

# Revisiting the Critical Link Between Engineering Mechanics and Enclosure Performance

"Systems thinking" is a term that is discussed at times in Building Science. But what if systems thinking asks us to consider more factors in the long term viability of enclosure integrity? While the relationship between structural movement and a structure's usefulness to its intended purpose has been well developed throughout the history of design and construction, that understanding has not always translated well into satisfactory enclosure performance.

Drawing on experiences in post-construction forensic investigations, troubleshooting during construction, and efforts to influence design detailing, this presentation will discuss key factors in applying engineering mechanics for the benefit (or detriment) of enclosure performance. Specific aspects to be shared will include the cross-party dynamics in design and construction that give rise to current challenges, case studies of failures as a result of insufficient consideration, and areas for improvement across the design and construction industry.



#### **Learning Objectives**

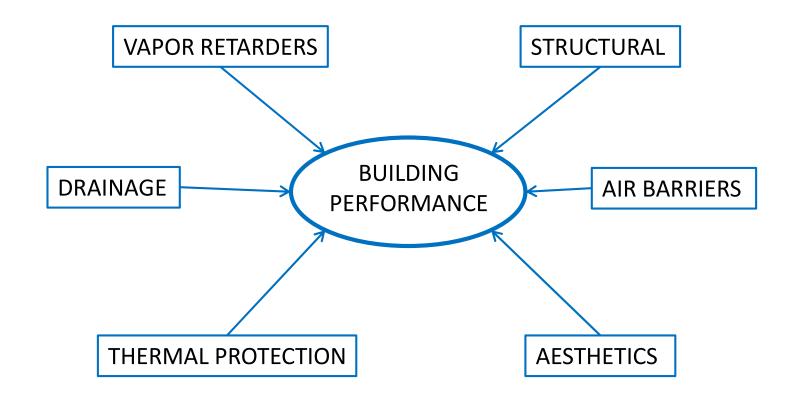
- Participants will develop a better understanding of the relationship between movement of materials and enclosure integrity.
- 2. Participants will gain perspective around what should be considered minimum baseline requirements for performance specifications particular to accommodating movement.
- 3. Participants will learn about case studies where enclosure systems were compromised or even failed as a result of limited awareness around building movement.
- 4. Participants will see examples that reinforce the connection between effective project collaboration and desired performance of the enclosure.



- Agenda
  - Introduction/Topic Overview
  - Structural Principles
  - Process Gaps
  - Case Studies
  - Recommendations/Conclusions



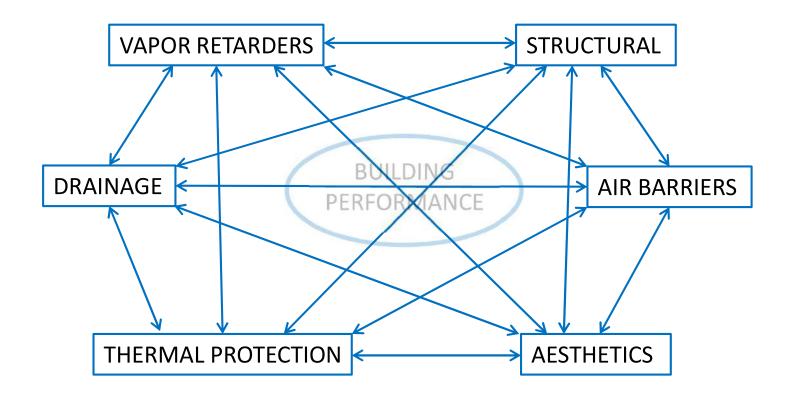
Topic Overview, or "Why are we Here?"



**SYSTEMS THINKING???** 



Topic Overview, or "Why are we Here?"

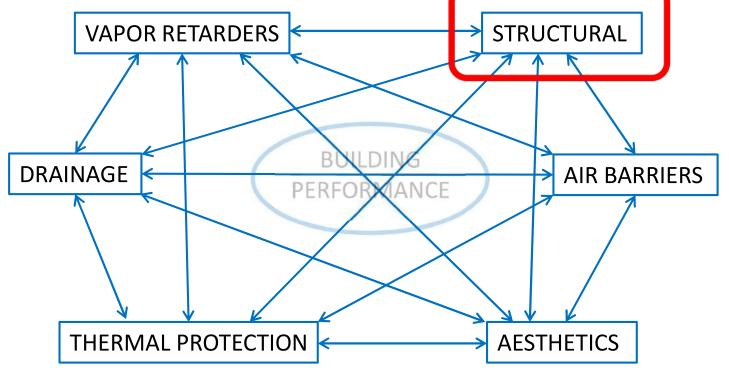


**SYSTEMS THINKING!!!** 



• Topic Overview, or "Why are we Here?"





**SYSTEMS THINKING!!!** 



- Topic Overview, or "Why are we Here?"
  - Conventional Paradigm of Systems Thinking: Being concerned that inadequate consideration of enclosure control layers will result in a compromised structure.
  - Broader Paradigm of Systems Thinking: What if <u>inadequate consideration</u> of <u>structural movement</u> (and <u>engineering mechanics movement</u> in general) results in compromised control layers?



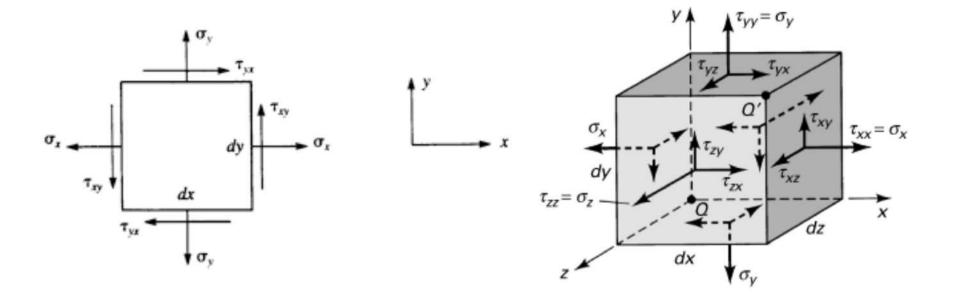
- Topic Overview, or "Why are we Here?"
  - One of the more significant functional aspects that regularly receives inadequate consideration in the design and construction of building enclosures are structural and movement effects on the building enclosure itself

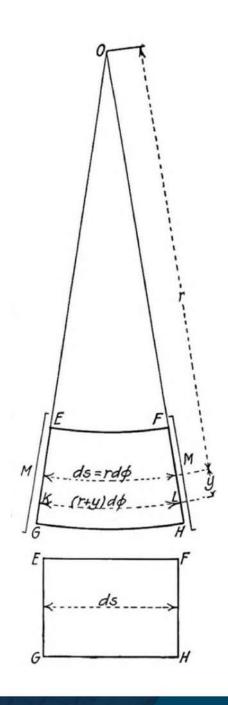


- Structural Loadings and Engineering Mechanics 101 (don't worry – we will keep it brief!)
  - Structural Engineering: Design/Analysis of the Bones and Joints
  - Engineering Mechanics: Study of behavior of materials based on
    - Properties of the Material
    - Forces applied to the Material



Structural Loadings and Engineering Mechanics 101



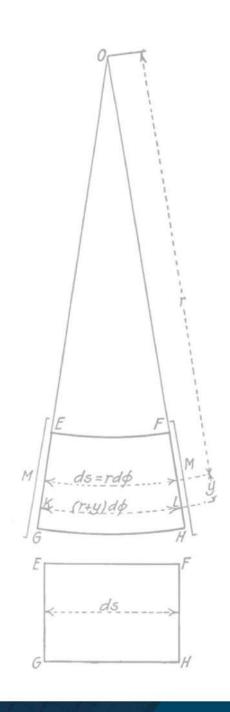




Structural Loadings and Engineering Mechanics 101

Loads → Material Stresses → Deformations

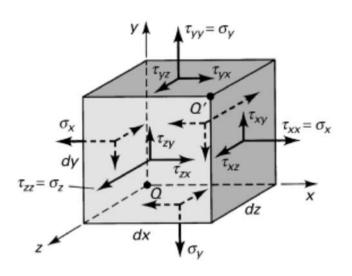
- Cumulative incremental deformations result in movement on a larger scale, exhibited as
  - Deflections/Displacements/Sway
  - Shortening/Elongation



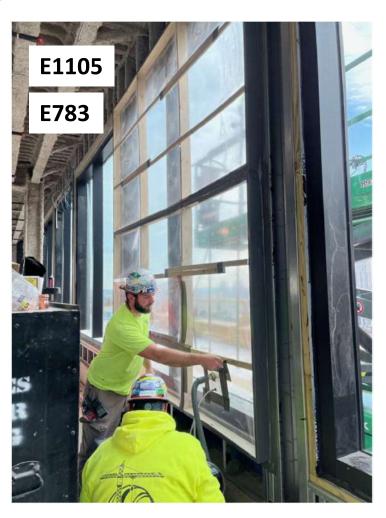


Structural Loadings and Engineering Mechanics 101

• Unit stresses: hidden in plain sight!



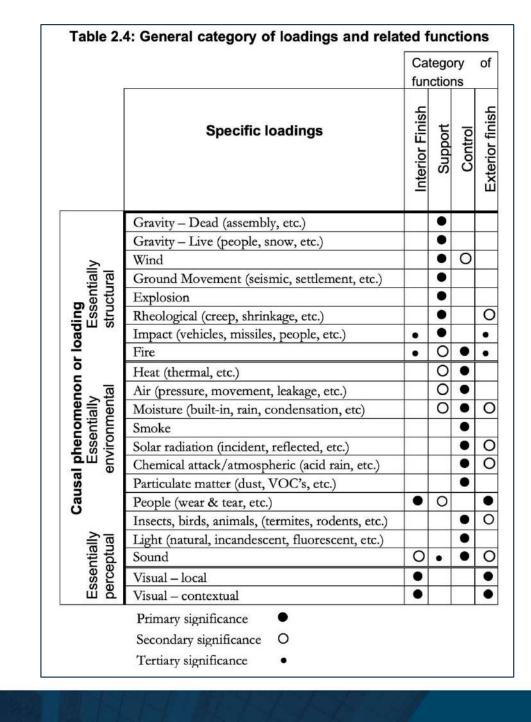




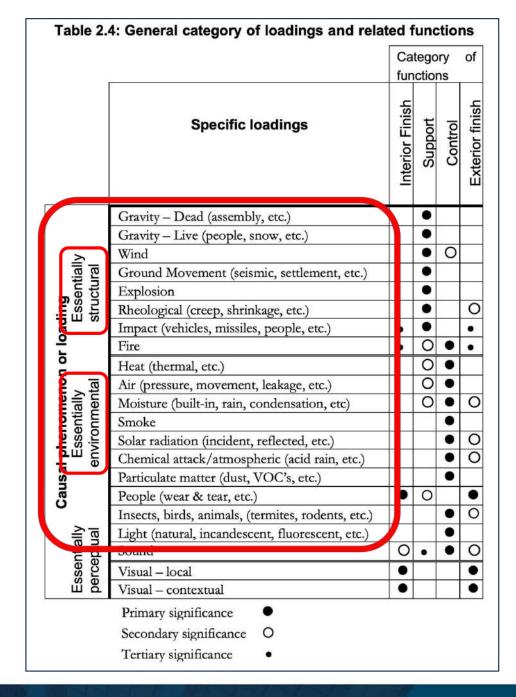


### • Reference:

John F. Straube and Eric F. P. Burnett, Building Science for Building Enclosures (Building Science Press 2005) 38.













#### **Specific loadings**

Gravity - Dead (assembly, etc.) Gravity - Live (people, snow, etc.)

Wind

Ground Movement (seismic, settlement, etc.)

Explosion

Rheological (creep, shrinkage, etc.)

Impact (vehicles, missiles, people, etc.)

Fire

or loading
Essentially
structural

Heat (thermal, etc.)

Air (pressure, movement, leakage, etc.)

Moisture (built-in, rain, condensation, etc)

Smoke

Solar radiation (incident, reflected, etc.)

Chemical attack/atmospheric (acid rain, etc.)

Particulate matter (dust, VOC's, etc.)

People (wear & tear, etc.)

Insects, birds, animals, (termites, rodents, etc.)

Light (natural, incandescent, fluorescent, etc.)

Sound

Essentially perceptual

Visual – local

Visual - contextual





#### **DESIGN STRUCTURAL MOVEMENTS:**

- 1. STORY DRIFTS UNDER WIND LOADS
- a. OFFICE TOWER: H/500 (50-YEAR WIND), H/700 (10-YEAR WIND)
- b. RESIDENTIAL TOWER: H/350 (50-YEAR WIND), H/500 (10-YEAR WIND)
- C ONE-STORY F+B BUILDING: H/300 (50-YEAR WIND), H/400 (10-YEAR WIND)

38 FLOORS = 5"

ER SLAB DEFLECTION (LONG-TERM)

- a. OFFICE TOWER: 1/2"
- b. RESIDENTIAL TOWER: 1/2"
- 3. LONG-TERM CREEP AT PERIMETER RC COLUMNS (RESIDENTIAL TOWER)

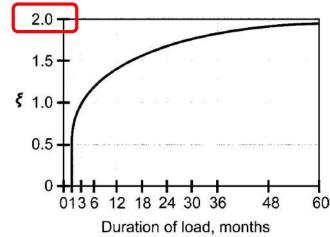
a 1/8" MAX PER FLOOR (FLOOR HEIGHT <= 11'-0")

b 1/4" MAX PER FLOOR (FLOOR HEIGHT > 11'-0")

#### **Specific loadings**

Causal phenomenon or loadingEssentiallyEssentiallyperceptualenvironmental	Gravity - Dead (assembly, etc.)
	Gravity – Live (people, snow, etc.)
	Wind
	Ground Movement (seismic, settlement, etc.)
	Explosion
	Rheologica (creep, shrinkage, etc.)
	Impact (vehicles, missiles, people, etc.)
	Fire
	Heat (thermal, etc.)
	Air (pressure, movement, leakage, etc.)
	Moisture (built-in, rain, condensation, etc)
	Smoke
	Solar radiation (incident, reflected, etc.)
	Chemical attack/atmospheric (acid rain, etc.)
	Particulate matter (dust, VOC's, etc.)
	People (wear & tear, etc.)
	Insects, birds, animals, (termites, rodents, etc.)
	Light (natural, incandescent, fluorescent, etc.)
	Sound
	Visual – local
_ щ &	Visual – contextual

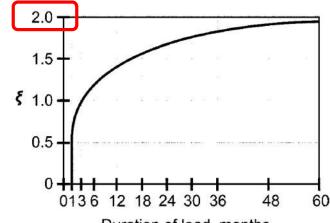
- Common structural materials that creep:
  - Concrete
  - Wood



The creep deflection varies anywhere from zero to twice the initial deflection. This means that the total deflection can vary from the initial deflection to as much as three times the initial deflection.

