

Thornton Tomasetti

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156 W. SUPERIOR MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT WINS AISC INNOVATIVE DESIGN AND ENGINEERING AWARD

Thornton Tomasetti Honored for Structural Engineering of Chicago Project

(CHICAGO – September 11, 2008) - The 156 W. Superior multi-family residential development in Chicago, Ill. has earned national recognition in the 2008 Innovative Design in Engineering and Architecture with Structural Steel awards program (IDEAS²) from the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC). Conducted annually by AISC, the IDEAS² awards recognize outstanding achievements in engineering and architecture on structural steel projects around the country.

Project team members include structural engineers Thornton Tomasetti, Chicago; the architecture team of The Miller/Hull Partnership, Seattle, Wash., and Studio Dwell Architects, Chicago; developer Ranquist Development, Inc., Chicago; structural steel fabricator Kingery Steel, Chicago; and general contractor Skender Construction Company, Palos Hills, Ill.

The 156 W. Superior condominium project is a national winner in the category of “Projects Less than \$15 million,” making it one of only three around the country to earn an award in this classification. Each year, the IDEAS² awards honor national and merit award winners in three categories, based on constructed value: Projects Less than \$15 million; Projects \$15 million to \$75 million; and Projects Greater than \$75 million.

Each project is judged on its use of structural steel, with an emphasis on creative solutions to project requirements; design innovation; aesthetic and visual impact of the project; innovative use of architecturally exposed structural steel; technical or architectural advances in the use of steel; the use of innovative design and construction methods; and sustainable design.

The nine IDEAS² winners for 2008 were chosen from more than 85 submissions received by architectural and engineering firms throughout the U.S. Each submission is reviewed and award winners are selected by a nationally recognized panel of design and construction industry professionals. Included among the 2008 winners are the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Va; and the Virginia Beach Convention Center in Virginia Beach, Va.

“The 156 W. Superior project combines beautiful architecture and the efficient use of

structural steel,” commented Jerry Pault of contractor Hensel-Phelps, one of the panel judges. “The devil is in the details and this job nailed the details; very clean. The client received a great value in this building.”

Located within the emerging River North district in downtown Chicago, 156 W. Superior is a nine-story, mid-rise tower that explores the steel and glass language of the Second Chicago School, which was defined by the work of the Mies van der Rohe and early SOM designs. The project includes a 45 x 100-ft mid-block site bounded by alleys and a historic stone townhouse. The structural frame becomes a visible system that lends scale and identity to the building. To articulate the building mass, a steel frame structural bay fully enclosed in glass occupies the center portion of the south and north elevations. By expressing these elevations, the building seems larger than its 120-foot height and is able to hold its own in an area of tall buildings. The narrow building frontage led the team to develop units that span the entire width of the structure, creating a visual identity for each homeowner within the façade.

Located on a narrow site between an alley and an existing building, this award-winning nine-story residential project includes eight levels of condominiums, a café, and indoor parking. To achieve the open floor plan desired by the architect, Thornton Tomasetti used steel framing to maintain clear spans and create a shallow structural system. Exposed steel x-braces were used to stiffen the structure, and the balance of the lateral bracing was achieved by using an innovative combination of masonry and metal stud shear walls.

To meet the aesthetic goal of expressing as much of the structure as possible, Thornton Tomasetti worked with the architectural team, paying careful attention to the detailing of the structural connections and allowing HVAC ducts to penetrate the steel beams without losing structural capacity. Thornton Tomasetti was able to draw on their exposed structural steel experience gained on previous acclaimed projects such as the Republic Factory and Erie on the Park.

The IDEAS² awards are among the nation’s most prestigious in the fields of architecture and engineering, with the annual program dating back over 70 years to the earliest years of AISC’s existence. Roger E. Ferch, P.E. president of AISC, said, “The entire 156 W. Superior project team has shown how structural steel can be used to create buildings that combine beauty and practicality. The result is a facility that serves its residents extremely well, while providing an example of what can be achieved when designing and constructing projects with steel.”

About Thornton Tomasetti (www.ThorntonTomasetti.com)

Thornton Tomasetti provides building engineering services to clients worldwide on projects of all sizes and complexity. From the tallest buildings and the longest spans, to innovative building systems and materials, the firm is committed to creating the best solutions through its technical ingenuity, pursuit of excellence, and responsiveness to client needs.

Founded in 1956 as Lev Zetlin & Associates, today Thornton Tomasetti is a 650-person organization of engineers and architects, collaborating from offices across the United States and in Hong Kong, London, Moscow, and Shanghai. Services cover structural design, building evaluation, and remediation to optimize building efficiency and performance. Thornton Tomasetti mobilizes rapidly to provide disaster response

investigations, and delivers expert consulting services and testimony for legal and insurance purposes.

About the American Institute of Steel Construction

The American Institute of Steel Construction, headquartered in Chicago, is a not-for-profit technical institute and trade association established in 1921 to serve the structural steel design community and construction industry. AISC's mission is to make structural steel the material of choice by being the leader in structural steel-related technical and market-building activities, including: specification and code development, research, education, technical assistance, quality certification, standardization, and market development. AISC has a long tradition of service to the steel construction industry of providing timely and reliable information.

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