

The Institution of Structural Engineers

This is a very interesting book ideally suited in particular to Engineers but also Architects and Contractors who may be interested in projects involving the principles of design and construction of cable and membrane structures.

The section on materials is comprehensive and deals in some detail with the various types of materials and testing methodologies which will be new to practitioners unfamiliar with these types of structure, including issues of tear propagation and creep, and an appreciation that fabrics are composite materials and must be considered within this context. Whilst this section is not particularly up-to-date in terms of test protocols and the use of material constants in design, and does not include typical data, it is nevertheless a good initial source of general information and principles.

The second and final section of the book covers detailing and installation. It provides a very good level of information relating to a number of aspects, ranging from connections through to methods of installation. It provides a very systematic overview with practical examples substantially supported by a good number of clear photographs.

The book clearly conveys the complexity of constructing cable and membrane structures and the corresponding wide range of disciplines and skills required. It intentionally does not cover the equally challenging area of analysis. It provides a very useful companion to other texts in this area which tend to be more centred on the architectural aspects of cable and membrane structures and specific completed projects.

The book is broad and comprehensive, making a good source for reference, and going some way to justify the cover price.

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