-AMERICAN WOOD COUNCIL WEBSITE

https://awc.org/faq/what-is-creep-and-how-can-i-address-it/

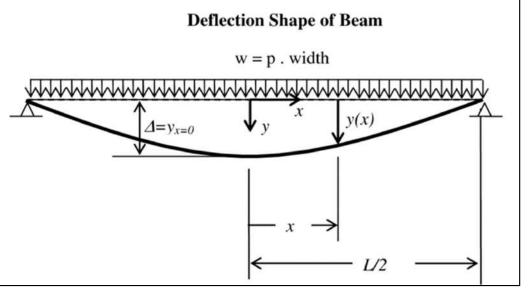


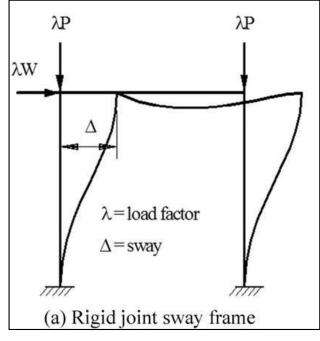
Gravity - Dead (assembly, etc.) Gravity - Live (people, snow, etc.) Wind Essentially structural Ground Movement (seismic, settlement, etc.) Explosion phenomenon or loading Essentially Esse Rheologica (creep, shrinkage, etc.) Impact (vehicles, missiles, people, etc.) Fire Heat (thermal, etc.) environmental Air (pressure, movement, leakage, etc.) Moisture (built-in, rain, condensation, etc) Smoke Solar radiation (incident, reflected, etc.) Chemical attack/atmospheric (acid rain, etc.) Particulate matter (dust, VOC's, etc.) People (wear & tear, etc.) Insects, birds, animals, (termites, rodents, etc.) Essentially perceptual Light (natural, incandescent, fluorescent, etc.) Sound Visual – local Visual - contextual

Specific loadings



Deflections/Displacements/Sway



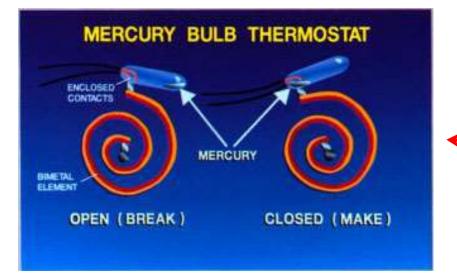


#### Gravity - Dead (assembly, etc.) Gravity - Live (people, snow, etc.) Wind Causal phenomenon or loading Essentially Essentially structural Ground Movement (seismic, settlement, etc.) Explosion Rheological (creep, shrinkage, etc.) Impact (vehicles, missiles, people, etc.) Fire Heat (thermal, etc.) environmental Air (pressure, movement, leakage, etc.) Moisture (built-in, rain, condensation, etc) Smoke Solar radiation (incident, reflected, etc.) Chemical attack/atmospheric (acid rain, etc.) Particulate matter (dust, VOC's, etc.) People (wear & tear, etc.) Insects, birds, animals, (termites, rodents, etc.) Essentially Light (natural, incandescent, fluorescent, etc.) perceptual Sound Visual - local

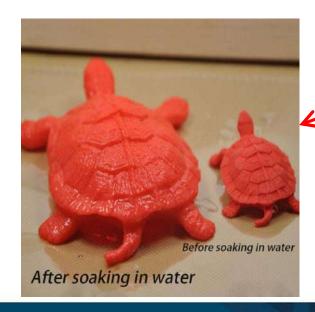
Visual - contextual

Specific loadings









#### **Specific loadings**

Gravity - Dead (assembly, etc.) Gravity - Live (people, snow, etc.) Wind r **loading** Essentially structural Ground Movement (seismic, settlement, etc.) Explosion Rheological (creep shrinkage, etc.) Impact (vehicles, missiles, people, etc.) Fire Heat (thermal, etc.) al phenomenon or Essentially environmental Air (pressure, movement, leakage, etc.) Moisture built-in, rain, condensation, etc) Smoke Solar radiation (incident, reflected, etc.) Chemical attack/atmospheric (acid rain, etc.) Causal Particulate matter (dust, VOC's, etc.) People (wear & tear, etc.) Insects, birds, animals, (termites, rodents, etc.) Essentially perceptual Light (natural, incandescent, fluorescent, etc.) Sound

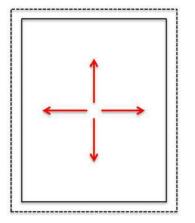
Visual – local

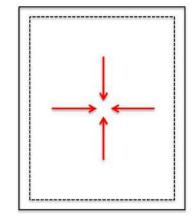
Visual - contextual



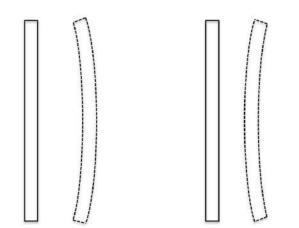
• Shortening/Elongation

#### **ABSOLUTE VOLUME CHANGE**





#### **DIFFERENTIAL VOLUME CHANGE**



#### Specific loadings

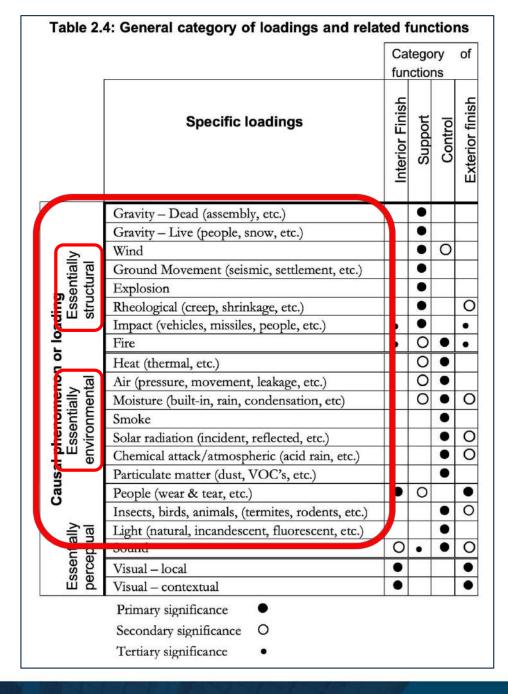
ading Essentially structural	Gravity – Dead (assembly, etc.)	
	Gravity – Live (people, snow, etc.)	
	Wind	
	Ground Movement (seismic, settlement, etc.)	
	Explosion	
	Rheological (creep, shrinkage, etc.)	
	Impact (vehicles, missiles, people, etc.)	
<b>Causal phenomenon or loading</b> Essentially Essentiall environmental structural	Fire	
	Heat (thermal, etc.)	
	Air (pressure, movement, leakage, etc.)	
	Moisture (built-in, rain, condensation, etc)	
	Smoke	
	Solar radiation (incident, reflected, etc.)	
	Chemical attack/atmospheric (acid rain, etc.)	
	Particulate matter (dust, VOC's, etc.)	
	People (wear & tear, etc.)	
J	Insects, birds, animals, (termites, rodents, etc.)	
sentially rceptual	Light (natural, incandescent, fluorescent, etc.)	
	Sound	
Se	Visual – local	

Visual – contextual



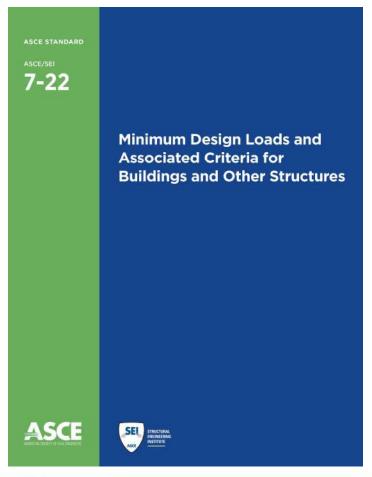
 Volume Change oriented Loadings affect virtually ALL materials, even those not typically affected by other types of structural loadings

 Both structural deflection and material volume change can occur in one, two or three dimensions





 Coincidentally, Structural Engineers are required to consider most of these effects but only to the extent that it impacts their structure



#### 2.2 SYMBOLS

 $A_k$  = load or load effect arising from extra ordinary event A

D = dead load

 $D_i$  = weight of ice

E = earthquake load

F = load due to fluids with well-defined pressures and maximum heights

 $F_a$  = flood load

H =load due to lateral earth pressure, ground water pressure, or pressure of bulk materials

 $L = live load \leftarrow$ 

 $L_r = \text{roof live load}$ 

R = rain load

S = snow load

 $T = \text{self-straining load} \leftarrow$ 

W =wind load

 $W_i$  = wind-on-ice determined in accordance with Chapter 10

y



EXAMPLE OF TYPICAL/
EXTERNALLY APPLIED LOAD

**EXAMPLE OF VOLUME CHANGE INDUCED LOAD** 



- Process Gaps where can/do things go wrong?
- 1) When performance criteria related to movement is not adequately specified/communicated (or followed!)
  - Importance of communication might not be understood by the specifier
  - A material might be new to the industry
  - The specifier might not have experience with a particular material, or understand its limits



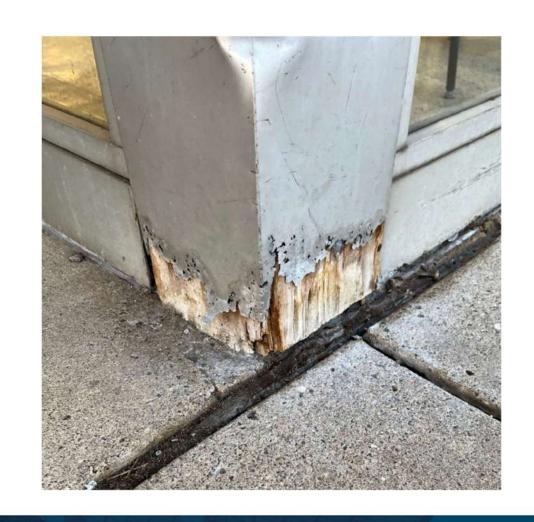


Process Gaps – where can/do things go wrong?

- 2) When there is inadequate consideration to movement behavior
  - Dichotomous thinking

"material B is better than material A, therefore I no longer need to worry about \_\_\_\_\_"

"material B is more dimensionally stable than material A, therefore I no longer need to worry about material B"

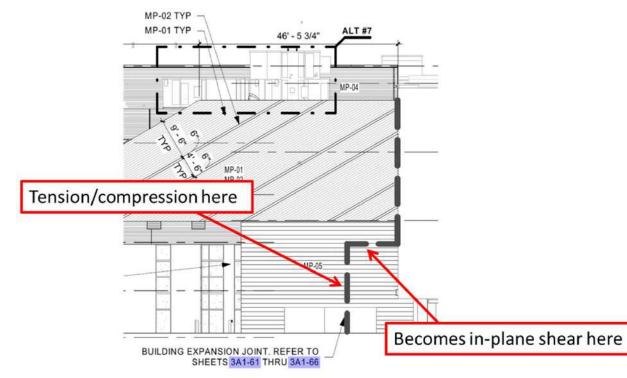




Process Gaps – where can/do things go wrong?

2) When there is inadequate consideration to movement behavior

Overlooking how a material might respond





- Enough of this Blah Blah Blah, let's get to the case studies
  - Category A: Structural Frame Deflection (Deflections/Displacements/Sway) impacting Enclosure Control Layers
  - Category B: Material Volume Change (Shortening/Elongation) impacting Enclosure Control Layers



 Category A: Structural Frame Deflection (Deflections/Displacements/Sway) impacting Enclosure Control Layers







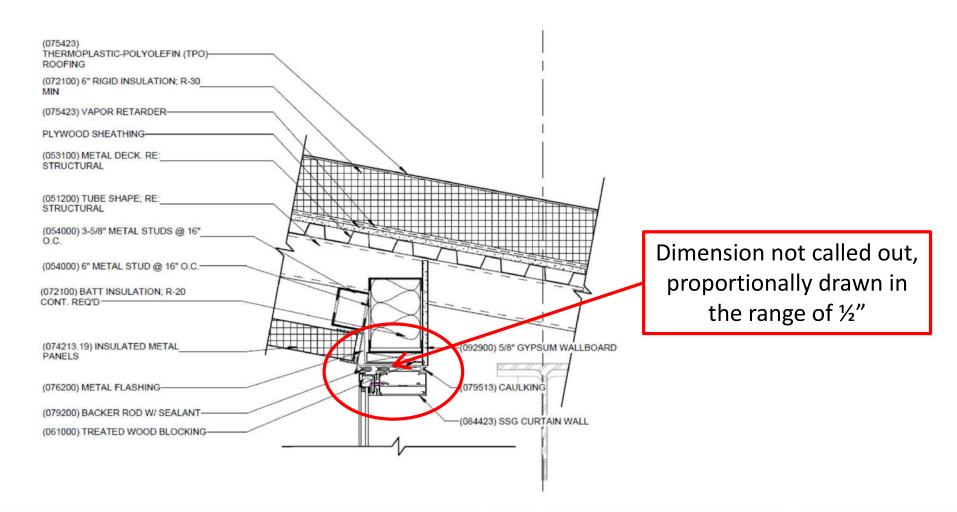
Case Study 1: Compounded Deflections and Curtain Wall

PART 2 - PRODUCTS

#### 2.1 PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Delegated Design: Engage a qualified professional engineer licensed in the State of Minnesota, as defined in Section 01 40 00 "Quality Requirements," to design glazed aluminum curtain walls.
- B. General Performance: Comply with performance requirements specified, as determined by testing of glazed aluminum curtain walls representing those indicated for this Project without failure due to defective manufacture, fabrication, installation, or other defects in construction.
  - Glazed aluminum curtain walls shall withstand movements of supporting structure including, but not limited to, story drift, twist, column shortening, long-term creep, and deflection from uniformly distributed and concentrated live loads.







