Conducting an Effective Structural Condition Assessment



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Conducting an Effective Structural Condition Assessment

Learning Objectives

- 1. Reinforce the importance of defining the scope of a Structural Condition Assessment during the proposal stage
- 2. Provide guidance and tips on conducting a Structural Condition Assessment
- 3. Discuss transitioning an assessment into a repair project, and the designer's role as the project progresses.
- 4. Discuss ACI 562 and the changing paradigm of the standard of care within the concrete repair

Conducting an Effective SCA

Outline

- 1. Background
- 2. Initiation
- 3. Assessment
- 4. Reporting
- 5. Repair
- 6. Beyond...

1 – Defining Scope

2 – Guidance and Tips

3 – Transitioning

4 – ACI 562

Section 1: Background What is an SCA?

Many things...

Reasons Vary:

- Scoping for Repair Project
- Mandated by AHJ Public Safety
- Due Diligence Real Estate Transaction
- Feasibility Study
- Forensics/Litigation

What is Included?

Many Things...

1 – Defining Scope

Scope Varies:

- Structural Elements
 - Primary vs Secondary
 - Targeted (Only Distressed/Damaged) vs General

What is Included?

Many Things...

1 – Defining Scope

Scope Varies:

- Structural Elements
- Nonstructural Elements
 - Façade & Glazing
 - Finishes

What is Included?

Many Things...

1 – Defining Scope

Scope Varies:

- Structural Elements
- Nonstructural Elements
- Attachments/Appurtenances

How Should an SCA Be Conducted?

It Depends...

1 – Defining Scope

Scope Varies:

- Phases
 - Cursory vs Preliminary vs Detailed (ASCE 11 & ASCE 30)
 - Phase 1 vs Phase 2 (FL Milestone Inspections)

How Should an SCA Be Conducted?

It Depends...

1 – Defining Scope

Scope Varies:

- Phases
- Level of Scrutiny
 - Post Event Damage Assessment vs In-Service Building
 - Litigation Support/Forensics vs Recertification

How Should an SCA Be Conducted?

It Depends...

1 – Defining Scope

Scope Varies:

- Phases
- Level of Scrutiny
- Methodology
 - Visual Only vs NDT/NDE vs Destructive vs Load Testing

So... What is an SCA?

It is what you and the client decide it is

1 – Defining Scope

Considering:

- AHJ requirements (if applicable)
- Standard of Care
- Ethics
 - ASCE Code of Ethics: "first and foremost, protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public"

So... What is an SCA?

Resources:

- ASCE 11-99 Guideline for Structural Condition Assessment of Existing Buildings
- ASCE 30-14 Guideline for Condition Assessment of the Building Envelope
- ASCE MOP 130 Waterfront Facilities Inspection and Assessment
- ASCE Evaluation, Maintenance, and Upgrading of Wood Structures
- ACI PRC-364.1-19 Guide for Assessment of Concrete Structures Before Rehabilitation
- ACI PRC-201.1-08 Guide for Conducting a Visual Inspection of Concrete in Service
- CASE National Practice Guidelines for the Preparation of Structural Engineering Reports for Buildings
- ICRI 410.1-2008 Guide for the Evaluation of Masonry Façade Structures
- Friedman, Donald The Investigation of Buildings
- Ratay, Robert Structural Condition Assessment
- TMS Guide for Condition Assessment of Masonry Façades
- US Forest Service Wood and Timber Condition Assessment Manual
- Local AHJ (Miami-Dade, Broward, City of Boca Raton, etc)

Background	Initiation	Assessment	Reporting	Repair	Beyond
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Section 2: Initiating the Project

"My balcony is cracking..."

"I received a notice from the county..."

"We are about to purchase this property..."

"We survived the storm, but..."

Initial Inquiry

- **Request Information**
- Clarify Deliverable 1 Defining Scope

- Specifically, what IS included
 - Report or Drawings?
 - **Cursory Analysis**
- What IS NOT included ... Yet
 - Permit Drawings?

