WILLIAM PEDERSEN

In step with the abounding vitality of the time, structural engineer **Fazlur Rahman Khan** (1929-1982) ushered in a renaissance in skyscraper construction during the second half of the 20th century. Fazlur Khan was a pragmatic visionary: the series of progressive ideas that he brought forth for efficient high-rise construction in the 1960s and '70s were validated in his own work, notably his efficient designs for Chicago's 100-story John Hancock Center and 110-story Sears Tower -- the tallest building in the United States since its completion in 1974.

Fazlur Rahman Khan

Lehigh endowed a chair in structural engineering and architecture and has established this lecture series in Khan's honor. It is organized by **Professor Dan M. Frangopol**, the university's first holder of the Fazlur Rahman Khan Endowed Chair of Structural Engineering and Architecture, and sponsored by the Departments of Civil & Environmental Engineering, and Art, Architecture & Design.

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

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ATLSS

Spring 2015 Khan Distinguished Lecture Series

The Fazlur Rahman Khan Distinguished Lecture Series honors Dr. Fazlur Rahman Khan's legacy of excellence in structural engineering and architecture

Initiated and Organized by **PROFESSOR DAN M. FRANGOPOL**
The Fazlur Rahman Khan Endowed Chair of Structural Engineering and Architecture
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, ATLSS Engineering Research Center,
Lehigh University
dan.frangopol@lehigh.edu, www.lehigh.edu/~dmf206

WILLIAM PEDERSEN

Founding Design Partner, Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates, New York, NY

"Balancing"

Friday, February 20, 2015 – 4:30 pm

Location: Sinclair Lab Auditorium, Lehigh University, 7 Asa Drive, Bethlehem, PA

http://www.lehigh.edu/frkseries

William Pedersen is the founding design partner of Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates (KPF), which he started with A. Eugene Kohn and Sheldon Fox in 1976. Fourteen years later, they became the youngest firm to receive the National AIA Firm Award for design excellence. Personal honors which Mr. Pedersen has received include the Rome Prize in Architecture in 1965, the Arnold W. Brunner Memorial Prize from the American Academy and the National Institute of Arts and Letters, the University of Minnesota's Alumni Achievement Award, the Gold Medal from the national architectural fraternity, Tau Sigma, the Lynn S. Beedle Lifetime Achievement Award from the CTBUH and the Medal of Honor from the AIA of New York. He was also recently elected as a member of the National Academy and was awarded the 2013 International Award by The Society of American Registered Architects (SARA). During his career with KPF, Mr. Pedersen has received seven National AIA Design Awards for architectural design work he has directed.

Balancing: I have titled this talk "Balancing" since much of what I do as an architect involves resolving the conflicting objectives of seemingly opposing conditions.

My talk takes one through the journey I have had in architecture beginning with my earliest days as a student at the University of Minnesota and MIT. However, my career really begins with the formation of a partnership with Gene Kohn and Sheldon Fox. The three of us each had very different personalities, came from very different backgrounds and held different aspirations for our careers in architecture. Together we were like the three parts of a sailboat; the keel, the hull, and the sails.

From the beginning of our practice together, circumstances brought us several opportunities to design the high rise urban office building. My greatest contribution to architecture has been my systematic exploration of various strategies which are aimed at making this building type a responsive participant within the city. I have often called the work I am doing for the related Company in Hudson Yards my final exam.

Mies van Der Rohe was famous for saying that a chair is more difficult than a tall building. The end of my talk will discuss my development of my Loop de Loop chairs along with showing examples of my hobby; the balancing of rocks.

FAZLUR RAHMAN KHAN (1929 - 1982) One of the foremost structural engineers of the 20th century, Fazlur Khan epitomized both structural engineering achievement and creative collaborative effort between architect and engineer. Only when architectural design is grounded in structural realities, he believed — thus celebrating architecture's nature as a constructive art, rooted in the earth — can "the resulting aesthetics … have a transcendental value and quality." His ideas for these sky-scraping towers offered more than economic construction and iconic architectural images; they gave people the opportunity to work and live "in the sky." Hancock Center residents thrive on the wide expanse of sky and lake before them, the stunning quiet in the heart of the city, and the intimacy with nature at such heights: the rising sun, the moon and stars, the migrating flocks of birds. Fazlur Khan was always clear about the purpose of architecture. His characteristic statement to an editor in 1971, having just been selected Construction's Man of the Year by *Engineering News-Record*, is commemorated in a plaque in Onterie Center (446 E. Ontario, Chicago): **"The technical man must not be lost in his own technology. He must be able to appreciate life; and life is art, drama, music, and most importantly, people."**

SEI ASCE STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING INSTITUTE Lehigh Valley Chapter

** *New for 2015*****

1 PDH will be awarded to eligible attendees for each lecture

Please contact the Khan Chair office at 610-758-6123 or Email: infrk@lehigh.edu with any questions.