Case Study 1: Compounded Deflections and Curtain Wall

 RFI Question #1: How much movement of structure should the head of curtainwall accommodate?

• RFI Response #1: Use L/360 to determine joint size

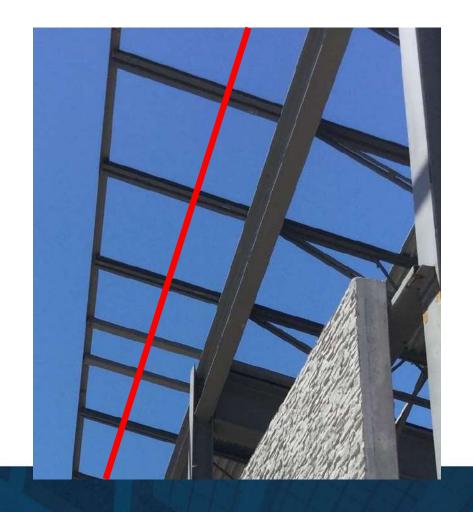




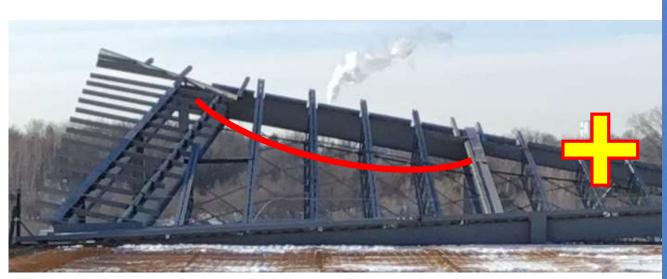














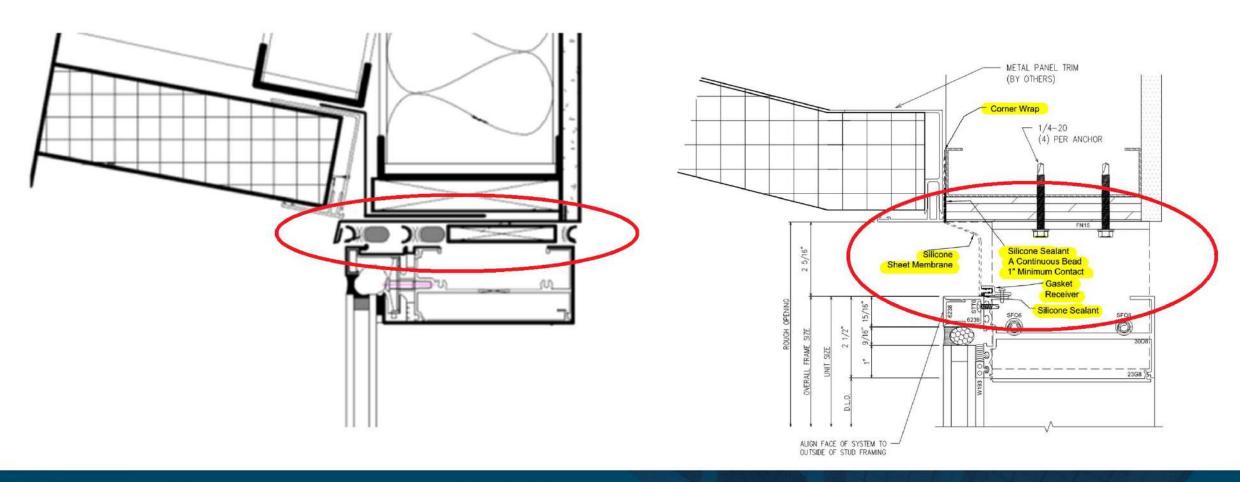


Case Study 1: Compounded Deflections and Curtain Wall

• RFI Question #2: Are you sure?

• RFI Response #2: Use 2-5/16" (L/360 at the largest span was 1")





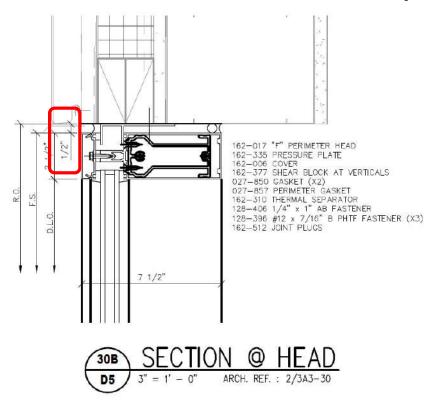


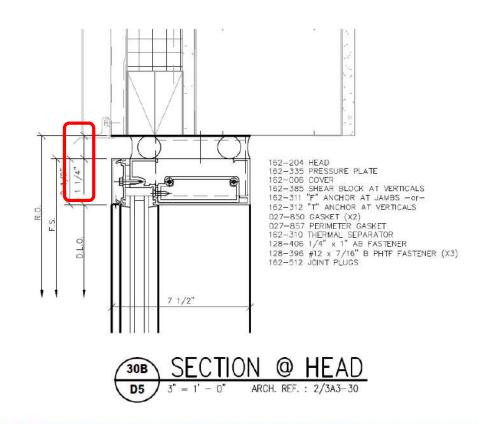
- Case Study 1: Compounded Deflections and Curtain Wall
  - 6-week delay (RFI process and coordination)
  - Change order
- Optimal Scenario: movement is defined in contract documents before bidding
- Last Call Scenario: movement is coordinated during shop drawing phase
  - The sooner everyone knows what needs to happen, the more efficiently they can act upon it



Case Study 1: Compounded Deflections and Curtain Wall

Isolated incident? Not really

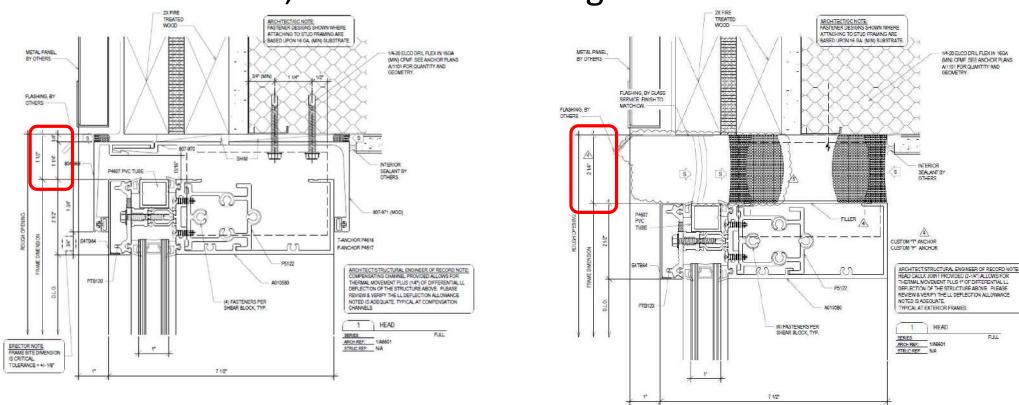






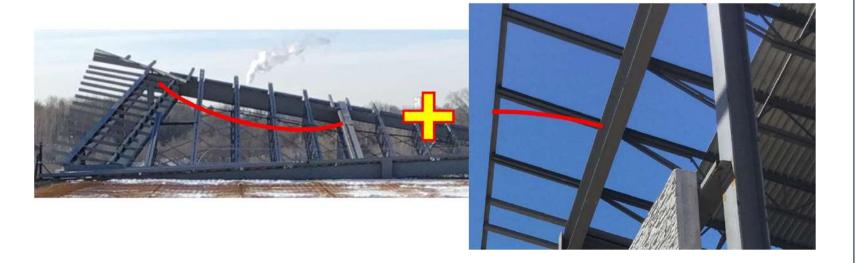
Case Study 1: Compounded Deflections and Curtain Wall

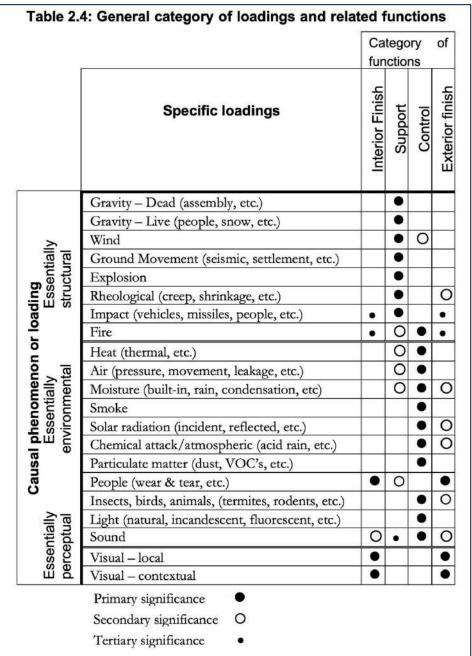
• If I was an investor, I would call this a growth market





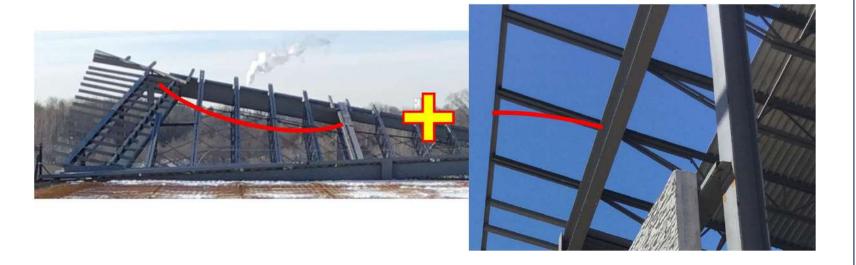
- Building Science Game Show Time!
- Case Study 1: which loadings were involved?

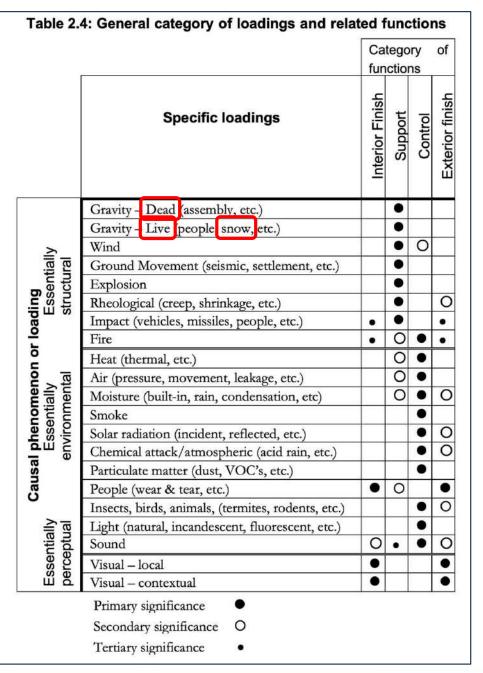






- Building Science Game Show Time!
- Case Study 1: which loadings were involved?







