

Title:

Appropriate design of structural membranes

Organizers:

Josep Ignasi Llorens, UPC, School of Architecture, Barcelona, Spain

Abstract:

Progress is being made in the understanding of the appropriateness of membrane structures that are much more efficient than bending solutions based on trusses and cantilevers. But many designs do not take it into account to the point that *membrane structures frequently end up being conventional steel structures*. Some recent realizations are not yet rid of this drawback but others have assumed it to the point of improving the behaviour of the structure even more, such as the spoked-wheels, the Tensairity system, cable-beams, active-bending, flying masts or large size inflatable structures, among others. "*Structural membranes, if not designed as such, require an imposing steel structure*" (J.Hennicke).