

National Body for Steel Detailer Representation

The move towards a National body for steel detailers has been widely publicized in previous newsletters and we would like to report that there has been significant progress made towards achieving our goal.

To date, all of the existing state based detailer groups, with the exception of Western Australia, have changed their association names to "The Australian Institute of Steel Detailers".

The management committee from WA have indicated that the name change is at the top of their to-do list and will probably action this move either late this year or early in 2008.

The National Steering Committee met in Sydney on Tuesday 30th October to work through many of the issues surrounding the formation of the new body. The topics discussed at that meeting included such things as:

- Web Site – AISD (Qld.) Inc has already secured the web site www.aisd.org.au
- Logo – Perhaps we could organise something similar to the competition held by the QISD to come up with a logo for the national body.
- MOU – a memorandum of understanding will need to be drafted to guide the management and development of the various tasks that the AISD will be charged to carry out.
- National recognition for documents such as the "Design Document Checklists" and the "Technology Integration Categories List" currently branded as Queensland publications. With an Australian badge on these documents they would enjoy a much higher profile interstate.
- Eliminate duplication of tasks between state bodies. Many of the services that the QISD aims to deliver to its members are being duplicated in other states. With the coming together of the states groups much of this duplication can be avoided. This not only includes the web site and chat forum, but also the development of such things as the Design Documentation Quality Awards, presentations to industry and newsletter content.
- Share the workload with other states of projects of national benefit. Some issues that QISD members have raised at past meetings include things like updating the Australian Steel Detailers Handbook. For this publication to be of any value to steel detailers it needs to be an Australia-wide resource. There is little value in the QISD doing all the work on this project. To solve this problem, members from around the country will be able to provide input to the new version and the whole exercise can be managed by a single entity.

A full report on the outcomes of this meeting will be presented to our members at this year's AGM on the 14th of November.

Steel Detailer Training.

The consultation draft of the new Structural Steel Detailer qualification pathway and units has been emailed to all companies and sole trader detailers on the QLD membership list. The drafts are also available on the Manufacturing Skills Australia web site at www.mskills.com.au for public downloading. This may mean that some of you get the drafts twice due to the wonders of automatic emailing. The drafts were also sent to a range of Training Providers and State Training Authority contacts for their comments

This is your chance to provide some input to the future training course for the Advanced Diploma of Steel Detailing. If you'd like to make comments or provide some feed-back please go to the MSA web site and have a look at what's going on.

Please send your comments either to us at the AISD, Qld or to Richard Jenkins of the MSA. His contact details are:

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Off-shore Detailing

It's come to the attention of the Management Committee of the AISD that there is currently a growing incidence of Australian steel detailing work being carried out by overseas based companies. Some of this work is being subcontracted by Australian detailing firms but much more seems to be going direct to overseas firms from local builders and fabricators.

In order to address a need for industry awareness of this issue, the AISD Qld convened a dinner meeting in Brisbane on the 2nd October for Steel Detailing business owners and managers to discuss this topic. Most of the members that were invited attended the meeting and the discussions were refreshingly open, robust and constructive.

We've come away with the nucleus of an industry response. Step one of this response will be an article in the next Steel Australia magazine discussing the 'for and against' of off-shoring and what it means to the Australian Steel Construction industry.

In summary, our collective thoughts are that overseas detailing (at present) is a threat to the Australian Detailing industry. By "at present" we refer to the emerging practice of local fabricators engaging overseas companies direct for their detailing.

This is being driven predominantly by capacity and availability shortages here in Australia but it's also recognised that there may well be a financial advantage so far as the primary cost of detailing is concerned. While there may be some advantages in reduced primary costs there are significant risks associated that the fabricators has to understand. These risks include, but are not limited to, rectification due to poor quality details and significant delays to schedules due to poor service from overseas detailers.



Off-shore Detailing-Continued...

Our primary aim is to reel in the practice of direct engagement before the financial advantage becomes the primary driver for fabricators to go off-shore. Local detailing firms need to increase their capacity and shorten lead times now so fabricators don't "have" to go off-shore in order to meet program deadlines.

One of the ways local detailers can do this in the short term is to develop Joint Venture partnerships with other Australian detailing firms to present workable options for their customers. Additionally, we all need to promote the services and value a local detailer can bring to a project especially in comparison to someone who is offshore and who has limited communication lines available. A longer term solution is of course for Australian detailing companies to grow their businesses and train more cadets.