Case Study 2: Wood Framed Stealth Deflections

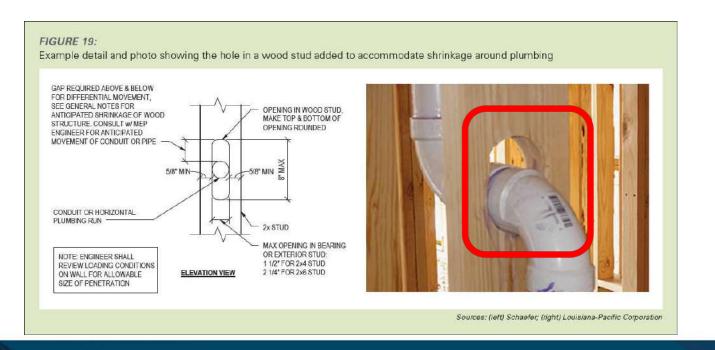


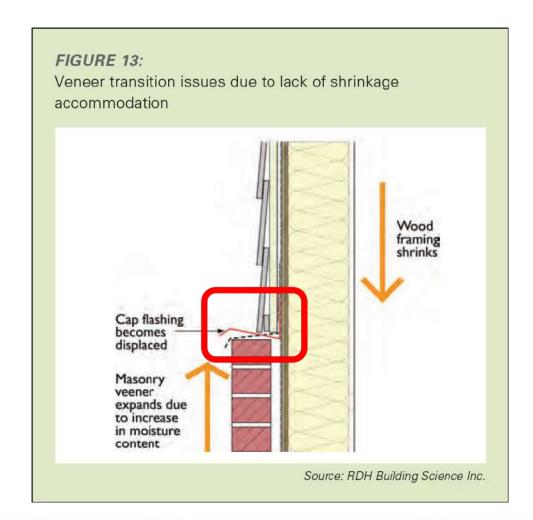
Accommodating Shrinkage in Multi-Story Wood-Frame Structures

Richard McLain, MS, PE, SE, Technical Director, WoodWorks . Doug Steimle, PE, Principal, Schaefer



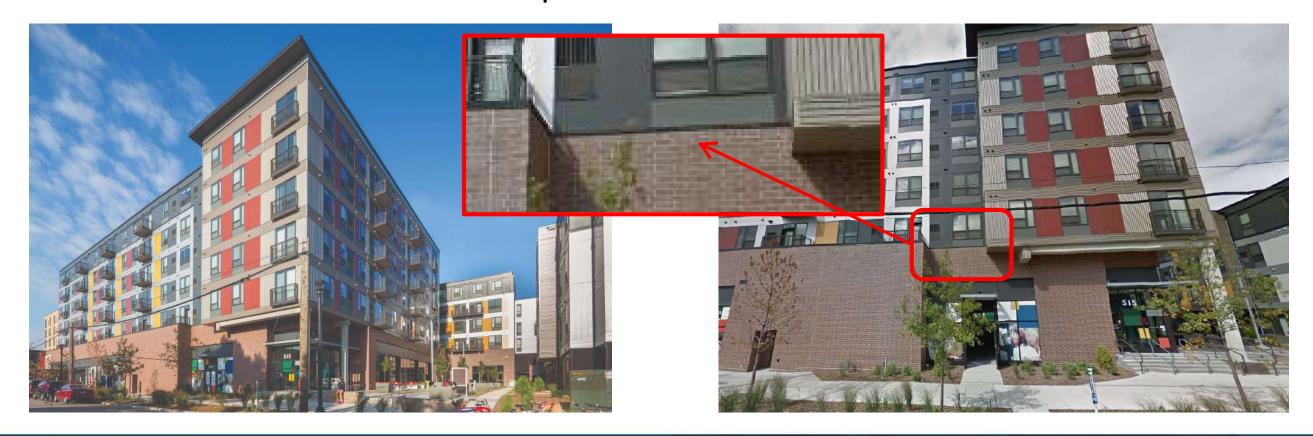
- Case Study 2: Wood Framed Stealth Deflections
- Most of the usual suspects for shrinkage in mid-rise wood framed construction have been known for at least 10± years





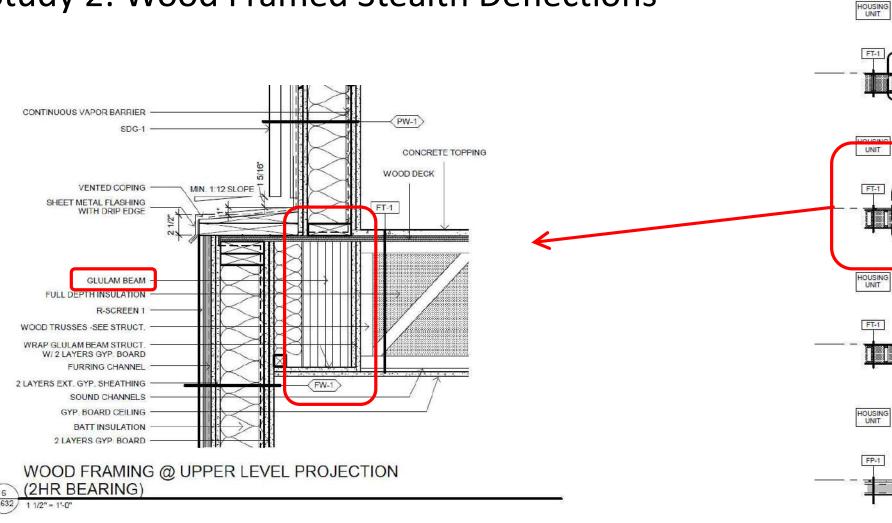


- Case Study 2: Wood Framed Stealth Deflections
- Sometime the movement potential is not as obvious



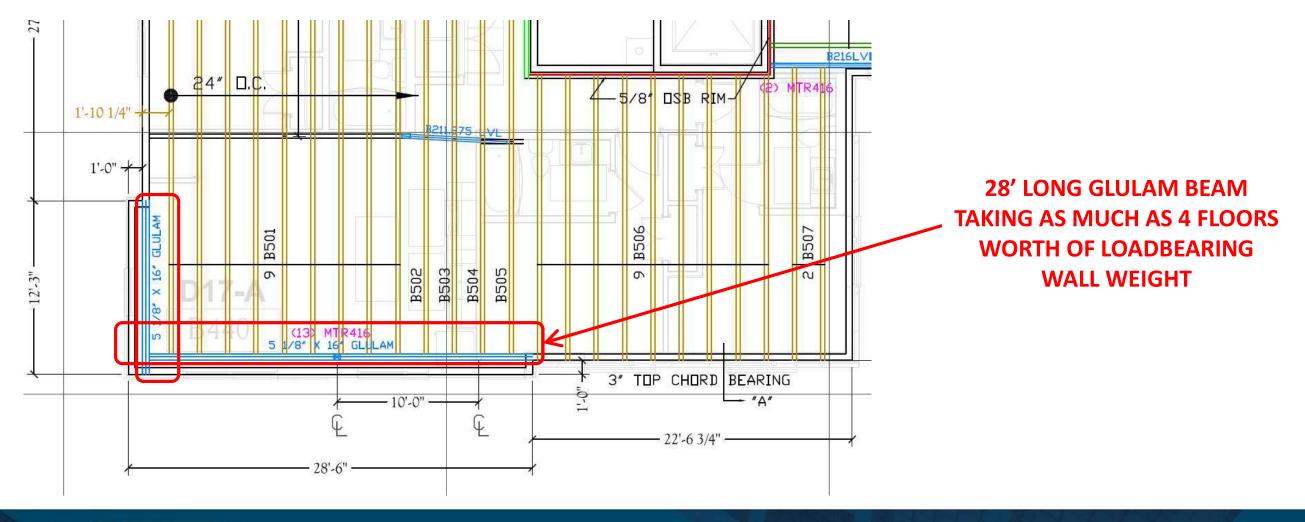


Case Study 2: Wood Framed Stealth Deflections

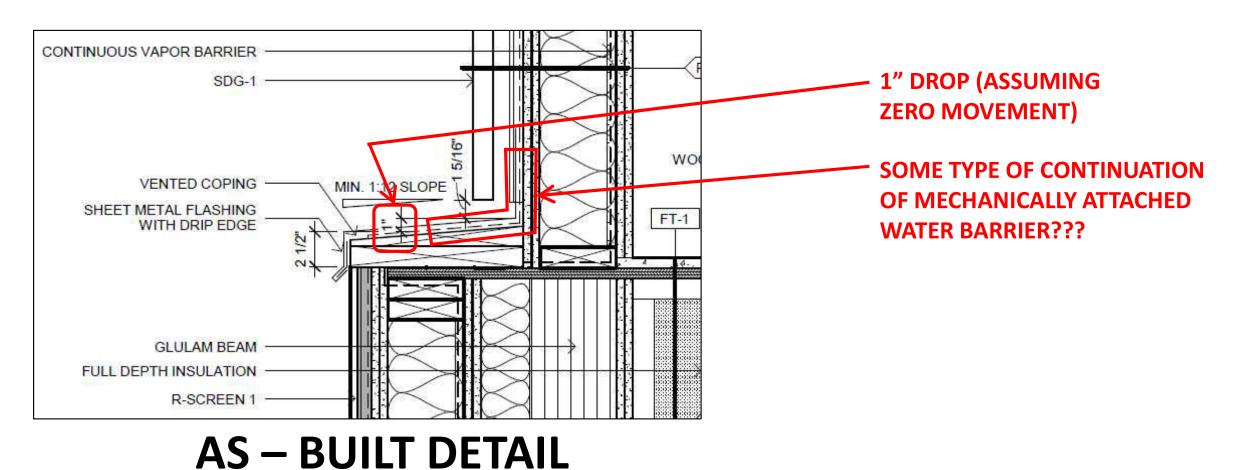


SDG-3

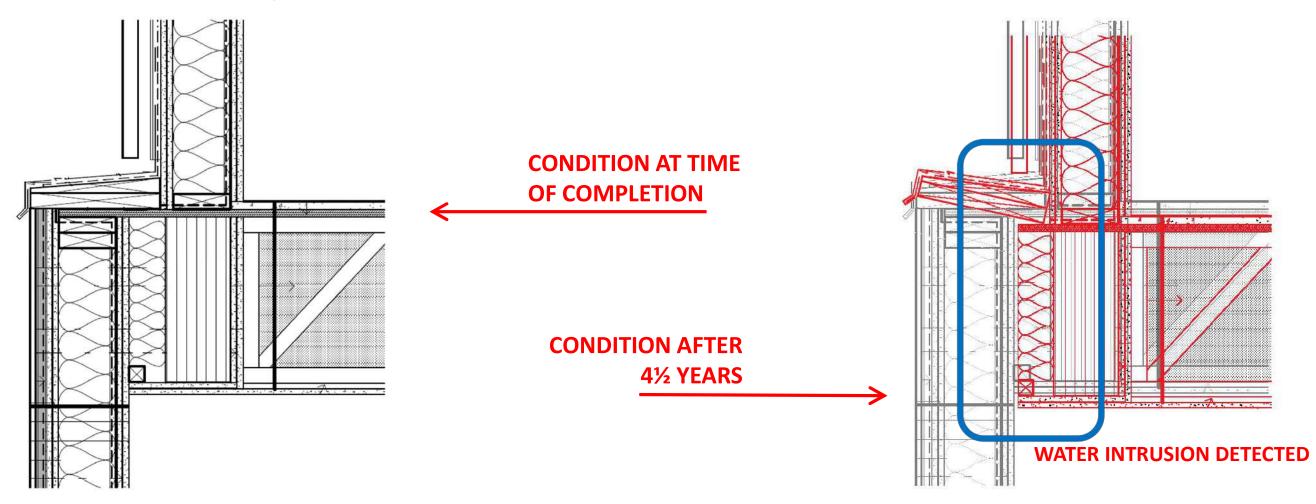














- Repairs made at all setback locations
  - New pitch of 2:12
  - High temp self adhered membrane flashing approved for use on low slope surfaces

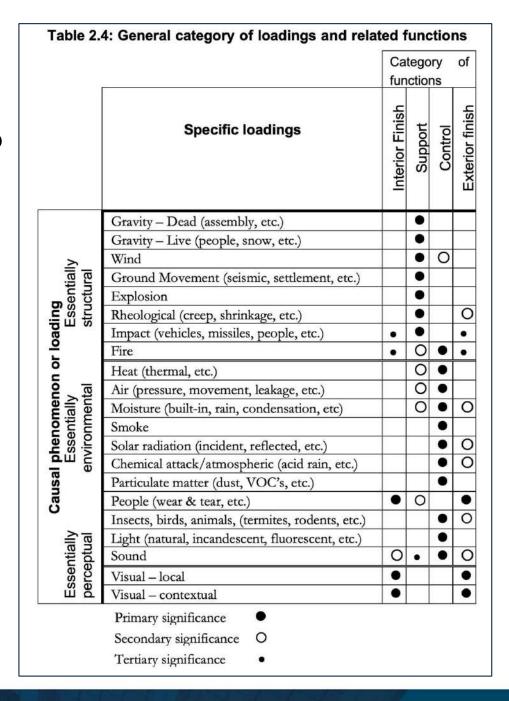






Case Study 2: which loadings were involved?

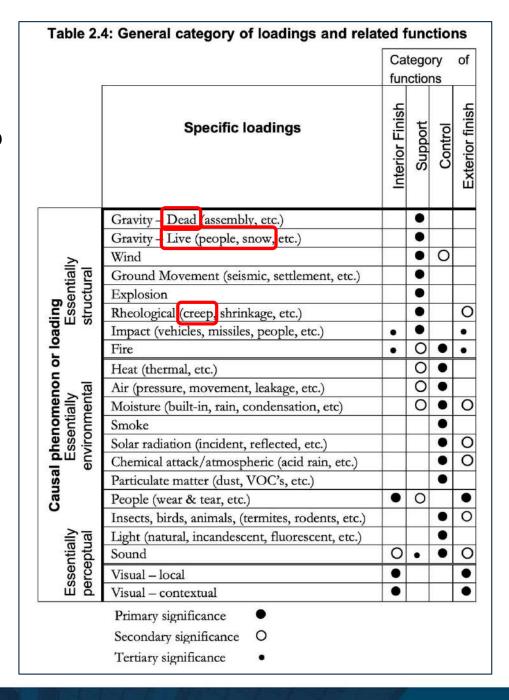






Case Study 2: which loadings were involved?





