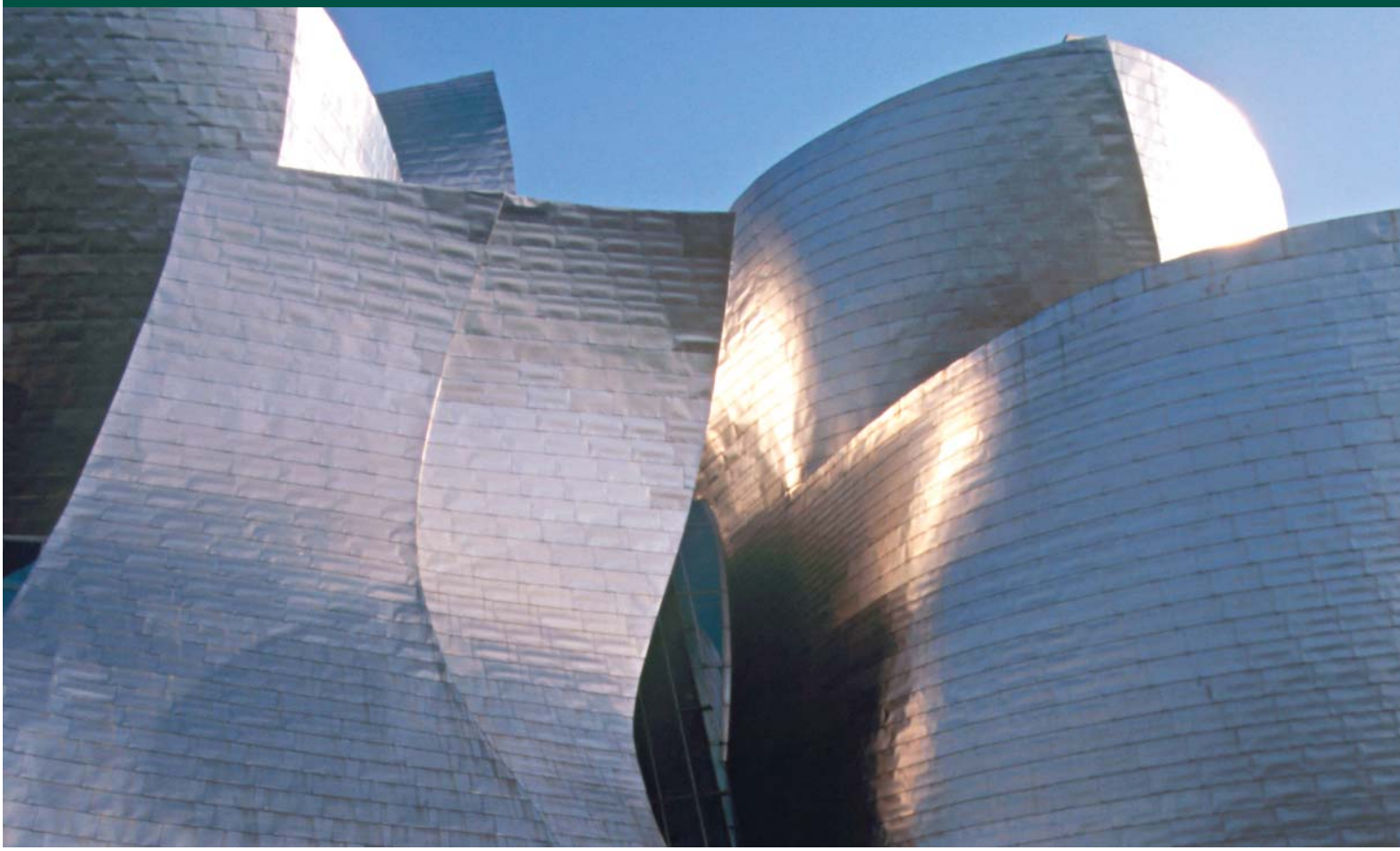
ICC EVALUATION SERVICE



Evaluating the Possibilities

Building Codes and Innovation

by Mark Johnson, Senior Vice President Business & Product Development, International Code Council