3 – Transitioning

- Bid Documents with Detailed Quantities?
- Detailed Analysis of Existing Structure?
- Code Compliance Review



Initiation **Background** Reporting **Assessment**

Repair

Beyond

Initial Inquiry

- Request Information
- Clarify Deliverable
 - Specifically, what IS included
 - What IS NOT included
- Clarify Schedule
- Manage Expectations

1 – Defining Scope

- Define Scope
- Define Fee
- Confirm Deliverables
 - Not Only Define Scope, But Reinforce Scope
- Confirm Schedule
- Follow-up on Previous Requests
 - Existing Drawings!

1 – Defining Scope

- Define Scope
- Define Fee
- Confirm Deliverables
- Confirm Schedule
- Follow-up on Previous Requests
- Communicate Additional Services
- Communicate Next Steps
- Communicate Assumptions

1 – Defining Scope

Phasing

- Document Discovery?
- Assessment
 - Document Review
 - Field Work
 - Reporting
- Continuing Services
 - If Known at Proposal

1 – Defining Scope

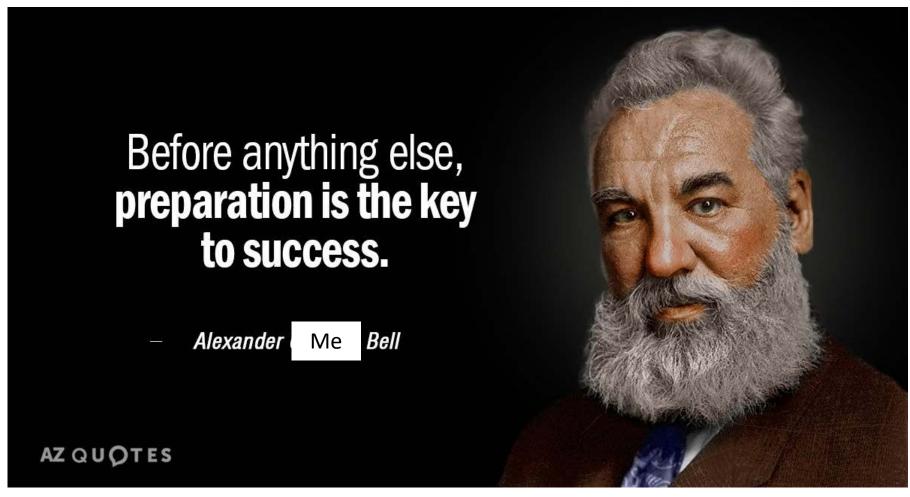
- Phasing
- Limitations
 - % of Balconies
 - % of Attics
 - Testing/Demo (& Associated Patching)
 - Methods To Be Utilized
 - Repair Cost Estimates

Section 3: The Assessment

Contract signed...

... but first

Section 3A: Preparation & Planning



Obtain Drawings / Documents

What?

- Original Drawings (A & S)
- Shop Drawings
- Inspection Reports
- Previous Assessments
- Renovation/Addition Drawings

How/From Where?

- Owner
- Maintenance Team
- Records Room
- *Records Request
- Previous Design Teams (Follow the Thread)

Records Request



JustFOIA Notification <donotreply@request.justfoia.com>

Mon, 16 Oct, 09:19 (1 day ago)



to me 🔻

The City of St. Pete Beach has received your Public Record Request for:

"PRR2023-352 - Monday, October 16, 2023 at 9:18 AM (Eastern Standard Time)" Your Request is being processed in accordance with Chapter 119 of the Florida State Statutes.

Request Number PRR2023-352 and Security Key not required

Your Request will be forwarded to the relevant City department(s) to locate the information you seek. Chapter 119.07(4), Florida Statutes, provides for fees to process Public Records Requests that require extensive research and/or resources. You will be contacted about the availability and/or any fees required. If no extensive search fees are assessed, you will be contacted when your request is complete.



JustFOIA Notification <donotreply@request.justfoia.com>

10:45 (11 hours ago)

Hello.

The request Request Number: PRR2023-352 has been completed.

If you have any questions, please contact the St. Pete Beach City Clerks office at cityclerk@stpetebeach.org or call 727-363-9201.

Thank you,

Amber LaRowe City Clerk City of St. Pete Beach 155 Corey Avenue St. Pete Beach, FL. 33706 Phone: 727.363.9220

Fax: 727.541.8040

*Note: This is an automated email notification. Please do not respond to this email.