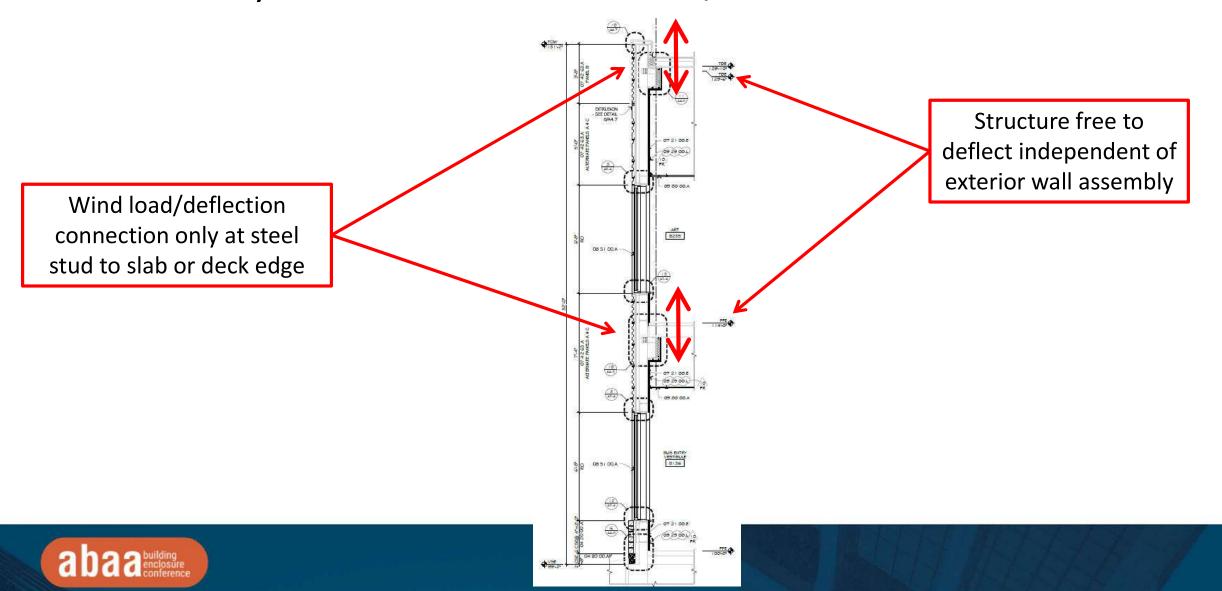


- Case Study 3: Stacked Ribbon Window/Steel Stud Infill
- 2-story elementary school
  - Exterior wall assembly not interrupted by 2nd Floor slab edge or roof deck edge
  - Steel stud backup
  - Opaque wall areas received metal panel cladding

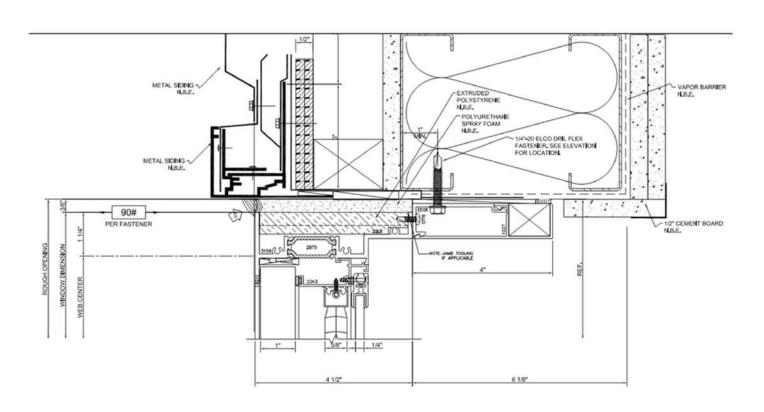




Case Study 3: Stacked Ribbon Window/Steel Stud Infill



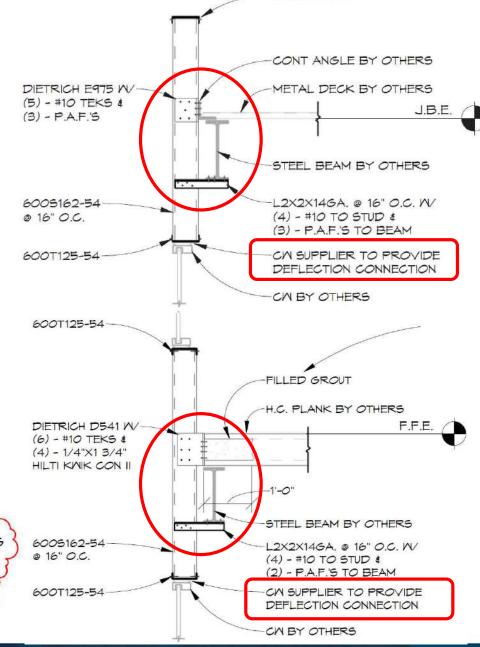
Case Study 3: Stacked Ribbon Window/Steel Stud Infill



Window supplier's drawings showed static head joint consistent with contract documents



- Case Study 3: Stacked Ribbon Window/Steel
  - But steel stud supplier's shop drawings
    - Requested change to fixed connection between studs and supporting structure
    - Requested that window supplier provide movement accommodation at their head framing condition



CONT. TRACK

A.O.R./E.O.R. NOTE: APEX RECOMMENDS FRAMING AS SHOWN VERIFY LOAD PATH IS ACCEPTABLE. REF. 8, 28/54.5 FOR SIM. STUD LOAD PATH ATTACHMENT TO BEAMS. DETAIL CUT 5/54.4 DOES NOT WORK @ MIDE "RIBBON" MINDOMS.

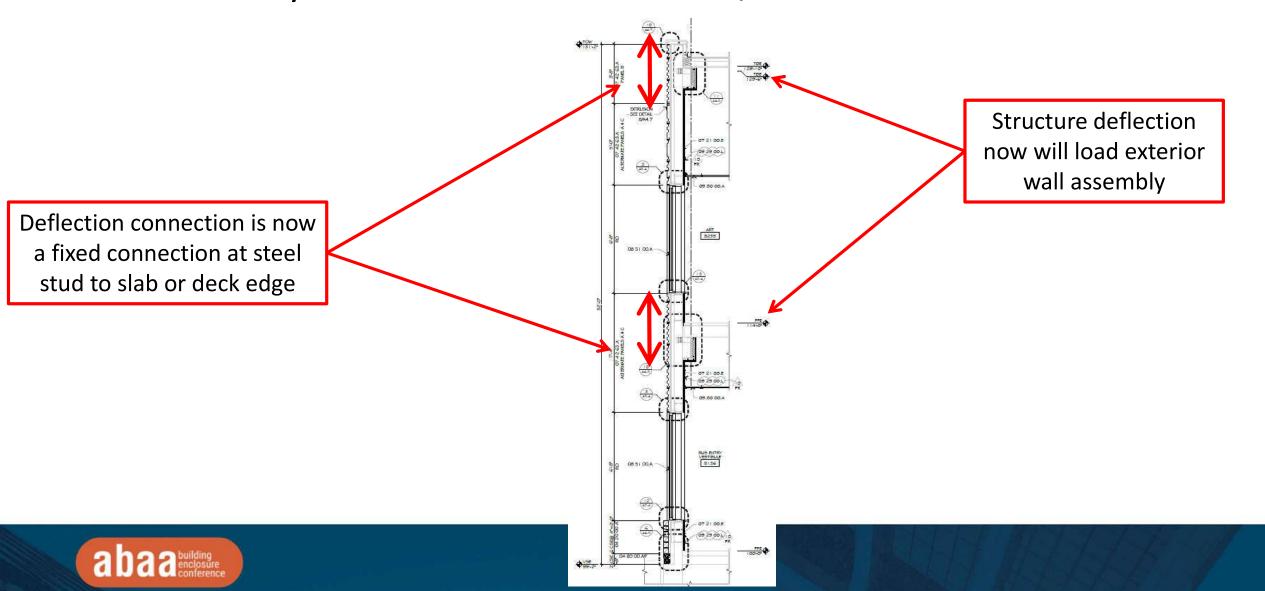


- Case Study 3: Stacked Ribbon Window/Steel Stud Infill
  - Architect approved request, but change was not communicated to any other parties affected by the decision
    - Particularly the window supplier with a static head joint





Case Study 3: Stacked Ribbon Window/Steel Stud Infill



- Case Study 3: Stacked Ribbon Window/Steel Stud Infill
  - Window head conditions would leak early spring after seasonal cycle of winter snow load deflection followed by spring snow melt relaxation





- Case Study 3: Stacked Ribbon Window/Steel Stud Infill
- Multiple breakdowns in the QA/QC process:
  - Design team and window supplier
    - Did not recognize original stacked wall configuration would be problematic
  - Steel stud supplier
    - Identified issue but did not request change through proper documentation (RFI)
  - Design team
    - Did not issue change to contract documents
  - Construction manager
    - Did not coordinate change between all trades affected



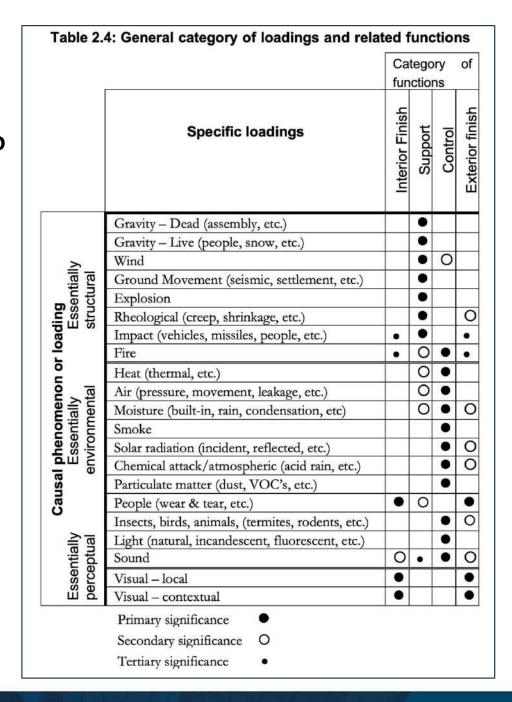
- Case Study 3: Stacked Ribbon Window/Steel Stud Infill
- Highlights the need to properly communicate and validate the continuity of decisions
  - Design
  - Documentation
  - Implementation





Case Study 3: which loadings were involved?

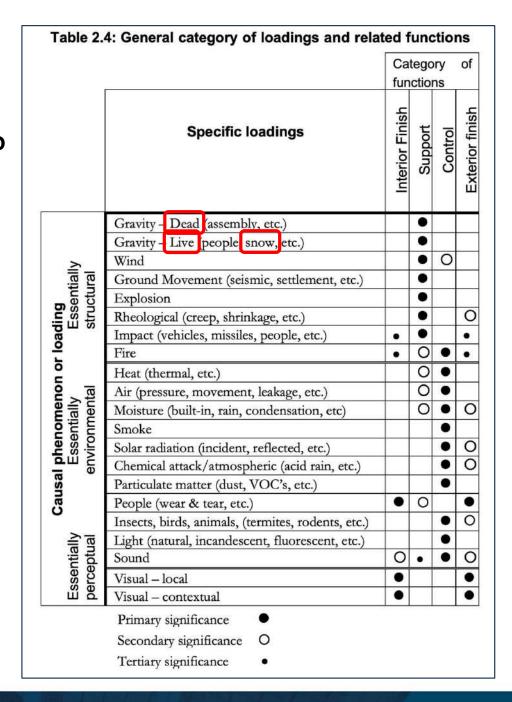






Case Study 3: which loadings were involved?



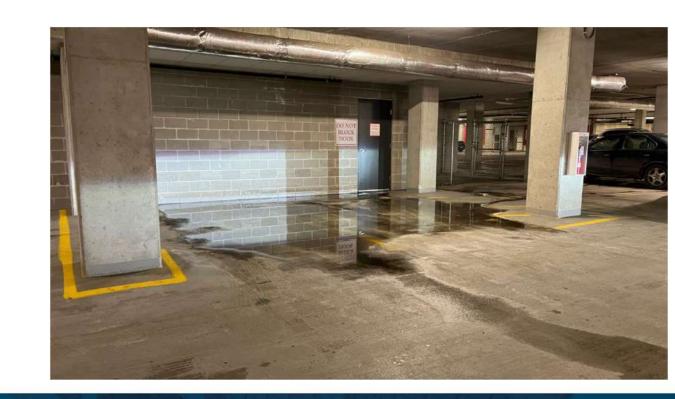




- Case Study 4: Parking Deck Surface Slopes/Water Infiltration
- American Concrete Institute (ACI) Committee for Parking Structures
  - Slope slabs surfaces so that positive water flow occurs without ponding
- Industry best practice is to design to 1½% 2% minimum
  - Intent is after deducting slope for construction tolerances and deflections, positive water flow will still occur (not less than 1%)



- Case Study 4: Parking Deck Surface Slopes/Water Infiltration
- Primary goal for ACI is to prevent standing water, which will reduce
  - Water intrusion INTO slab thickness
  - Accelerated deterioration of reinforcing and concrete





Case Study 4: Parking Deck Surface Slopes/Water Infiltration

 Concrete section not exposed to atmosphere has high alkali content (pH 12.5±)

Water that percolates through slabs can convert from neutral solution to caustic solution

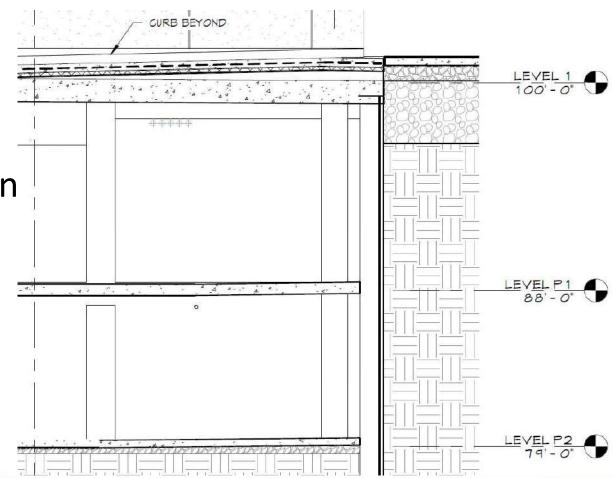


Case Study 4: Parking Deck Surface Slopes/Water Infiltration

Multi-level parking structure below grade

 Owner goal of minimizing excavation depths motivated design team to reduce surface slopes

