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CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

DIPLOMA PROJECT

PLASTIC DESIGN OF A PORTAL FRAME

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# **PLASTIC DESIGN OF A PORTAL FRAME**

by

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**Project Report**

**submitted to**

**the Department of Civil Engineering**

**of the Higher Technical Institute**

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**in partial fulfillment of the requirements**

**for the diploma of**

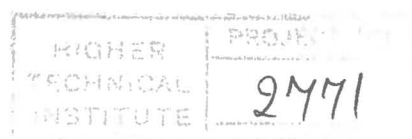
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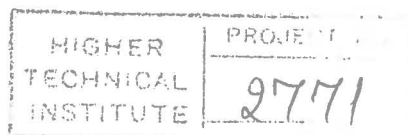
In part satisfaction of the award of Diploma of Technician Engineer in Civil Engineering of the Higher Technical Institute, Cyprus.

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Type of Project: Individual   
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# CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
SUMMARY	I
INTRODUCTION	II
A. THE THEORY BEHIND SIMPLE PLASTIC DESIGN	1
A.1. The Collapse of Beams	1
A.2. The Full Plastic Moment	3
A.3. The Bendings of Beams	4
A.4. Plastic Hinges	9
A.5. Plastic Modulus	10
A.6. Load Factor	13
A.7. Effect of Axial load	14
A.8. Effect of Shear	17
B. ANALYSIS OF SIMPLE BEAMS AND FRAMES	19
B.1. Collapse of Single Span Beams	19
1. Simply Supported	19
2. Redundant Beams	20
B.2. Graphical Analysis	23
B.3. Work Equation Analysis	26
B.4. Analysis using Upper and Lower Bounds	30
B.5. Frame Analysis	34
1. Rectangular Portal Frame with Pinned feet	34
2. The fixed base Rectangular Portal Frame	40
3. Pitched Roof Portal Frames	44

C.	EXAMPLE IN PLASTIC DESIGN OF SIMPLE . BEAMS & FRAMES IN COMPARISON WITH PLASTIC DESIGN	50
C.1.	General Designing Concepts	50
1.	Instability of rolled I - sections	50
2.	Effect of shear	50
3.	Settlement of support	51
4.	Variation in Yield stress	51
5.	Alternative in conditions of loading	51
C.2.	Single Span Beams	52
1.	Both ends fixed - Uniform section	52
2.	Propped Cantilever - Uniform section	54
C.3.	Continous Beams	56
1.	Two equal spans - Uniform load - Unoform section	56
2.	Three unequal spans - Uniform load - Uniform section	60
C.4.	Portal Frame	62
D.	DESIGN OF A SIMPLE PORTAL FRAME USING PLASTIC DESIGN	64
	REFERENCE TABLES	92
	CONCLUSIONS	93
	REFERENCES	96
	APPENDICES	
	CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS AND CONNECTION DETAILS	97

## SUMMARY

The objectives of the project are to carry out an extensive theoretical study of the plastic design of structural steelwork, to carry out the structural analysis and design of a portal frame to be used for a large - span warehouse using plastic design, to produce construction drawings and connection details for the particular portal frame and to carry out a cost comparison of steel elements designed by plastic and elastic method.

All steel used is in accordance with BS 4360, grade 43 and the design is in accordance with BS 449, BCSA and Constrado publication.

## INTRODUCTION

In the conventional engineering practice for building frame, it has been usual to design structural steel elements on the basis of elastic design but the tests of steel structure Research Committee made it clear that a steel frame behaves very differently from the way assumed by the Elastic Design and as a result, the safety factor can be much less, or, in other cases it may be excessive and an uneconomical structure will result.

After the publication of the Final Report of the Steel Structures Research Committee, it was evident that some other method of design would have to be found. As a result, work started on plastic theory, and the plastic method of design was first permitted in 1948.

Plastic Design estimates the value of the factored loads which cause collapse of that structure and the main design criterion for a given structure is that of strength. On the contrary, Elastic Design estimates the loads under which the structural elements are in pure elastic conditions providing by this way a margin of safety against failure and the main design criterion for a structure is serviceability.

A rough guide when a particular structure is suitable for plastic design is:

- a) If maximum permitted stresses govern a conventional elastic design, the plastic methods can probably be used.
- b) If deflection limitations govern an elastic design then they will probably use plastic theory for that particular structure.

Plastic theory has been developed to deal with the ductile rigid frame. A framed structure carries applied loads mainly by bending of the members, and plastic collapse analysis is undertaken by the examination of bending moment diagrams. The effects of axial loads and shear forces on the frame member are assumed to be small. Trusses whose members are subjected to large axial forces cannot be dealt with simple plastic theory, special methods exist for the design of trusses which are outside the scope of this Project.

Simple Plastic Design can be used if the structure satisfies the following requirements:



- a) Loads are carried mainly by bending and the effect of axial load and shear force on a member are small.
- b) The designer is satisfied that strength is the main design criterion; checks on deflections may have to be made if these are suspected to be too large.
- c) The design is fabricated in a ductile steel to B.S. 4360.

Subject to these limitations, Plastic Theory makes the design process easy and economical.