Background

Initiation

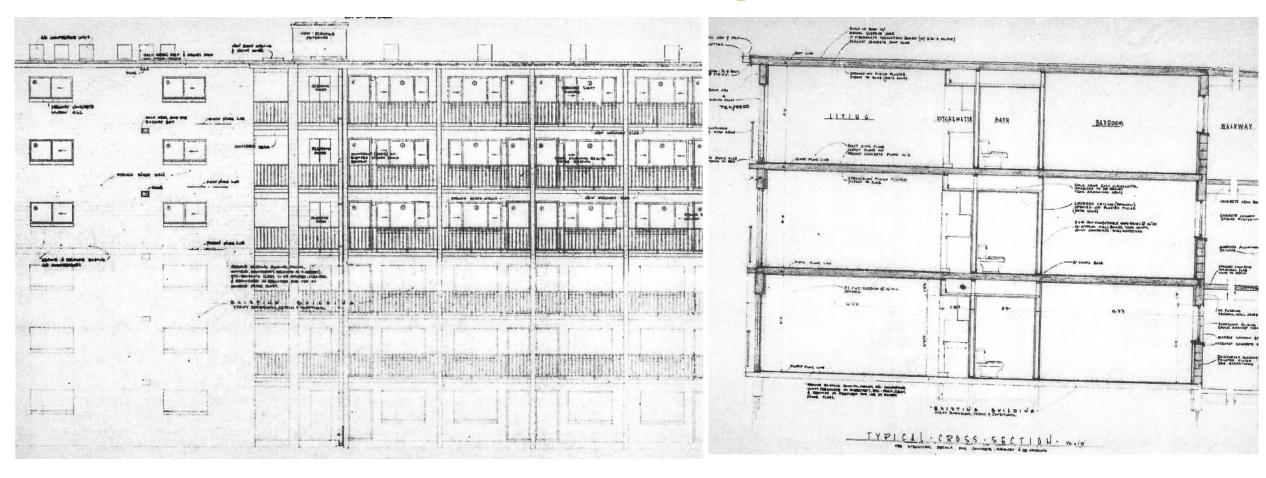
Assessment

Reporting

Repair

Beyond

Records Request



Struck Out?

- Try Again (Particular That Records Room...)
- Seriously, the importance of existing drawings can't be overemphasized

Still Struck Out?

All Is Not Lost...

- Historical Photos
- Sanborn Fire Maps
- National Structure Inventory
- Property Tax Information
- Google
- Field Verification (Additional Service?)

Research

Study Drawings

- Systems
- Materials
- Design Loads
- Load Path
- Joints
- Details

5. CONCRETE:

SHALL ATTAIN A MINIMUM COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH OF 3,000 PSI AT 28 DAYS, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED IN PLANS.

. REINFORCING STEEL:

SHALL CONFORM TO A.S.T.M. A-615, GRADE 60 AND SHALL BE FREE OF RUST FLAKES, MILL SCALE, PAINT OR OTHER COATINGS THAT WILL REDUCE BOND. ALL REINFORCING SHALL BE ACCURATELY LOCATED AND FIRMLY HELD IN PLACE BEFORE AND DURING THE PLACING OF CONCRETE BY MEANS OF WIRE SUPPORTS. ALL BARS SHALL BE DETAILED AND FABRICATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE A.C. & BUILDING CODE (LATEST EDITION) AND THE LATEST MANUAL OF STANDARD PRACTICE (A.C.). 315). SHOP DRAWINGS OF ALL REINFORCING STEEL MUST BE APPROVED BY THE ENGINEER BEFORE FABRICATION.

7. STRUCTURAL STEEL:

SHALL CONFORM TO THE LATEST A.S.T.M. A-36 SPECIFICATIONS AND SHALL BE FABRICATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LATEST A.I.S.C. STEEL CONSTRUCTION MANUAL. ALL STRUCTURAL STEEL SHALL RECEIVE ONE SHOP COAT OF APPROVED PAINT. SHOP DRAWINGS SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE ENGINEER FOR APPROVAL BEFORE FABRICATION.

DESIGN LOADS:

SUPERIMPOSED DEAD LOAD (PARTITIONS): 15 P.S.F. LIVE LOAD BALCONIES 60 P.S.F.
HASONRY 55 P.S.F.
LIVE LOAD (APARTMENTS): 40 P.S.F. LIVE LOAD STAIRS 100 P.S.F.
LIVE LOAD (CORRIDORS): 80 P.S.F.