Any comments or feed-back on this topic is most welcome.

Steel Detailer forum

The AISD arranged a forum for Steel Detailers to coincide with the Australian Steel Convention recently held in Sydney. John Gardner from ASI Queensland headed up this forum style event

The forum provided detailers with an opportunity to discuss key issues affecting our industry now and into the future. Topics included;

- Training and accreditation
- Design Documentation Quality
- Industry capacity and availability
- Australian Institute of Steel Detailers and the ASI
- Technology Integration

In total, 16 representatives from around Australia and New Zealand attended with good interaction occurring on all the topics presented.

At the conclusion of the forum a meeting of the AISD National Steering Committee took place and as previously mentioned in the newsletter a full report on the outcomes of this meeting will be presented to our members at this year's AGM on the 14th of November.

Steel Detailing Lecture to 3rd year engineering students

by Clayton Roxborough

Every year I present a 1 hour lecture at the Queensland University of Technology. The lecture was originally designed to simply raise awareness of the engineering students to the steel detailing industry.

For the first few years it remained a very generic and broad based introduction to the role of the detailer on steel construction projects, but this year, I prepared a whole new lecture with more focus on a typical portal frame structure and targeted specific areas of interaction between the engineering consultant and the steel detailer.

Key areas covered during the lecture included:

- The role of the Detailer
- Detailer deliverables both in terms of content and technology integration
- Sample detail drawings and marking plans
- Sample 3D model and views
- The shop drawing approval & review process
- The information a detailer needs to see in the design drawings
- And the benefits of complete and correct design documentation

I believe it's important to reach these students early in their careers and to leave a positive and lasting impression of the steel detailing profession. The lecture on detailing is only one of a series delivered by construction industry professionals. In the bigger picture, the awareness the students get from these lectures may provide the spark for a young engineer to focus on steel as a structural design solution as a first choice rather than simply an alternative.

In addition, a strong message that I always try to get across is that whilst good design needs to be "effective" and ensure fitness for purpose, it also needs to be communicated effectively through the contract documentation including drawings, specifications and project controls.

How effectively and efficiently this transformation occurs depends largely on the quality of the design and documentation provided.

It's also worth reiterating that the use of structural steelwork in construction is increasing and while the manner in which building solutions are constantly changing the three fundamentals of good design documentation remain clarity, consistency and completeness.

I've delivered these lectures to the QUT for the last 5 years now, and sooner or later this task will become a baton that I will have hand to another representative of the AISD Queensland. If you're at all motivated by this initiative I'd be delighted to discuss it with you. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any expressions of interest.

Major overhaul required in steel construction sector

Australia's multi storey steel construction industry is lagging behind its international counterparts and is in need of industry-wide change throughout the supply chain, if it is to recover market share. This is the conclusion drawn from the Steel – Framing the Future Project developed by the Warren Centre.

Geoff Graham and Clayton Roxborough from the AISD Qld participated in this project and along with detailers from other states made relevant contributions to the development of this report.

The project findings, addressing the multi-storey building sector, have the unmistakeable ring of a call for industry reform. Robust investigation of the status of the steel construction industry over two and a half years has revealed a sector that is well behind its counterparts in the US, UK and New Zealand, with dwindling skills and average capabilities. To contrast the Australian industry's status quo with, for example, the UK, is to understand that ignoring the call for reform signals the nation's divestment of what could be a thriving, innovative industry with export potential.

Major overhaul required in steel construction sector continued...

The good news is that the project team, drawn from across all sectors of industry, came up with a very practical set of initiatives that have the potential to retrieve the position. The project's key recommendations can be summarised under the three headings:

- Communication
- Collaboration
- Capability

A copy of the Executive Summary of the Steel – Framing the Future report is available for download at www.warren.usyd.edu.au/Framing_the_Future/ExecSummary.pdf.

From one perspective, it's important to note that key leaders in the industry are already making investments to transform the sector from within. Taken together with a number of initiatives from Australian Institute of Steel Detailers and the ASI, these are promising first steps in the development of a strong steel-framed construction sector.

The full project report will be available on CD later this month and the Executive Summary contains an order form should you wish to order the full report in either hard copy or CD.

Tech Integration May 2007

The QISD held a Technology Integration forum in May of this year, the idea was to gather interest from the entire industry through the ASI. About 160 industry representatives attended the night, the room at the BTP Technology & Conference Centre was packed and there were even people standing at the back!

