

Creativity in Construction: A Look at the Past and a Peak into the Future

Miroslaw J. Skibniewski, Ph.D.

The history of architecture and construction is as old as the history of our civilization: from the age of ancient Mesopotamia and Babylon (3100 BC), Ancient China (2800 BC), Ancient Egypt (2400 BC), Mayas (2000 BC), Ancient Greece (1000 BC), ancient Rome (800 BC), Incas (1200 AD), through the Middle Ages in Europe (V-XV centuries AD), the Renaissance (XIV-XVII centuries AD), Baroque (from XVII century and beyond), through Classicism and subsequent trends to the present time. Each civilization developed and cultivated its own architectural styles and construction techniques, appropriate to the needs of its rulers and adequate to the level of intellectual development of the society and its physical infrastructure. This presentation recapitulates the progression of technological creativity and achievements in construction technologies, from ancient times to the age of information technology, automation, robotics and nanotechnology.