- Unique Features/Irregularities
- …and Bookmark Drawings!

2 - Guidance and Tips

Research

- Study Drawings
- Code Year/Version

WORK SHALL CONFORM TO THE SOUTHERN STANDARD BUILDING CODE, TO THE ACI CODE...

THE BOOK COME THE ACT COOK FOR SEME CORE.

- Easy Way = On Drawings Directly (Not Always So Easy)
- Hard Way = By Year & Region
 - Building Code Chronologies

2.	GOVERNING BUILDIN	G CODE: SOUTHERN STANDARD WINDING CODE
3.	DESIGN LIVE LOADS: Choose those applicable:	FLOORS
		GARAGE ROOF

ORDINANCE NO.	ADOPTED	EFFECTIVE	CODE ADOPTED	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
Zoning Resolution 4A-60	4/24/60	4/25/60		1960 Amendments to the 1953-54 Revisions of the SSBC
Zoning Resolution 4B-60	9/12/60	9/12/60		1960 Amendments to the 1953-54 Revisions of the SSBC
Resolution Dated 2/19/62	2/19/62	2/19/62	1960-61 Revisions to the SSBC	
Resolution Dated 10/8/62	10/8/62	10/8/62		1962 Amendments to the 196061 Revisions of the SSBC
Zoning Resolution 4A-63	4/8/63	4/8/63		1963 Amendments to the 1960-61 Revisions of the SSBC
Resolution Dated 7/22/63	7/22/63	7/22/63		1963 Amendments to the 1960-61 Revisions of the SSBC
Resolution Dated 10/28/63	10/28/63	10/28/63		1963 Amendments to the 1960-61 Revisions of the SSBC
Resolution Dated 1/13/64	1/13/64	1/13/64		1964 Amendments to the 1960-61 Revisions of the SSBC
Resolution Dated 5/11/64	5/11/64	5/11/64		1964 Amendments to the 1960-61 Revisions of the SSBC
Resolution Dated 6/22/64	6/22/64	6/22/64		1964 Amendments to the 1960-61 Revisions of the SSBC
Resolution # 7	6/22/64	6/22/64	1962 NEC	1964 Amendments to the 1962 NEC
Resolution Dated 7/13/64	7/13/64	7/13/64		1964 Amendments to the 1962 NEC
Resolution Dated 9/21/64	9/21/64	9/21/64		1964 Amendments to the 1960-61 Revisions of the SSBC

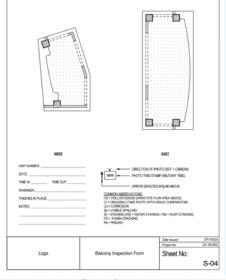
Research

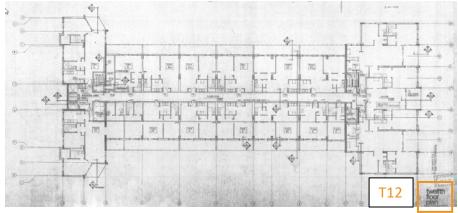
- Study Drawings
- Code Year/Version
- Previous Repairs/Renovations
- Previous Permits

Create "Packets" or "Forms"

2 – Guidance and Tips

- Wayfinding
- Note Taking
- Confirmation of Original Design
- Annotate for Ease-of-Use in Field
- Keyplans if Campus





Logistics

- Arrival
- Parking
- PPE

- Logistics
- Access & Escorts
- Equipment Needs
- Working Hour Limitations
- Manage Expectations
 - Timing/Duration
 - Representative Sampling Objectives/Parameters

- Logistics
- Access & Escorts
- Equipment Needs
- Working Hour Limitations
- Manage Expectations
- Prime Interview
 - Who & When
 - Send Questionnaire

- Logistics
- Access & Escorts
- Equipment Needs
- Working Hour Limitations
- Manage Expectations
- Prime Interview
- Confidentiality

Staffing

- Training
- Credentials & Experience
- Clearance/Badging
- Physical Limitations
 - Mobility
 - Heights
 - Truss Walking

Staffing

- Training
- Credentials & Experience
- Clearance/Badging
- Physical Limitations
- Handwriting
 - Only half kidding here