• Range of 1% - 1 1/2%

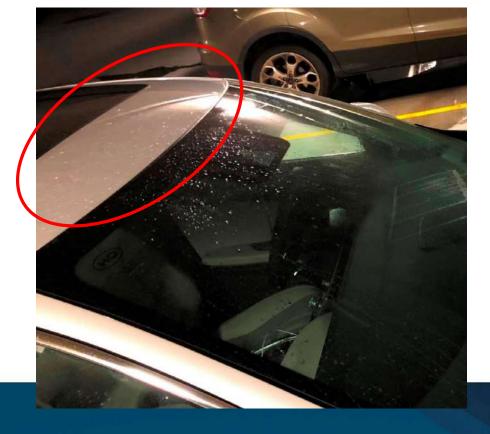




• Case Study 4: Parking Deck Surface Slopes/Water Infiltration

After one seasonal cycle, car finishes on lower level began to show

damage







- Case Study 4: Parking Deck Surface Slopes/Water Infiltration
- Movement of slab changed surface slope from adequate to inadequate
  - Enclosure no longer protected cars below
- Persistent standing water on upper ramp level throughout winter months



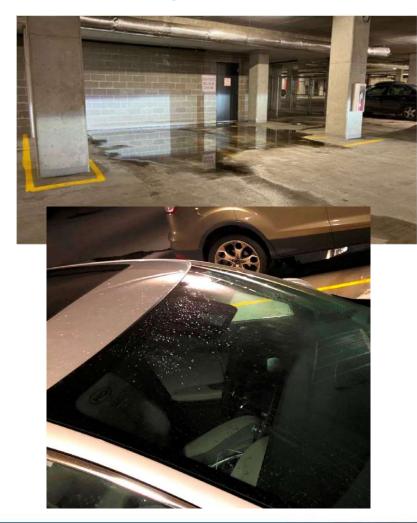
Case Study 4: Parking Deck Surface Slopes/Water Infiltration

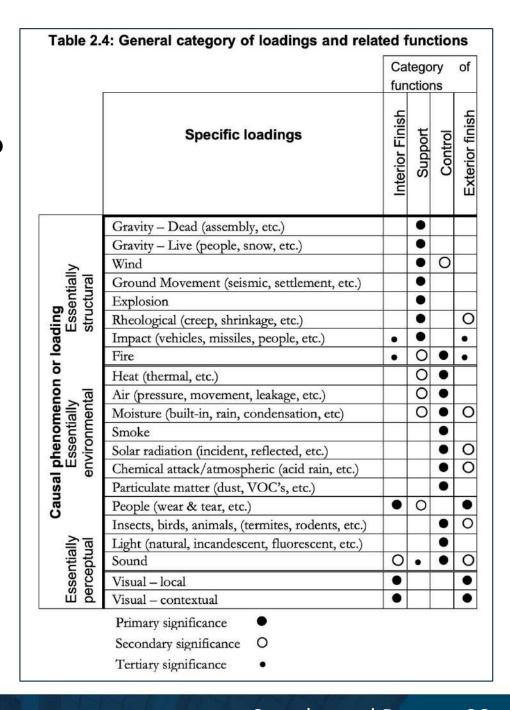
- Moisture runoff changed from neutral to alkaline
- Vehicle owners changed from happy to upset
  - Parking structure owner paid for auto finish repair work
  - Vehicular traffic coating added ~ \$355,000



Case Study 4: which loadings were involved?

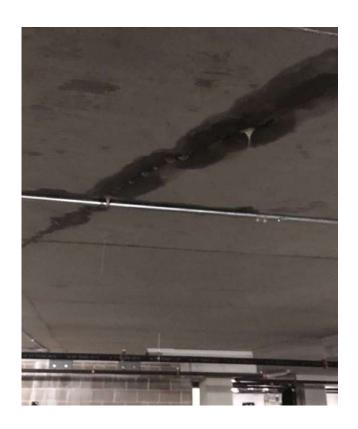


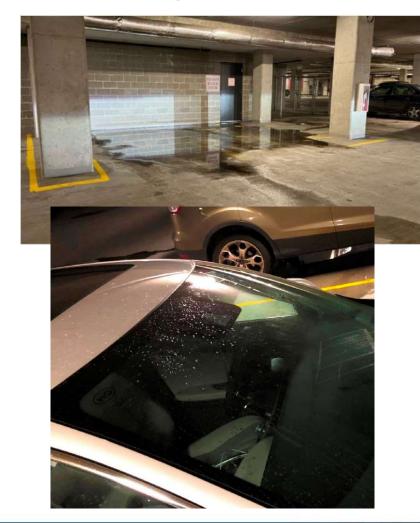


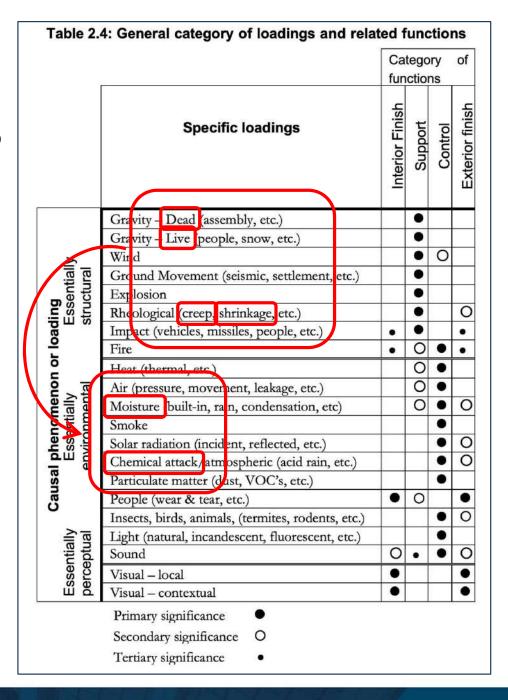




Case Study 4: which loadings were involved?









• Case Study 5: Roof Ponding/Adaptive Reuse Project







- Case Study 5: Roof Ponding/Adaptive Reuse Project
- New buildings: all code provisions for structural design apply
- Existing building modifications: retrofitting of structure is governed by code provisions for existing buildings
  - Varying thresholds of retrofit scope triggered by degree of modifications



- Case Study 5: Roof Ponding/Adaptive Reuse Project
- New buildings: Roofs designed to less than ¼" per foot slope analyzed for progressive deflection from ponding instability
  - Local jurisdictions might prohibit shallower slopes
  - Manufacturers warranties might exclude shallower slopes



Case Study 5: Roof Ponding/Adaptive Reuse Project

Progressive deflection from ponding instability









- Case Study 5: Roof Ponding/Adaptive Reuse Project
- Existing roof structure design was only marginally above original code minimums
  - Open web steel joists
  - Roof framing sloped 1/8" per foot
  - Existing roof assembly saturated





- Case Study 5: Roof Ponding/Adaptive Reuse Project
- Local Code allowed for roof slopes shallower than ¼" per foot
- Modifications did not trigger extensive retrofit requirements
  - Ponding analysis was not performed by design team



• Case Study 5: Roof Ponding/Adaptive Reuse Project





- Case Study 5: Roof Ponding/Adaptive Reuse Project
- Design team went back and performed ponding analysis
  - Existing framing confirmed to be stable under sustained loads



- Case Study 5: Roof Ponding/Adaptive Reuse Project
- There were early warning signs
  - Construction team could have alerted structural engineer to birdbaths





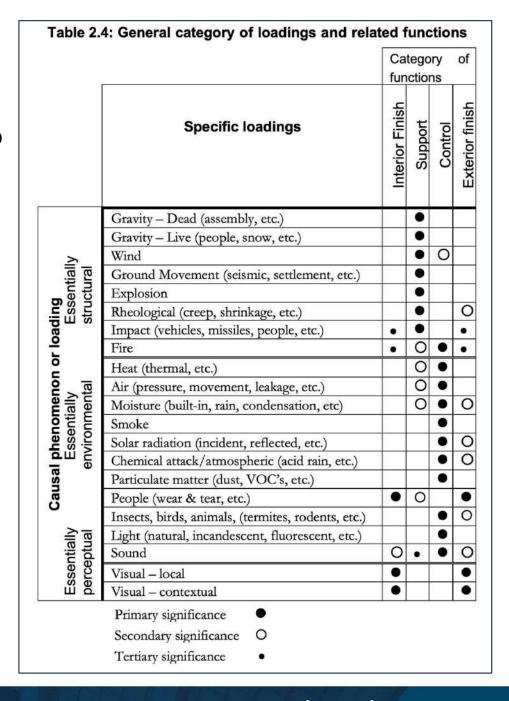


- Case Study 5: Roof Ponding/Adaptive Reuse Project
- This particular instance did not result in a critical life-safety issue
- Nevertheless
  - Cumulative roof ponding as a result of not considering building movement is a serious issue that has resulted many roof collapses
  - Slopes shallower than ¼" per foot always warrant careful consideration, regardless of code requirements.



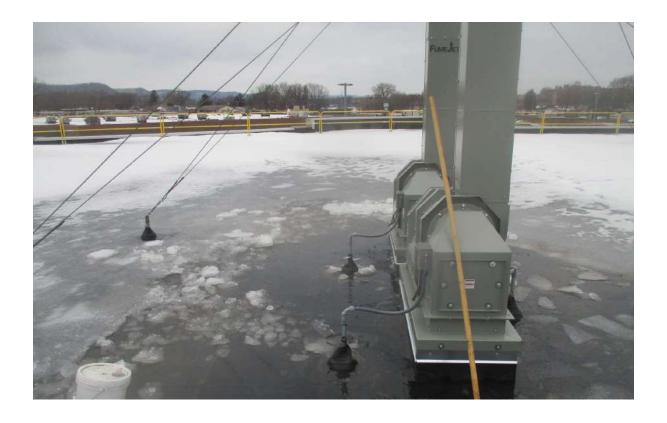
Case Study 5: which loadings were involved?

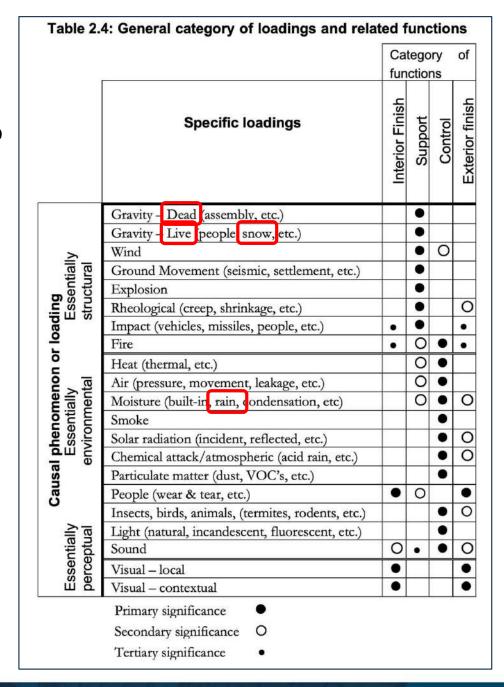






Case Study 5: which loadings were involved?







 Category B: Material Volume Change (Shortening/Elongation) impacting Enclosure Control Layers



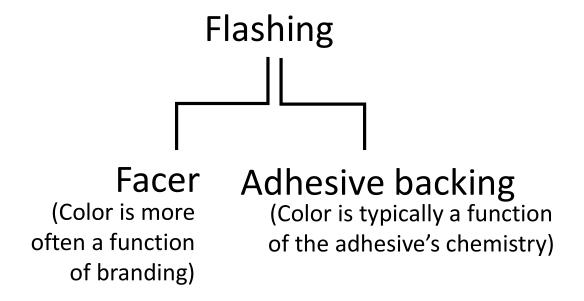
• Case Study 6: Solar Heat Gain/Self-Adhered Membrane Flashing







Case Study 6: Solar Heat Gain/Self-Adhered Membrane Flashing



Material color influences ability to reflect, absorb, and transmit heat



- Case Study 6: Solar Heat Gain/Self-Adhered Membrane Flashing
  - Integrated sheathing system
  - Non-loadbearing steel stud wall
  - Board joints/corners/openings required treatment for water and air control layer
    - Fluid applied flashing considered but ultimately not chosen
    - 15-mil acrylic-based flashing selected





- Case Study 6: Solar Heat Gain/Self-Adhered Membrane Flashing
- Enclosure work occurred throughout winter (Climate Zone 6a)
  - End of December during installation, gapping or "fish mouthing" was discovered at outer edges of flashing
  - Raised folds also discovered in field of material





Case Study 6: Solar Heat Gain/Self-Adhered Membrane Flashing

- Flashing would
  - be flat/smooth before direct morning sunlight
  - gap open when exposed to sun
  - Then return to flat after sun set in afternoon





Case Study 6: Solar Heat Gain/Self-Adhered Membrane Flashing







- Case Study 6: Solar Heat Gain/Self-Adhered Membrane Flashing
- Surface temperature readings taken
- Days with direct sunlight the surface temperatures would exceed 130 degrees
  - Ambient air temperatures around 30 degrees





Case Study 6: Solar Heat Gain/Self-Adhered Membrane Flashing

#### Facer color

- → solar heat gain
  - → material expanded at a rate greater than substrate
    - expansion overcame adhesive force
- Any fish mouths terminating on an upward edge determined to be a moisture infiltration risk



Case Study 6: Solar Heat Gain/Self-Adhered Membrane Flashing

Remedial options considered



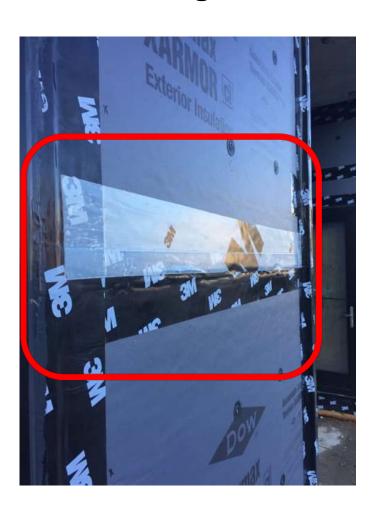




Case Study 6: Solar Heat Gain/Self-Adhered Membrane Flashing

Remedial options considered







- Case Study 6: Solar Heat Gain/Self-Adhered Membrane Flashing
  - Option selected was validated through water testing
  - Project delay not significant, however
    - Labor and material cost increase ~ \$30,000 from contingency
    - Overall install schedule prolonged



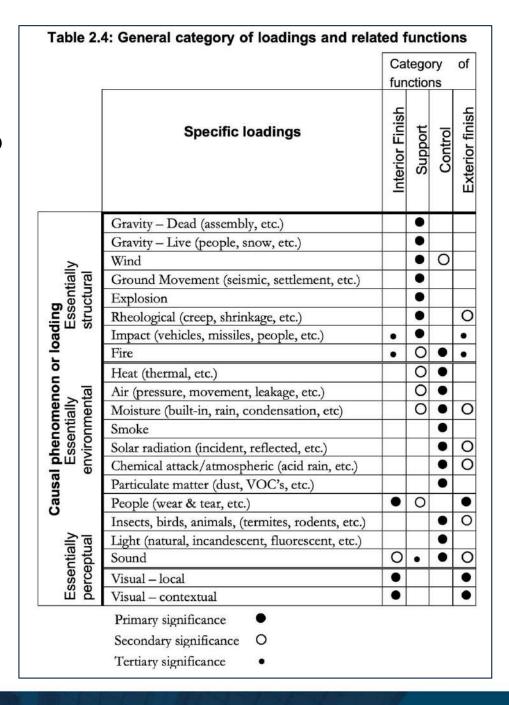
- Case Study 6: Solar Heat Gain/Self-Adhered Membrane Flashing
- Recommendations provided to manufacturer
  - Produce flashing material in a lighter color?
- Other best practice reminders for material use
  - J-roller or plastic spreader
  - Do not push limits of UV exposure



Case Study 6: which loadings were involved?





