2024 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

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AHSAN KAREEM

Robert M. Moran Professor
NatHaz Modeling Laboratory
University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

“Swaying Skyscrapers: Unveiling the Dance Between Wind and Tall Buildings Through the Ages”

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 – 4:30 pm EST

Lecture will be live streamed, must REGISTER HERE for live stream link

http://www.lehigh.edu/frkseries

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.

FZLUR 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 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, and, most importantly, people.”

1 PDH will be awarded to eligible attendees for each lecture (minimum webinar participation time of 55 minutes is required)

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