Staffing

- Training
- Credentials & Experience
- Clearance/Badging
- Physical Limitations
- Handwriting Technical Writing

Assemble Field Kit

Definitely Yes

- Camera (Preferably Phone)
- Water ++

Obviously Yes

- Appropriate Footwear
- Appropriate Apparel (Considering Weather)
- Appropriate PPE

If Scope Requires

- NDT/NDE Apparatus
- Crack Gauges

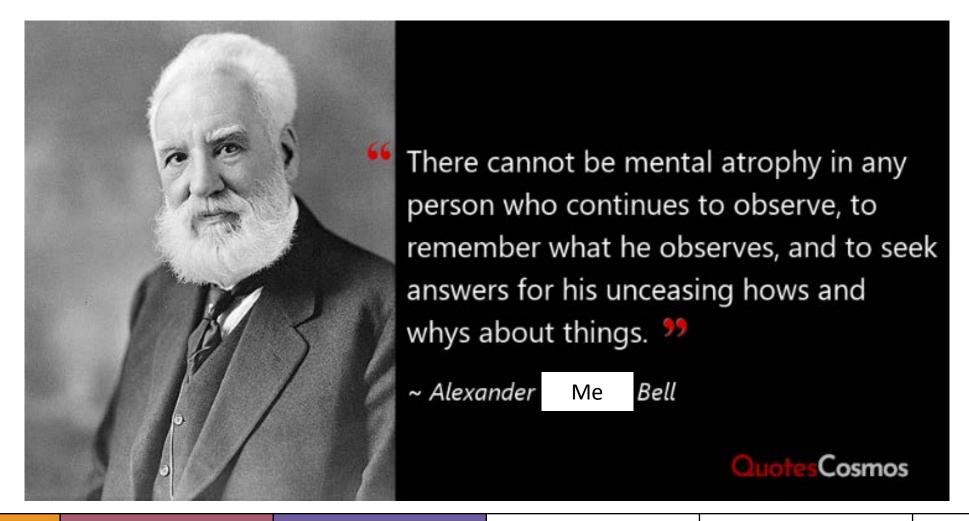
Highly Recommended

- Packets/Forms & Checklist
- Flashlight and/or Headlamp (*With Backup Batteries)
- Taper and/or Laser
- Multi-Tool
- Clipboard with Pens (Multiple Colors)
- Crack Comparator
- Hammer (or Other Acoustic Sounding Device)
- Watch (for Timestamps)
- Sun Protection (Roof Work)

Might Be Nice

- Tablet
- Awl
- Rebar Locator
- Makeshift Crack Gauges
- Mask
- Feeler Gauges
- Caliper
- Utility Belt/Pouch/ Bag
- Moisture Meter
- Etc...

Section 3B: Field Work



...But First...Dayplanning

- Confirm Access Limitations
- On-Site Communication Methods
 - Internal
 - External

...But First...Dayplanning

- Confirm Access Limitations
- On-Site Communication Methods
- Escort Protocol and Schedule
- Probe/Exploratory Demo Protocol
- Manage Expectations

Communication & Managing Expectations

- Someone Familiar With Building History,
 Operations, & Maintenance
- Inquire About
 - Known Issues
 - The Obvious Stuff
 - Cracking/Spalling
 - Water Intrusion
 - Corrosion/Exposed Rebar

- Someone Familiar With Building History,
 Operations, & Maintenance
- Inquire About
 - Known Issues
 - The Obvious Stuff
 - The Less Obvious Stuff
 - Doors/Windows Jamming
 - Vibrations
 - "Rolling Marbles"

- Someone Familiar With Building History,
 Operations, & Maintenance
- Inquire About
 - Known Issues
 - Previous Repairs
 - System Ages
 - Roof
 - Façade
 - Waterproofing

- Someone Familiar With Building History,
 Operations, & Maintenance
- Inquire About
 - Known Issues
 - Previous Repairs
 - System Ages
 - Planned Future Projects
 - Specific Conditions Client Wants Eyes On
 - Anything Else Pertinent To Scope

...But Third...Safety

- Mold
- Heights/Fall Protection
- Unsafe/Dangerous Conditions*
- Confined Spaces
- Asbestos
- Ladders
 - Temporary =Tie-Off
 - Permanent = Connections







