



IASS 2018 BOSTON, JULY 16-20

**CREATIVITY IN
STRUCTURAL
DESIGN**



August 23, 2017

Sociedad Mexicana de Ingeniería Estructural
Camino Sta. Teresa núm. 187, Col. Parques del Pedregal, México, D.F., C.P. 14010

Dear Madam/Sir,

We invite the SMIE to please **endorse** the **2018 annual Symposium of the IASS – International Association for Shell and Spatial Structures**. The IASS, founded by Eduardo Torroja in 1959, seeks to achieve further progress by an exchange of ideas among all those interested in lightweight structural systems such as lattice, tension, membrane and shell structures, and in the creative integration of architecture and structural engineering more broadly.

This 2018 Symposium will take place in Boston, an American hub of academics and innovation. Hosted at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the symposium will bring together leading designers and researchers working in the fields of structural engineering and architecture from around the world. The symposium theme, Creativity in Structural Design, celebrates work in the built environment that pushes beyond the status quo and synthesizes across disciplines to solve important problems of today and the future. IASS 2018 Boston will take place from **July 16 to July 20 on the campus of MIT**, with the iconic shell structure of Kresge Auditorium as the principal venue. More information can be found at the symposium website: <http://www.iass2018.org>.

We believe that this Symposium will be of great interest to some of your members. For this reason, we would like to request whether the **SMIE** would be willing to endorse this symposium by including announcements of it in the event calendars of your publications and website. In return, with your permission, we will include your logo as an endorser in our program, proceedings, website and banner displays; and if you agree, please send us a suitable graphic file of your logo (that we will use only for this purpose and will not disseminate further) as an attachment to info@iass2018.org.

Information for your announcements can be found on the symposium website, and I also include a one-page flyer from which you can extract the information.

If you would like any further details, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John F. Abel".

Prof. John F. Abel, on behalf of the organizing committee:

John Ochsendorf, MIT
Caitlin Mueller, MIT

William Baker, SOM
Sigrid Adriaenssens, Princeton University
John Abel, Cornell University and Former President of the IASS

SYMPOSIUM ANNOUNCEMENT:



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INTRODUCTION

In July 2018, the annual symposium of the IASS will take place in the Boston area, an American hub of academics and innovation. Hosted at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, the symposium aims to bring together leading designers and researchers working in the fields of structural engineering and architecture from around the world. The symposium is organized by Sigrid Adriaenssens (Princeton), Bill Baker (SOM), Caitlin Mueller (MIT), John Ochsendorf (MIT), and John Abel (Cornell, Former President of the IASS).

THEME AND TOPICS

The symposium theme, *Creativity in Structural Design*, celebrates work in the built environment that pushes beyond the status quo and synthesizes across disciplines to solve important problems of today and the future. Empowered by recent advances in computation, materials, and fabrication, creative structural design is expanding possibilities for shell and spatial structures.

SYMPOSIUM VENUE

The main symposium venue will be MIT's iconic Kresge Auditorium, an important thin-shell structure designed by Eero Saarinen and completed in 1954. Beyond this primary space, the symposium will include events hosted at other key locations on the MIT campus, including the Media Lab. The wider Boston area is home to additional landmarks in shell and spatial structures, and the symposium's technical tour will highlight such works by Pier Luigi Nervi, Buckminster Fuller, and the Guastavino Company.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The IASS 2018 organizers encourage the participation of designers, engineers, architects, researchers, and all who are interested in creative ways to explore structural design. We especially welcome papers to be presented and discussed during the symposium that reflect on the symposium theme. Additionally, young practitioners and scholars are welcome to participate in the Hangai Prize competition that recognizes outstanding submissions from participants under 30. Papers will be written and presented in English.

DEADLINES (PROVISIONAL)

Abstract submission:	January 15, 2018
Abstract acceptance:	February 26, 2018
Full paper submission:	April 2, 2018
Full paper acceptance:	April 21, 2018

IMPORTANT DATES

Symposium:	July 16 – 20, 2018
Technical tour:	July 20, 2018

SOCIAL PROGRAM

Social events will be organized for the participants and accompanying persons including a welcome reception, a gala dinner on a Boston Harbor cruise, and other events, including a special one for young participants.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please see the symposium website: www.iass2018.org.