

12<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL  
BRICK/BLOCK  
Masonry  
CONFERENCE



Ade

12<sup>TH</sup> IBMAC  
OPENING CEREMONY  
PRESENTATION BY PROFESSOR ADELL

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Authorities, Professors and Investigators, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am extremely grateful that you have found time among your many occupations, to participate in this the 12<sup>th</sup> International Brick/Block Masonry Conference in Madrid 2000.

This 12<sup>th</sup> IBMAC has been made possible by the organisation of the Architectural Construction and Technology Department at Madrid Polytechnic and the sponsorship of the Ministry of Public works, together with the patronage of the Council of Spanish Architectural Colleges.

This is the first occasion in the 36 year history of the IBMAC that the conference has been held in a Spanish speaking country. This after having passed through the continents and visiting many different countries during it eleven previous editions, and including:

The United States, Great Britain, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Australia, Ireland, Canada and China.

12 Conferences every three years make up 33 years of history which correspond to more than one generation of investigators and we can, therefore.



I hope that we can take time to recall the illustrious Doctor West who did so much for international masonry and who so dearly wished to participate in this 12<sup>th</sup> Conference in Spain, a country which he was extremely fond of due to his renowned love of bullfighting.

Please let me ask all of you here to give a heartfelt round of applause for Doctor West, whose spirit is still here among us just as he always was.

The symbol of the 12<sup>th</sup> IBMAC shows a globe with a view of the more under-developed countries such as Africa and South America. In the globe we can see the Iberian Peninsula with Madrid at its centre, and from which there sprouts a green flower which passes through a floating clay block. This represents the renaissance of masonry within the new ecological confines imposed by the Third millennium.

These 12 Conferences have allowed the constant international exchange of research and technological development in masonry and have had a great influence in the quality of building and safety, with different construction focuses pertinent to each place.

From the many papers which will be read, you will be able to appreciate the diversity of approaches considered, which range from procedures of analytic calculus to laboratory tests of specimens of all manner of materials and compositions, and which also consider particular historical buildings, the construction of council housing and the standards and codes implied in the same and other papers which provide innovative technical solutions in terms of the use of reinforcement in masonry.

The Secretariat has been entrusted with organising the Conference with the aim to making this Madrid Conference the most satisfactory of all those held to date, and we have all placed our maximum energy and enthusiasm to ensure that this aim be achieved.



As you may see from the Programme on offer, the arrangement in Madrid is somewhat different from the approaches established in other countries. This is intentional as we aim to interrelate engineering expertise with the Architectural expertise within the scientific world, as the sum of both standpoints have always given rise to the most significant masonry buildings in the world.

The Spanish nature of this Conference is further emphasised by the participation of the renowned Mexican architect, Carlos Mijares, whose brick architecture reveals the beautiful results that are possible with such a traditional material, and who you will be able to hear tomorrow at 10 O' clock in this same hall. Later on, at 6 O' Clock in the afternoon you can enjoy the exhibition that the Ministry of Public Works has prepared in his honour, in association with this 12<sup>th</sup> IBMAC.

In order to interrelate the world of calculation and laboratory with that of Architectural practice, we have created for the first time, and in association with the 12<sup>th</sup> IBMAC, the 1<sup>st</sup> International Masonry Architecture Awards Edition", the prize winning buildings being exhibited tomorrow afternoon at 6 O' Clock in the same exhibition hall, and where the authors will be awarded with their prizes.

We hope that the following countries to host this conference, which as from this year will be held every 4 years, continue to collaborate with the organisation of these "Masonry Architecture Awards" in future conferences, in order to promote the use of masonry in the millennium.

The exhibition is held at the Ministry of Public Works which is some 300m further down the Paseo de la Castellana, and tomorrow, after the awards ceremony, a coach will be waiting to take you to the "Los Jarales" ranch where a Spanish fiesta will be held. The conference finishes on Wednesday after a round table debate.

The organisation of this conference has made a great effort to show that the future of masonry is just as promising as its past, though in order to achieve this ob-





jective we must be aware that very different approaches must be made in each case according to the available materials in each location, the skill of the available workforce, the corresponding technical and social development of the area and the climatic or seismic condition which prevail in the place of building.

The Millennium Arch which is to be constructed at the entrance of the Conference Hall, will demonstrate that there are still many paths to explore which allow man to take pride in his ability to artistically build with his hands, and in this particular arch, as a result of the innovations presented in the 12<sup>th</sup> IBMAC, which allow the vertical reinforcement of masonry.

Logically, this construction is only employed by means of illustration and does not pretend to serve as an example, however, it does show that there is still much work to be done in the field of masonry, and that there is a creative and investigative capacity in all of us. This will be demonstrated in the papers that are going to be read.

I hope that you make many new acquaintances at this Conference and that you enjoy your stay in Madrid as much as possible.