The mere mention of building codes can often send a shiver down an architect's spine. When an architect thinks of building codes, what often comes to mind first is what is prohibited. However, it is this general lack of understanding of building codes that serves as the biggest obstacle or deterrent to innovation. A closer inspection of the International Code Council®'s (ICC®) *International Building Code®* (IBC®) Section 104.11 reveals a window of opportunities for those architects who want to put the code to work for them. This code section offers a world of possibilities for the designer/specifier who is interested in incorporating new and innovative products and materials in his or her designs.

104.11 Alternative materials, design and methods of construction and equipment. The provisions of this code are not intended to prevent the installation of any material or to prohibit any design or method of construction not specifically prescribed by this code, provided that any such alternative has been approved.

How can an architect incorporate these products?

Confirming An Innovative Product Complies With Code

The code official requires research reports and/or tests from approved sources providing verification of code compliance. The independent source utilized by code officials to verify that a new and innovative product meets the building code requirements in terms of quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, and safety is the ICC Evaluation Service, Inc. (ICC-ES®). ICC-ES functions as a subsidiary of the International Code Council and works hand in glove with manufacturers, code officials, and the design community in an effort to facilitate the acceptance of new building technologies in the marketplace without compromising the safety of the public.

Manufacturers of new and innovative products look to ICC-ES for third-party validation that their products do in fact meet the minimum performance requirements of the IBC. Working closely with the building construction industry, ICC-ES develops acceptance criteria (AC), which establish a baseline against which an innovative product can be objectively measured. AC provide technical guidance and a level playing field for manufacturers. Upon completion of a thorough evaluation and verification of a manufacturer's data, ICC-ES posts its reported findings on its website as a tool for designers interested in incorporating the latest advances in building technology into their designs. These Evaluation Reports can be accessed and downloaded free of charge by designers at www.icc-es.org/evaluation_reports and are readily searchable based on attributes such as product type, manufacturer, or report number.

Two New Exciting Advances

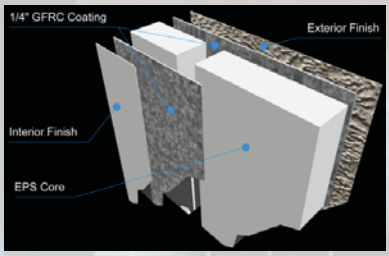
Thanks to the **Smoke Guard® System (ESR 1136)**, the architect/designer can now incorporate efficient traffic flow and code-compliant egress paths in the design. This provides the opportunity to increase valuable square footage within a building while providing superior smoke protection to building tenants. For further information, please visit www.smokeguard.com.

Smoke Guard® System

The **Saebi Alternative Building System (ESR 1638)** is a composite building system that utilizes Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) as the core material for all structural members that are sprayed with a composite coating made up of a blend of sand, cement, glass fiber, and other additives that together create a building shell that meets code requirements. Benefits of this new system include flexibility in design and homes that can more easily be built to specifications. Furthermore, its versatility allows the system to be shaped into unique architectural elements. For further information, please visit www.strataus.com.

Innovation Is Within Reach

Building codes should not be seen as an inhibitor to progress. With ICC's Evaluation Service as a resource, a more flexible and dynamic system is in place to help regulators become facilitators when it comes to the introduction and acceptance of innovative building technologies in the marketplace. It also encourages the creative impulse in the best designers and architects to lean into the wind, to go beyond the conventional and embrace safe innovation.



Saebi Alternative Building System

LEARN MORE! www.icc-es.org

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This article is intended to provide information on a new or innovative building product or system for which an ICC-ES Evaluation Report has recently been issued. It should not be construed as a product endorsement or a recommendation for its use.