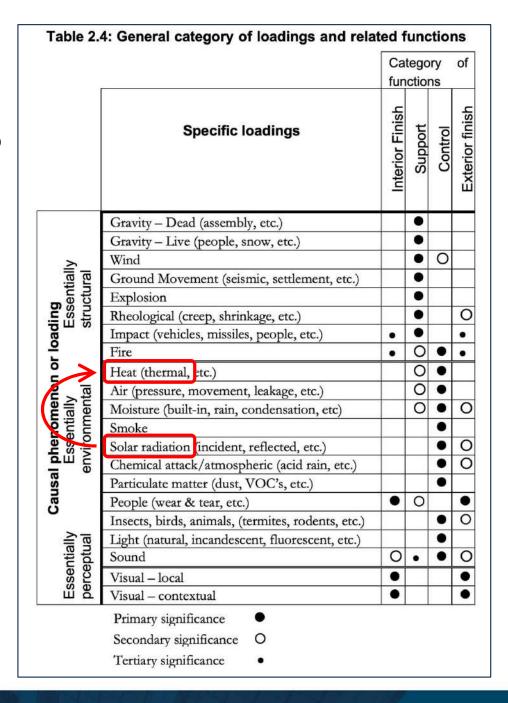




Case Study 6: which loadings were involved?









• Case Study 7: Spray Polyurethane Foam (SPF) Shrinkage





- Case Study 7: Spray Polyurethane Foam (SPF) Shrinkage
- Site-manufactured SPF
  - Two base components are produced by material manufacturer
  - Part "A" and Part "B" combined on-site during spraying operation to create foam plastic
    - Cellular structure/entrapped voids are result of site operation
- Very common on job-sites
  - Thermal control
  - Air control
  - Vapor control



- Case Study 7: Spray Polyurethane Foam (SPF) Shrinkage
- Quality control measures required before/during installation
  - Material shipping/handling/storage controls
  - Installation equipment maintenance and calibration
  - Processing controls temperature/pressure/humidity
    - For material, substrate AND ambient



• Case Study 7: Spray Polyurethane Foam (SPF) Shrinkage

- Possible install failure is excessive shrinkage after placement
  - Can initiate anywhere from several days to several months after placement
- Concern can be minor to major
  - Depends on intended control function of SPF and degree of shrinkage
  - Thermal control layer breached = relatively minor
  - Air control layer breached = bigger deal
  - Shrinkage damages other control layers = very big deal





• Case Study 7: Spray Polyurethane Foam (SPF) Shrinkage

### Project 1

- Exterior steel stud wall
- Fluid applied air/water resistive barrier on exterior sheathing
- Stud walls ran past second floor slab and roof deck edge
- At stud bypass of second floor and roof, SPF "plugs" placed in stud cavity to prevent air bypass reaching parapet cavity



• Case Study 7: Spray Polyurethane Foam (SPF) Shrinkage

 Distress first observed on outside face of exterior sheathing at roof deck elevation

 Inspection openings created on rear side of parapet wall







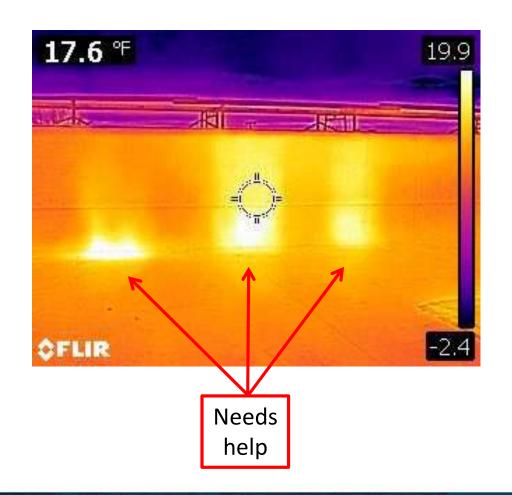
- Case Study 7: Spray Polyurethane Foam (SPF) Shrinkage
- Condition also discovered at second floor slab edge
- Shrinkage pulled SPF away from studs and slab edge face
  - Unacceptable air bypass condition





Case Study 7: Spray Polyurethane Foam (SPF) Shrinkage

- Fix determined:
  - Determine areas needing repair
    - IR imaging
  - Create relief cut in existing plug
  - Install new cap layer over top
    - With renewed focus on processing and placement controls
  - Validate repair with IR imaging





Case Study 6: Spray Polyurethane Foam (SPF) Shrinkage

- Project 2
  - Exterior steel stud wall
  - Fluid applied air/vapor/water barrier (WRB) on exterior sheathing
    - Sheathing joints treated with flashing-adhered membrane flashing
  - SPF applied full height in stud cavity as part of thermal control



- Case Study 7: Spray Polyurethane Foam (SPF) Shrinkage
- Distress observed on outside face of sheathing
  - First noted ~3 months after install
  - Sheathing bowed inward
  - WRB cracked
  - Sheathing facer cracked





Case Study 7: Spray Polyurethane Foam (SPF) Shrinkage

- Inspection Openings Made
  - SPF shrinkage confirmed
- Site visit from both SPF Manufacturer
   & WRB Manufacturer





Case Study 7: Spray Polyurethane Foam (SPF) Shrinkage

SPF condition determined acceptable

- WRB condition required repair
  - Cracks treated with additional flashing material



Case Study 7: Spray Polyurethane Foam (SPF) Shrinkage

#### Both Projects:

- Several months of additional work
- Combined additional costs exceeding \$100,000
- Due to the amount of controls required for installation, difficult to identify a singular root cause of shrinkage



• Case Study 7: Spray Polyurethane Foam (SPF) Shrinkage

- Recommendations
  - For SPF applied in stud cavities, look for inward bowing or "scalloping" of exterior sheathing as sign that shrinkage has occurred





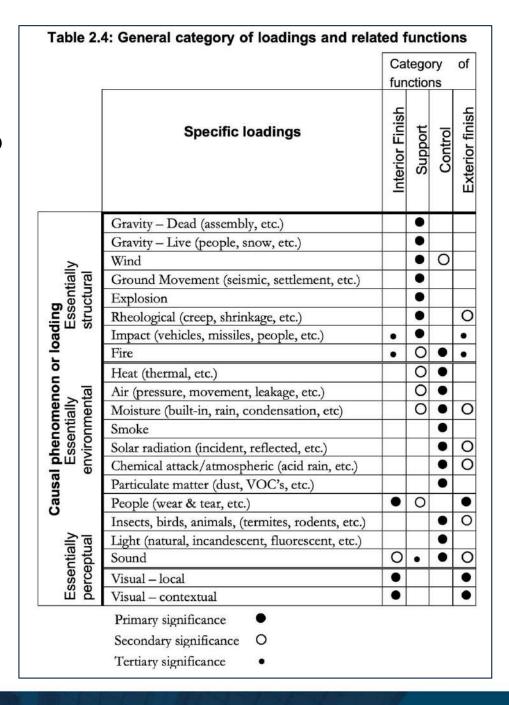
Case Study 7: Spray Polyurethane Foam (SPF) Shrinkage

- Recommendations Proper Quality Control
  - Components kept at manufacturer's recommended temperature ranges during storage & handling
  - Spraying equipment calibrated to correct mixing ratio, line temperatures, pressures
  - Environmental conditions (temperature & humidity) of air and receiving substrate within manufacturer's recommended ranges



Case Study 7: which loadings were involved?



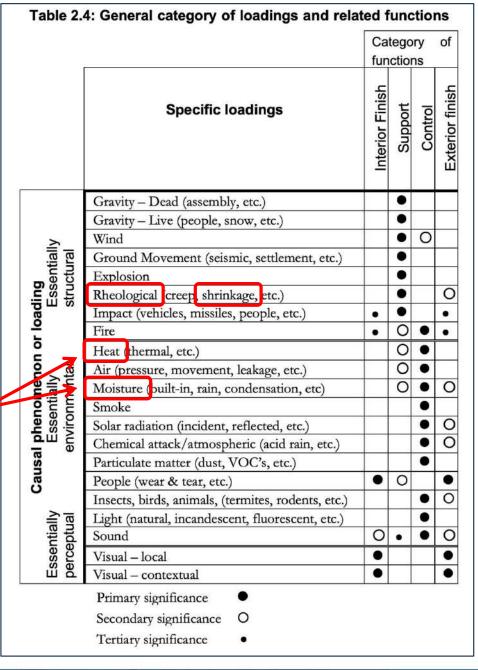




Case Study 7: which loadings were involved?

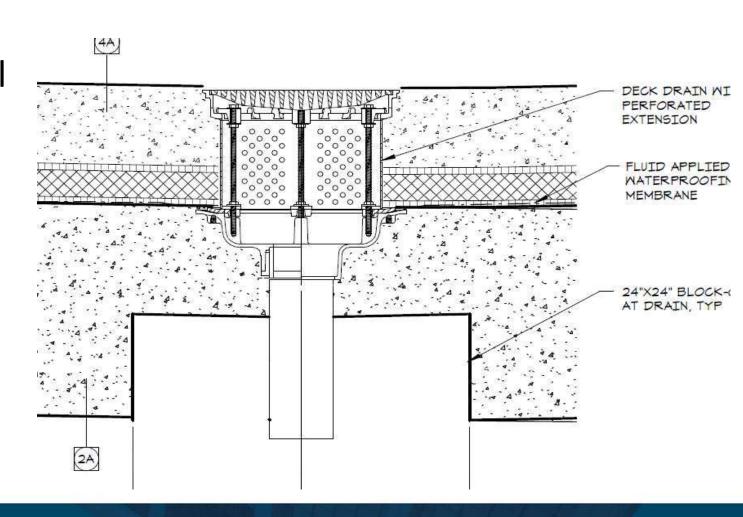






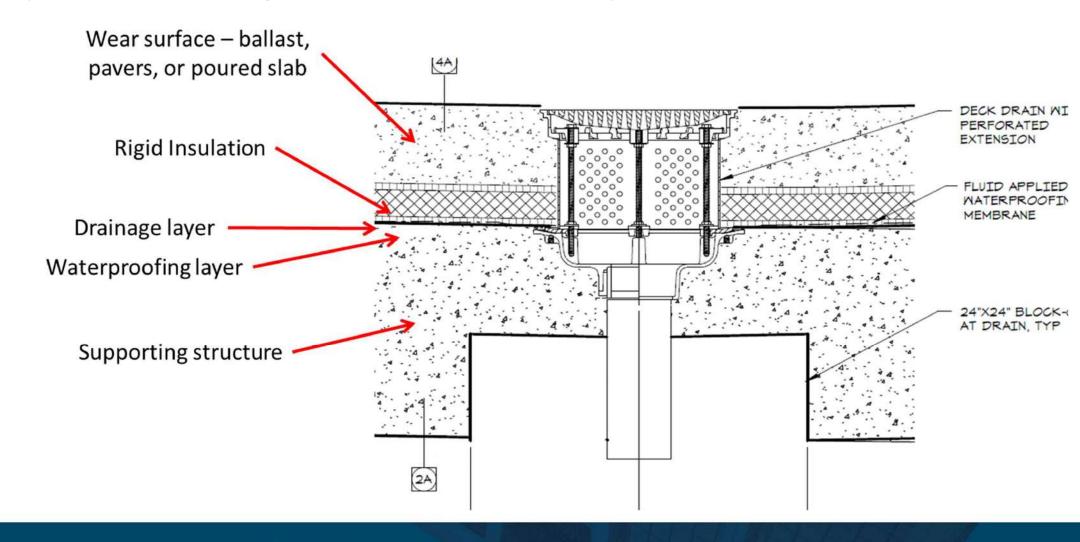


- Case Study 8: Slab Jacking/Plaza Deck Assembly
- Plaza decks used as horizontal mediator between exterior above and interior below
- Also known as
  - Inverted roofs (IRMAs)
  - Protected roof membranes (PMRs)
  - Split slabs