Methodology

Systematic

- Level-by-Level, Building-by-Building, Not Random
- Try Not To Get Derailed
- New Observations Affecting Previous Areas
- Consider Causes of Distress Rather Than Symptoms

Methodology

- Systematic
- Representative
- Intentional
- Well-Documented
 - Annotated Plans (Packet/Forms)
 - Time Stamped Photos
 - Floor & Unit Plates
 - Clarify Level (Standing on vs Observing)
 - Note Access & Limitations/Locked Areas

- 20211014_113410
 20211014_113414
 20211014_113419
 20211014_113459
 20211014_113521
- 20211014_113546 20211014_113621
- 20211014 113627
- 20211014_114039
- 20211014_114045
- 20211014_114049 20211014_114144
- 20211014_114145
- 20211014_114149
- 20211014_114220 20211014_114223
- 20211014_114227
- 20211014 114358
- 20211014_114431





2 – Guidance and Tips

Methodology

- Systematic
- Representative
- Intentional
- Well-Documented

1 – Defining Scope

- Specific Methods Employed As Scoped
 - Visual Only or Visual + Sounding
 - NDE/NDT
 - Exploratory Demo

On-Site Communication

- Sensitive Discussions/Observations
- Don't Commit To Anything
- Have Client "Get Eyes On" Certain
 Observations, Particularly Substantial

Damage/Deterioration/Distress

- Direct
 - Cracking/Spalling
 - Corrosion
 - Exposed Rebar





- Indirect
 - Finish Cracking
 - Water Staining
 - Deflections





Damage/Deterioration/Distress

- Direct vs Indirect
- Potentially Dangerous/Unsafe Conditions
- Substantial Structural Damage
 - LFRS
 - GFRS



- Damage/Deterioration/Distress
- Deviations/Discrepancies From Drawings
- Previous Repairs



- Damage/Deterioration/Distress
- Deviations/Discrepancies From Drawings
- Previous Repairs
- General Conditions & Exposure







- Damage/Deterioration/Distress
- Deviations/Discrepancies From Drawings
- Previous Repairs
- General Conditions & Exposure
- Code Requirements...Sort of
 - Typically not scoped for full code compliance review, but if you see something obvious, note it and qualify in report
 - Existing building doesn't HAVE TO comply with current code

Damage/Deterioration/Distres

3:1 sand : cement grout or topping mix



Faulty Construction



Exposed Conditions

- Roofs
- Exterior
- Balconies
- Parking Areas (Particularly If Elevated, or Below Elevated Building Above)

- Exposed Conditions
- Transitions
 - Joints Between Buildings
 - Joints Between Materials
 - Joints Between Elements
 - Interior-to-Exterior
 - Elevated-to-On Grade
 - Stiffness Discontinuities

- Exposed Conditions
- Transitions
- High Stress Areas
- Non-Redundant or Interrupted Load Paths
- Out-of-Sight / Out-of-Mind Areas
 - BOH
 - Appurtenances
 - Storage

- Exposed Conditions
- Transitions
- High Stress Areas
- Non-Redundant or Interrupted Load Paths
- Out-of-Sight / Out-of-Mind Areas
- Representative Sampling Of All
- As Scoped/Required

Field Work Recommendations

2 - Guidance and Tips

Document, Document, Document

- Time Stamps Correlated To Location & Orientation
- Shorthand Descriptions + Legend
- Progressive Photos (Distance/Zoom)



Cr = CRACKING (TAKE PHOTO WITH CRACK COMPARATOR) Co = CORROSION Sp = VISIBLE SPALLING

COMMON ABBREVIATIONS:

St = STAINING (WSt = WATER STAINING / RSt = RUST STAINING)

HS = HOLLOW SOUND (ANNOTATE PLAN AREA ABOVE)

DIRECTION OF PHOTO (DOT = CAMERA)

PHOTO TIME STAMP (MILITARY TIME)

ARROW DENOTES B/SLAB ABOVE

FCr = FINISH CRACKING

Ra = RAILING

Reporting Repair Beyond

Field Work Recommendations

- Document, Document, Document
- Out-of-Sight Out-of-Mind Areas
- Take Time To Consider Behavior
- Debrief
 - Mid-Day
 - End-of-Day
 - End-of-Assessment

Field Work Recommendations

- Document, Document, Document
- Out-of-Sight Out-of-Mind Areas
- Take Time To Consider Behavior
- Debrief
- Digest Notes Into Outline (Very) Shortly After Field Work (Including Photo Timestamps)

Section 3C: Debrief

Internal

- Workshop Outline & Initial Report Organization
- Review Checklist/Wishlist Areas Omitted?
- Discuss Observations & Behavior Areas to Revisit?

