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COMPARISON OF STEEL STRUCTURE DESIGN

USING BS 449 AND BS 5950

BY

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SYNOPSIS

The old code of practice for steel design , BS 449 was first published in 1938, which edition was subjected to temporary wartime amendment increasing permissible stresses. These last measures were rescinded shortly after the war, but serve to prepare the ground for a major revised version of BS 449 in 1948. It being the policy of BSI to review structural design documents every 10 years, a further edition was published in 1959. It is worth noting that during that half century, the design rules had changed five times and had grown from five pages to upwards of 100 pages. That metricated 1959 edition is still being used after 28 years, and thus a generation of designers has come into being which knows no other - in contrast to their forebears who were used to fairly regular and sometimes drastic changes in ideas.

The development of the new document, now designated BS 5950, is itself an interesting, and in some ways a salutary lesson. With regard to timing, it is anticipated that BS 5950 Part 1 will be given early acceptance as an **Approved Document** under the new Building Regulations. That is to say that design carried out in accordance with the new code will be legally acceptable.

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Although every care has been taken to check mistakes and misprints, yet it is difficult to claim perfection. Wherever possible I have tried to acknowledge the source of information used, but if, at some place, credit has not been given where it was due, I apologise for the omission.

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