The forum was chaired by Clayton Roxborough and the speeches delivered by Philip Shanks and Joe Biggs. Apart from the technical hitch with the laptop not functioning things ended up working rather smoothly, kind of ironic since the evening was about technology!

A number of topics were discussed and explained in detail regarding 3D detailing and integration into design packages, this was supported by a PowerPoint display which was backed up further from the two speakers.

There was much interest generated from the floor after the formalities were over, many questions particularly from engineers and Architects about their experiences with 3D integration. There was also questions regarding the topics discussed.

We believe that all those who attended from construction, architecture, engineering, supply and manufacture gained a better understanding of what we do with our more recent technology and how they might be able to tap into it, to benefit the industry and for their own commercial advantage.

Overall the night was a great success, the evidence being in the number of attendees. Don McDonald and John Gardner of the ASI were impressed with the turnout and the overall delivery of the forum.

Once again the QISD has been able to positively gain the industries ear and lift the image of detailers to a more professional level. Well done to all that were involved.

The QISD thanks all that attended.

June 2007 General meeting

A brief summary on the General meeting held in early June of this year.

The meeting was held at Carina Leagues club and was chaired by Clayton Roxborough. The topics presented for discussion were:

1. Role of a Steel Detailer (Declaration) – This is a form that had been adapted from the form the VISD has published, it was received well and will be posted on the QISD website.
2. Technology Integration – An outline of the Technology forum that the QISD held at Brisbane Technology Park in May of 2007.
3. QISD Code of Ethics – This is a document that the QISD wishes to use, to ensure all members operate ethically. It will be voted on at this year’s AGM.
4. Training – An run down on the training course that the QISD and the Manufacturing Skills Council have set out to develop for detailers.
5. National body – A description of how we perceive the national body functioning, there were also discussions regarding the name of the national body.
6. Awards Night – There was a call for entries for the awards and possible judges.
7. ASI Update – John Gardner gave an outline of what the ASI have been up to of late and passed around a set of brochures that they have developed for getting more interest in steel construction in buildings.

Thanks to those members who came along and we hope to see you all again at the AGM. Remember, if you have any ideas for AIISD tours or site visits please feel free to let us know.

Regards.

Philip Shanks

2007 Australian Steel Convention

Over 200 delegates from the Australian and overseas steel industry gathered in Sydney from the 28th of October for three days of educating, networking and awareness. While the convention covered all aspects of the steel industry with an emphasis on sustainability, as detailers, our main focus was on structural steelwork construction.

On sustainability, the good news in this age of environmental friendliness, steel is considered to be the leader of the pack in construction. A very high percentage of the structural steelwork in construction is reused after eventual demolition. This big tick from the environmental lobby will assist the industry further in gaining a greater percentage of the high rise building market in the future.

A speaker from the construction company Multiplex gave a very interesting presentation on their preference to use steelwork in high rise building construction. In short they saw the decreased amount of labour on site as being a real safety benefit. The shortened construction time resulting in the early handover to the customer creates a significant economic benefit. They highlighted the advent of the steel constructor, who brings together the steel supply chain, detailing, fabrication, paint & galvanizing, transport and erection under the one contract. This concept is designed to eliminate the fragmented nature of steel construction as we have known it to be in the past.

Construction in China is forecast to continue at an even greater rate, with some economists predicting that China is only 10 years into a 30 year growth phase. It was mentioned that China will be building over 140 cities the size of Brisbane by the year 2020 as part of the new China. While you may or may not be directly involved in this, the market place for steelwork construction as a whole world wide, is sure to benefit. The Australian construction industry needs to continue to value add and innovate to ensure our own sustainability in the world market in the face of the perceived threats from the Asian countries like India.



2007 Australian Steel Convention continued...

Continuing on the innovation front an Architect spoke of the trends in the “Building Information Model” (BIM) and the use of the “Industry Foundation Classes” (IFC) to ensure the model could be used from the Architect and all the disciplines in the construction of buildings. The 3D modelling concept can deliver the 4th dimension of time, showing real time progress of construction, with each discipline feeding progress status into the model. Also the 5th dimension of cost for each element of the building can also be added into the model with input from a cost analysis package.

Many speakers were very positive about the steelwork construction industry in Australia and the world. The future certainly looks bright.