Case Study 8: Slab Jacking/Plaza Deck Assembly





Case Study 8: Slab Jacking/Plaza Deck Assembly

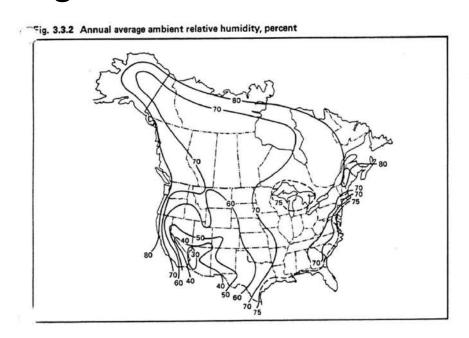
 Case study will focus on cast-in-place concrete wear slabs for parking on top surface

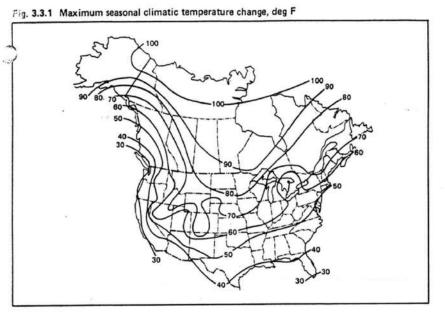




Case Study 8: Slab Jacking/Plaza Deck Assembly

 Wear slabs → outside of control layers → subject to seasonal changes of exterior climate



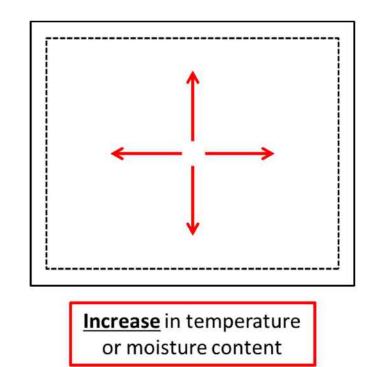


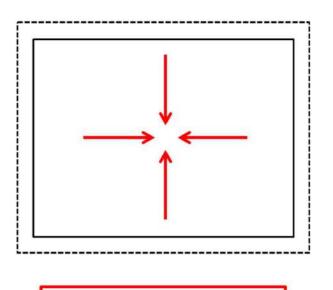




Case Study 8: Slab Jacking/Plaza Deck Assembly

Wear slab detailing must accommodate movement





<u>Decrease</u> in temperature or moisture content



Case Study 8: Slab Jacking/Plaza Deck Assembly

 Areas where waterproofing (WP) layer intersects wear slab must be protected from wear slab movement

Where WP turns up vertical surfaces – walls, light pole bases, steps in

structural slab

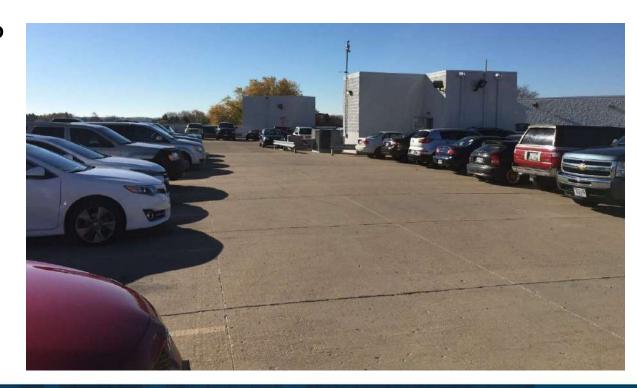






Case Study 8: Slab Jacking/Plaza Deck Assembly

- Project 1
  - Typical Assembly Construction, but WP layer was 60 mil EPDM (not ideal)
  - Parking deck above auto dealership for auto storage





Case Study 8: Slab Jacking/Plaza Deck Assembly

- Original construction complete ~ 2006
  - Leaking first observed ~ 2008
  - Substantial exterior wall cracking/movement at building corners
  - Accelerated wear slab deterioration
  - Numerous other issues, primarily structure-related







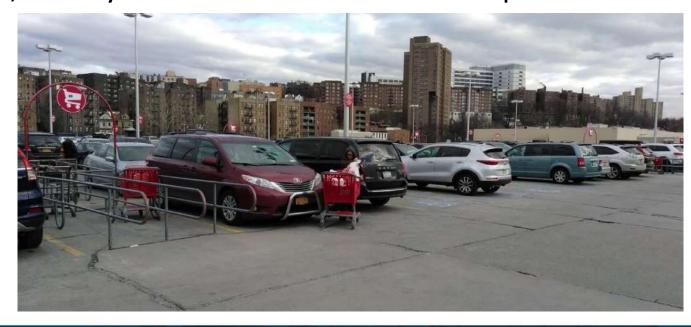
Case Study 8: Slab Jacking/Plaza Deck Assembly

Project 2

• Typical Assembly Construction, WP layer 215 mil hot rubberized asphalt

(HRA)

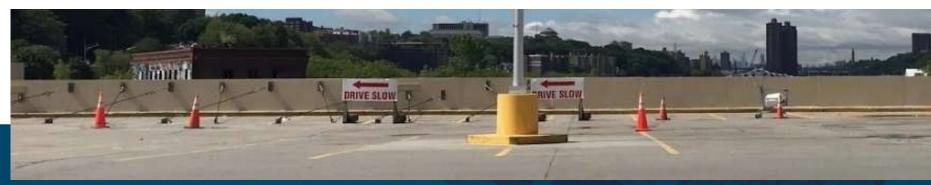
Parking deck above retail





- Case Study 8: Slab Jacking/Plaza Deck Assembly
- Original construction complete ~ 2005
  - Leaking first observed ~ 2011
  - Substantial exterior wall outward movement
  - Accelerated wear slab deterioration
  - Tilting light pole bases







• Case Study 8: Slab Jacking/Plaza Deck Assembly







Case Study 8: Slab Jacking/Plaza Deck Assembly







- Case Study 8: Slab Jacking/Plaza Deck Assembly
- Inadequate amount of expansion joints & sealed control joints
  - majority of wear slab expansion occurring at outer edges & corners
    - → slab movement distressing waterproofing layer to failure



- Case Study 8: Slab Jacking/Plaza Deck Assembly
- Progressive failure mechanism Wear slab
  - Shrink over winter months
  - Open up untreated control joints & new tensile cracks
  - Gaps fill with debris/roadway grit
  - Swell over summer months
  - Expand against debris-filled gaps
  - Each successive seasonal cycle would establish new baseline of overall horizontal dimension
- Eventually force of jacking on vertical waterproofing surfaces would cause breach



• Case Study 8: Slab Jacking/Plaza Deck Assembly





Case Study 8: Slab Jacking/Plaza Deck Assembly

 Volume change → compression and shear force

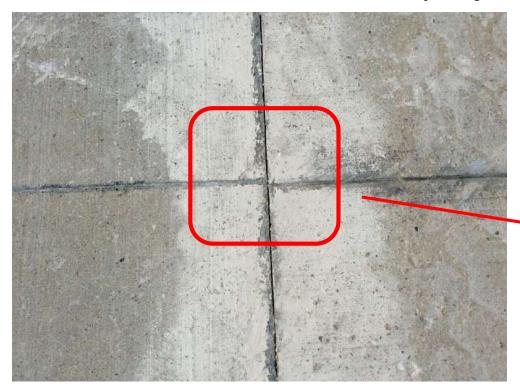
• Findings were controversial on project 2 — "It has to be the snow plow impact force!"





Case Study 8: Slab Jacking/Plaza Deck Assembly

Horizontal forces in project 1 were significant







- Case Study 8: Slab Jacking/Plaza Deck Assembly
- Full removal & replacement on project 1 ~ \$7,000,000
- Limited removal & repair on project 2 ~ \$3,500,000







- Case Study 8: Slab Jacking/Plaza Deck Assembly
  - Remove assemblies down to structural slab
  - Replace WP layer (215 mil HRA)
  - Rebuild of rest of plaza assembly above
    - Additional drainage layer included above insulation
  - New wear course slabs
    - Much tighter pattern of control joints, ALL SEALED
    - Additional expansion joints
  - Followed by maintenance program recommendations
  - Regular surface sweeping
  - Wash down of decks in spring and fall
  - Regular inspection of construction and control joints



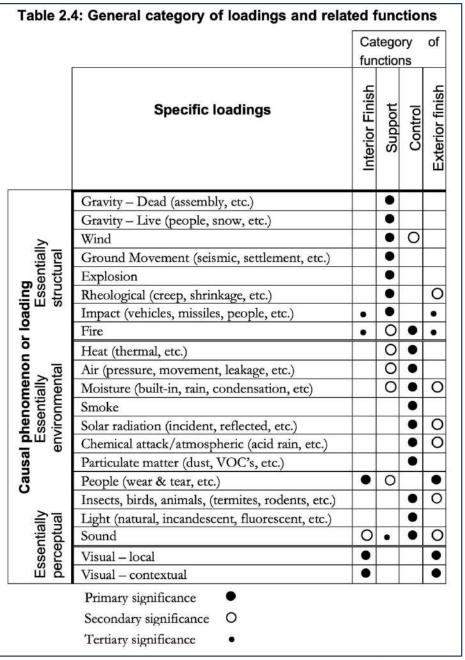
Case Study 8: Slab Jacking/Plaza Deck Assembly

- Follow up thoughts
  - Insist on drainage layer both <u>above</u> and below insulation
  - Be wary of using single ply or hybrid systems with poured wear slab
  - Protect vertical regions of WP when abutting wear slab
    - Metal flashing
    - Rigid insulation
    - Asphalt impregnated board
  - Dual layer drains and ¼" per foot slope
  - Always recommend a maintenance program!



Case Study 8: which loadings were involved?

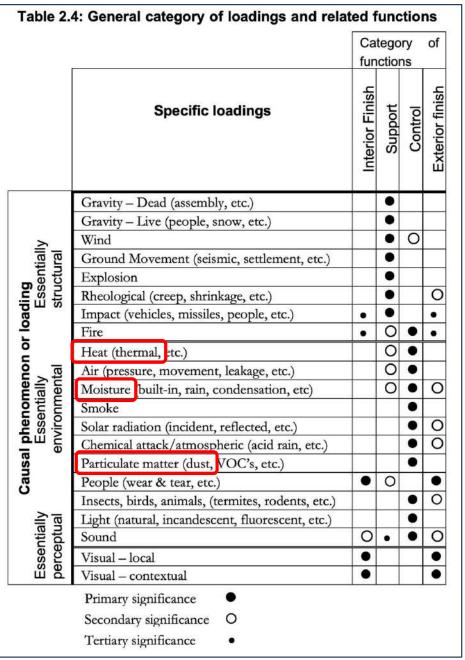






Case Study 8: which loadings were involved?







Conclusion

MOWING AT LIMITS OF YARD SCOPE: BY OTHERS





Conclusion

 Continued effective control of heat, air and moisture is not possible if building movement is not considered

- Thoughtful Deliberate Intentional
  - "somebody else will figure it out"



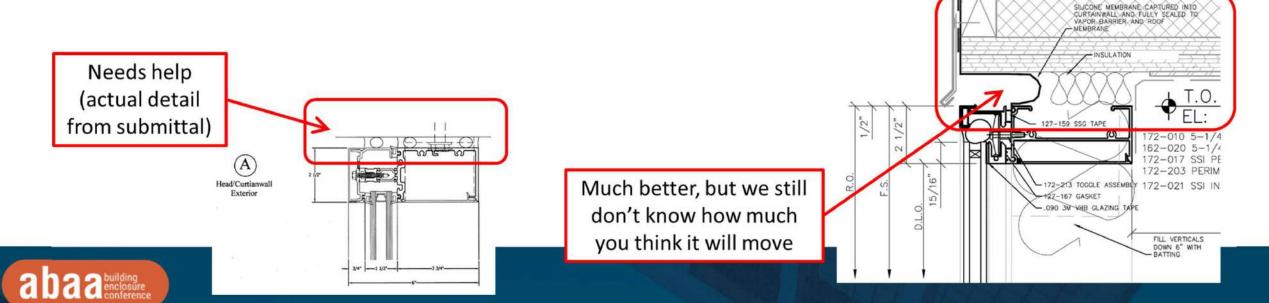
Conclusion

- General Recommendations
  - Effective performance specifications
    - If design is delegated, the assignee needs enough information to succeed
    - Literal, project-specific magnitudes of movement accommodation
    - Less information shared = less chances that expectations will be met



Conclusion

- General Recommendations
  - Include Movement Information on Field Use Drawings
    - Common failure point = interface between work performed by different trades
    - Draw beyond the line of "by others", all the way to the point where the control layer(s)
      have been successfully handed off to the next trade



Conclusion

- General Recommendations
  - Use steps in the documentation and approval process as tollgates
  - Communicate and Validate!

"what I hear you saying is..."



#### Conclusion

Twenty years ago James Reason created the 'Swiss cheese model of system accidents'. It says that no single safety element is perfect, so systems need layers of protection.

@SIOUXSIEW @XTOTL thespinoff.co.nz ADAPTED FROM JAMES REASON, IAN MACKAY, SKETCHPLANATIONS CC-BY-SA 4.0



 Conclusion ENGLOSURE **PERFORMANCE** THE PROJECT QUALITY PLAN DEFENSE **ACHIEVED!** RECOGNISING THAT NO SINGLE INTERVENTION IS PERFECT AT PREVENTING ISSUES EVERYONE'S DUTY TO ENSURE DELIVERY OF A DURABLE ENCLOSURE

EACH INTERVENTION (LAYER) HAS IMPERFECTIONS (HOLES).

(MULTIPLE LAYERS IMPROVE SUCCESS.



Conclusion

 Building enclosures can be successfully delivered and perform under the movement that they experience – with proper commitment from both design and construction professionals



Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives.

(William A. Foster)



## **Thank You!**

jon.porter@krausanderson.com

612-979-3554

https://www.linkedin.com/in/jonathanporter-pe-assoc-aia-65451712/



**Jon Porter** 





