structural engineering solutions that have led to an efficient and breathtaking structure. The 12-foot thick reinforced concrete mat foundation is supported by 194 piles extending up to 150 feet into the ground. The superstructure features a unique 'buttressed core' reinforced concrete frame that resists gravity and wind loads.

SOM Chicago's Chief Structural Engineer, William F. Baker, Jr., SE, CE, SECB, PE, FASCE states that "the goal of the Burj Dubai is not simply to be the world's highest building – it is to embody the world's highest aspirations".

SECB's goal is to determine the level of unique and additional education, examination, and experience necessary to perform the science and art of Structural Engineering. To provide a common national process for structural engineers to become certified. To provide the public and stakeholders with an identification instrument that distinguishes an engineer with those unique and additional qualities necessary to perform structural engineering.