Kerry Lindemann
AISD Qld member

European Bridges

On a recent tour of Europe it was noticed by one of our members that European Engineers are not backward in designing steel structures for highway bridges. I wonder when it will become the material of choice for the designers of Australian highways.

ASI STEEL AWARDS

The **ASI Steel Awards – Queensland 2007** were presented at the Steel Awards dinner held at the Brisbane Hilton Hotel on 17th August. The dinner function which is considered to be one of the highlight events in the ASI calendar was attended by more that 340 people including many representatives from the steel detailing fraternity.+

The Steel Awards which were originally instigated in 1990 to recognize students who excelled in structural design subjects undertaken as part of their Engineering Degree has now grown to include four other industry categories.

One of these categories is the **QISD “Excellence in Design Documentation Quality” Award** and this year the 2 awards on offer were presented by Clayton Roxborough to the following recipients.

Architectural winner: Phillips Smith Conwell Architects for the Townsville Correctional Centre Block D.

Engineering winner: Sinclair Knight Merz for the Boral Plasterboard Gypsum Store.

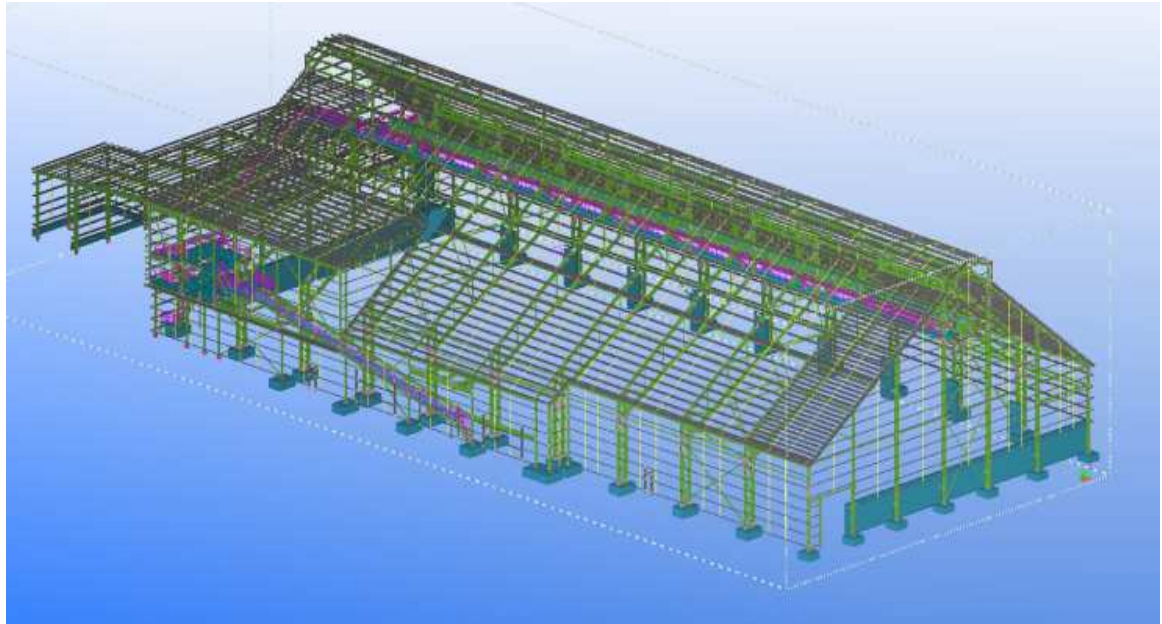
The appreciation shown by both winners is certainly a good indication that the QISD efforts in promoting good quality documentation in a positive manner is being well recognized



*QISD Structural Design Documentation Award winner
Sinclair Knight Merz Pty Ltd for:
Boral Plasterboard manufacturing & Distribution Facility – Pinkenba Gypsum Store*



*QISD Architectural Design Documentation Award winner
Phillips Smith Conwell Architects Pty Ltd for:
Townsville Correctional Centre Redevelopment Detention unit Block*



**ASI Engineering Award winner
Boral Gypsum Store
(Detailed by Steelcad Drafting Pty Ltd)**

2007 AIISD, Qld Inc - AGM

Date: 14th November, 2007

Venue: Cotah Restaurant, 2nd Floor Ernest St, South Brisbane

Start Time: 5.30pm for Drinks & Canapes

AGM & General Meeting: 6.00pm to 7.30pm

Dinner: 7.30pm to 9pm

