

# Structural Steel

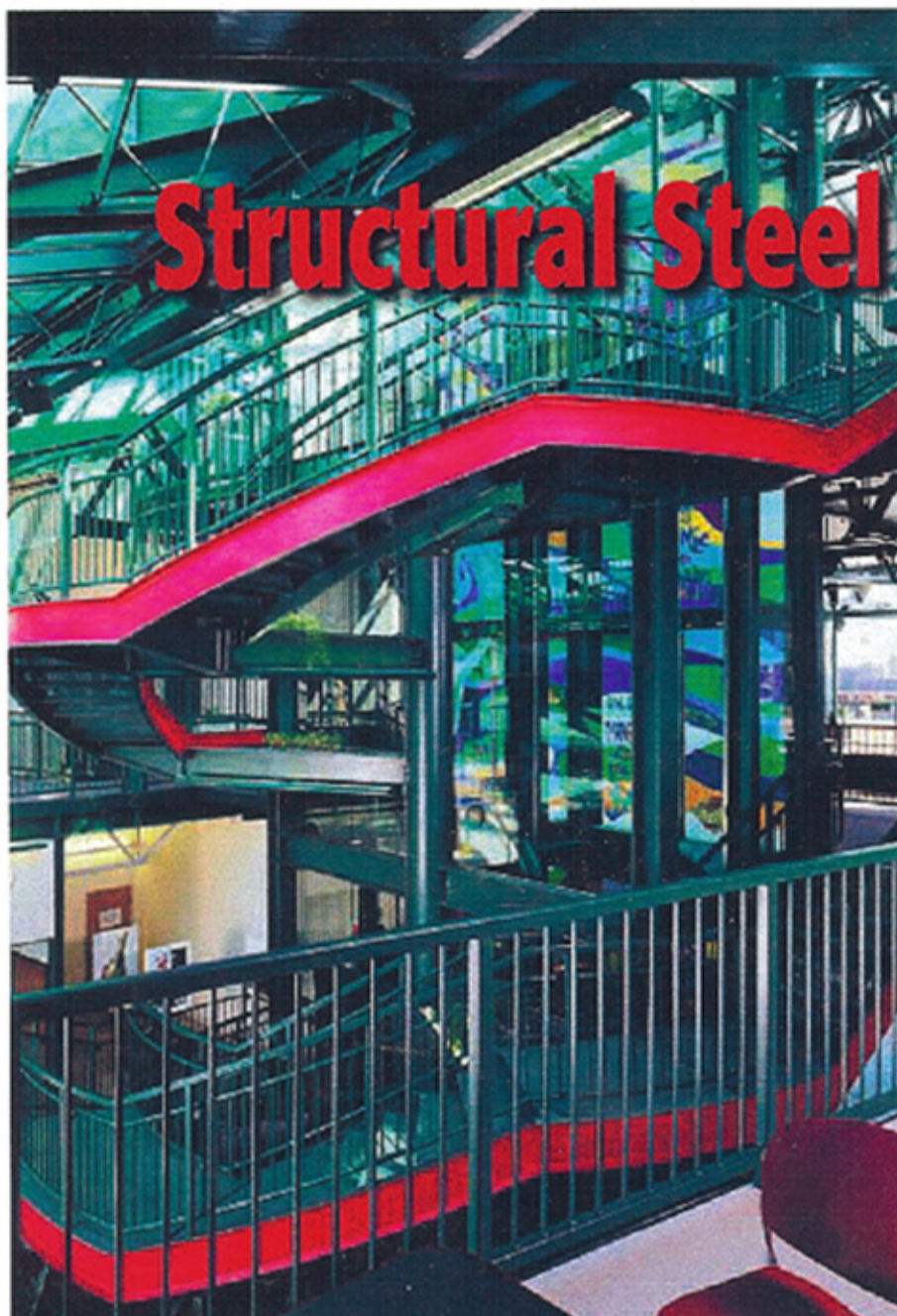
# Exposed

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The Pittsburgh Civic Center is a dramatic example of the beauty of structural steel. With exposed steel framing the interior and exterior, the structural system supports the weight of the entire building with lightness and elegance, while allowing its users the opportunity to see a steel skeleton in action. The three-story, 70,000 sq. ft. civic center was completed November 1999 for a cost of \$19,600,000.

## Integrating History

From the earliest conception, steel was the chosen structural material. The architect, Fani Danadjieva Hansen (Hansen Associates Architect and Planners, Tiburon, CA), researched the city's history as a regional center for steel production and fabrication. Hansen photographed steel warehouses and manufacturing facilities in the area and incorporated elements from these buildings into her design. The most obvious example is the extensive use of trusses, both for floor and roof joists and girders. The vaulted third floor roof was modeled after the U.S. Steel Columbia-Geneva plant (built circa 1926), with gable steel trusses spanning 43' at eight feet spacing and a continuous clerestory.



Cantilevered beams support the spiral staircase in the lobby of the Pittsburgh, CA Civic Center. The structure of the finished stair is painted and left fully exposed.