

Practice Can Make Perfect

There has been a perceived gap of what is available in civil engineering journals and publications. Many journals publish very theoretical papers that are not directly applicable for practicing engineers. The Boston Society of Civil Engineers (BSCE) began publishing its own journal in 1914. This journal focused on papers presented before the Society, the accomplishments of members, reports of professional committees, items of general interest and Society proceedings. Ten years ago the Board of Government of the Boston Society of Civil Engineers Section/ASCE charged a select committee to “make a comprehensive evaluation of the [Society’s] Journal, taking into account all pertinent factors — financial, editorial, advertising, readership and production.” This committee recommended many changes to the Society’s Board of Government, including an abiding emphasis on papers that would have practical use for engineers, as well as a change of name to reflect that emphasis, and changes in appearance and format.

Over the past eight years, *Civil Engineering Practice* has published practice-oriented papers — case studies describing different projects, reviews of current practices and standards, discussions of practical engineering methods for analysis and design, examinations of the application of new procedures, historical perspectives, and other articles. What we have heard out in the field has been encouraging. Many engineers throughout the world have commented on the accessibility, quality and usefulness of the papers. Issues of *Civil Engineering Practice* have become valuable reference documents. Some articles have resulted in lively debate on practices.

The development and successful execution of *Civil Engineering Practice* in its current form can be attributed, in large part, to the efforts of one individual who wishes to remain anonymous. This past President of BSCES pretty much started the revised journal from scratch and has been primarily responsible for guiding it to its present form. This person’s hard work, zeal and vision — along with the many people who have served on the journal’s editorial board, soliciting and reviewing papers; others who have volunteered as peer reviewers of papers; and our contributors who have shared their insights — have made it possible for *Civil Engineering Practice* to fulfill its mission. Today, BSCES can be proud of the document it publishes. *Civil Engineering Practice* is unique, not only in its practice-oriented format, but also as a regional representation of civil engineering experience that really is not duplicated anywhere else in the country.

Civil Engineering Practice hopes to continue what it has done best — focusing on practical engineering topics. Articles will be oriented toward local work, with a mix of some national and international projects (see our call for papers on page 96). We hope to keep building on its strong foundation, recognizing and acknowledging the importance of practice.

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