Direct Design Software v3

The next generation of structural masonry analysis

Direct Design Software (DDS) is a structural analysis program for designing single and multi-story, reinforced concrete masonry buildings. The software provides a streamlined procedure for determining loads, analyzing load paths, performing design checks, and creating drawings, resulting in an economical structural masonry design with little effort.

Structural software packages tend to come in two forms: simple, member-based analysis platforms for designing discrete elements or systems, and complex software, capable of analyzing exotic geometries and arbitrary loading conditions. The gap between these extremes is software that can analyze a full 3-D masonry structure but does not require a high level of computing power, training investment, and effort.

A trial version is available for free download at www.directdesignsoftware.com.

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SIDELATE SYSTEMS

Sidelite Systems is entering its 25th year of serving the structural engineering world with experience extending across 750-plus projects totaling over 115M square feet of building area. A design optimization process, Sidelite looks at the lateral structure for a building and finds the most efficient way to build it by engineering a system that puts steel where it is actually needed.

Working as an extension of the design team, Sidelite engineers will implement their connection technology to resist wind, seismic, or progressive collapse situations. The stiffness of the Sidelite-designed connections offers incredible design opportunities. From elongated cantilevers to vaste open showrooms to utilizing all the available space in a building by eliminating the need to hide vertical struts, a Sidelite engineered building helps an Engineer of Record fulfill almost any architectural requirement.

Inherent in the Sidelite design are multiple opportunities for owners and general contractors to see significant cost reductions in a project. The stiffness of the Sidelite moment frames often minimizes the required number of connections by 20-30% as compared to conventional moment frame buildings. More savings are found in steel costs, as the inherent connection design stiffness allows the lateral system to reduce column and beam weights by 15-20% as compared to conventional moment frame packages. Even more savings come during the erection phase as Sidelite connections are field-bolted, requiring no on-site welding – or welding inspections. With a field-bolted connection, erectors can stay on schedule in almost any weather.

There is no question that the Sidelite design process is very technical – with a number of pre-approvals and prequalifications – but the fabrication process is incredibly simplified. Any fabrication shop can build a Sidelite design with no special or proprietary tools required. Sidelite’s detailed drawings and calculations are included directly in the construction documents, helping to eliminate deferred submittals. The simplified approach carries into erection as field-bolted connections help keep a project on schedule. Beams can be installed in virtually any weather, and bolting requires no preheating or UT inspections.

A design process that specializes in optimized lateral systems, focusing on providing benefits to the entire project, Sidelite has a 25-year history of proven results in offering structural engineers an alternative to the same old thing.

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SOLUTIONS


Direct Design Software enables design of an entire masonry structure in minutes, with just a few simple inputs in the intuitive user interface. This easy to learn software generates code-compliant structural masonry analyses per TMS 402 with design load calculations per ASCE 7.

The powerful program is fully automated, detailing every block and reinforcing bar and displaying the full text of every calculation for easy verification. Fully-detailed wall elevation drawings quickly communicate the design. Direct Design Software saves time and cuts costs by doing the tedious work for you and letting you focus on your clients and project workflow. Start your free trial today and unlock the power of Direct Design!