Section 3C: Debrief

- Internal
- External (Before Leaving)
 - High-Level Notes to Client
 - Site Walk to Review Bigger Items
 - Areas Where Access Was Not Gained
 - Manage Expectations
 - Reporting Timeline
 - Next Steps and Subsequent Phase(s)
 - Follow-up Visit

Section 4: Reporting



Organization & Formatting

- ASCE 11 and ASCE 30 (Good Starting Point)
- Local AHJ Requirements (Standard Forms)
- Document Research & Drawing Review
 - ACI 562 Basis of Design

4 – ACI 562

- Existing Structural Systems
- Original Building Code

Populating Report

- Technical Writing Matters!!
- Consider Target Audience
 - Owner
 - Contractor
 - Building Department

Populating Report

- Technical Writing Matters!!
- Consider Target Audience
- Leverage Previous Content
- Consider Behavior, Not Symptoms
- Required Content/Language
- Stick to Scope 1 Defining Scope
 - Don't Go Too Far but
 - Make Sure You Go Far Enough

Observations & Recommendations

- What Was Observed
- Why It Matters
 - Consider Behavior
 - Communicate Risks

Observations & Recommendations

- What Was Observed
- Why It Matters
- Action Recommended
 - Resolve The Issue, Not Symptoms
 - Crack Treatments
 - ICRI On-Demand Webinar (Free For Members): Understanding Cracks in Concrete, Preventing Their Occurrence, and Effectively Repairing Them
 - ACI 224.1 Causes, Evaluation, and Repair of Cracks in Concrete Structures

What is Next?

- Nothing? No Repair Required
- Additional Investigations
 - Detailed Condition Assessment
 - NDE/NDT or Material Testing
 - ICRI 210.4R-2021 Guide for Nondestructive Evaluation Methods for Condition Assessment, Repair, and Performance Monitoring of Concrete Structures
 - ACI PRC-228.2-13 Report on Nondestructive Test Methods for Evaluation of Concrete in Structures

What is Next?

- Nothing? No Repair Required
- Additional Investigations
 - Detailed Condition Assessment
 - NDE/NDT or Material Testing
- Repair 3-Transitioning
- Worse?

Reporting Recommendations

- Communicate Locations (Keyplans)
- Avoid Duplicate Information
- Priorities & Recommended Repair Timelines
- Maintain Consistent Voice/Tense/Format
- Include Definitions Section

Issuing The Report

- Communicate Along The Way
 - Debrief
 - Outline
 - Draft(s)
 - Final

Issuing The Report

- Communicate Along The Way
- Discuss Continuing Services & Next Steps
 - Be Proactive, But Not Pushy

3 – Transitioning

- Provide Client With Information & Recommendations, and Establish Where You Fit In The Process Going Forward
- Owner Meeting To Discuss Conclusions

Section 5: Repair Phase

- ICRI On-Demand Webinars (Free For Members):
 - Concrete Repair: Exploring Effective Techniques, Materials, and Expert Insights
 - Basics of Post-Tensioning Repairs for Restoration
- ACI 562 & ACI 563 & ICRI 110 Series

4 – ACI 562

- ACI Concrete Repair Manual
 - 546 Guide to Concrete Repair
 - 546.3 Guide to Materials Selection
 - RAP Documents
- AISC Design Guide 15 Rehabilitation & Retrofit
- PTI DC80.4-18: Guide Specification for Unbonded Post-Tensioning Repair
- PTI DC80.3-12: Guide for Evaluation and Repair of Unbonded PT Concrete Structures
- TMS ARMS Assessment and Retrofit of Masonry Structures
- + Many Many Many More

Section 6: Beyond

- Monitoring
- Maintenance & Structural Health Record
- Periodic Assessments (Balconies, Railings, Façade, Next Assessment/Recertification)
- Renovation/Expansion
- Next Repair Phase (Lower Priority Items)
- Referrals

Questions?

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