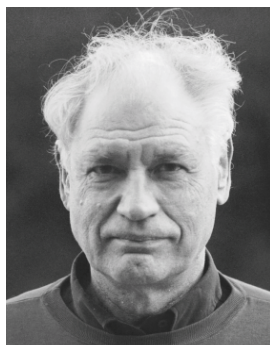


Ralejs Tēpfers 1933–2015

Ralejs Tēpfers, Professor Emeritus at Chalmers University, Gothenburg, and Honorary Member of the *fib*, passed away in October 2015.



Ralejs was born in Rezekne, Latvia, in 1933 but fled to Sweden with his family in 1944. He completed a Master's

degree in Civil Engineering at Chalmers University of Technology in 1958 and after a brief period on construction sites in Sweden and Switzerland returned to the Department of Building Technology at Chalmers as an associate professor. He was appointed Professor of Building Technology in 1995 and Professor Emeritus on his retirement in 2001.

His doctoral thesis 'A Theory of Bond Applied to Overlapped Tensile Reinforcement Splices for Deformed Bars', published in 1973, has been hugely influential.

In 1977 he was invited to establish a CEB task group on bond and anchorage, which he led vigorously for 23 years and which resulted in three bulletins (the last under the auspices of the *fib*) as well as a significant contribution to the CEB-FIP Model Code 90.

Ralejs embraced new technologies in the field of structural concrete, in particular fibre-composite reinforcing materials, introduced for the first time in an *fib* publication in Bulletin 10. He was also a major contributor to *fib* Bulletin 40 through *fib* Task Group 9.3 (now 5.1).

Ralejs understood the importance of international cooperation and contributed to the Swedish and Latvian Concrete Associations and

the Nordic Concrete Federation, as well as to the CEB and later the *fib*. He never forgot the land of his birth and worked hard to generate opportunities for Latvian colleagues. The 1992 conference on Bond in Concrete, hosted by Riga Technical University in the face of considerable logistical challenges, stands out in the memory of delegates.

As Professor Emeritus at Chalmers, *Ralejs* remained active in retirement, attending the university most days up to the week he died.

He is fondly remembered by his many international collaborators not just for his technical contributions, but also for his quiet charm, humility and gentle personality.

Ralejs is survived by his wife, Ira, their two daughters and one son.

John Cairns
Heriot-Watt University

Gabriel Tevec 1936–2016



Gabriel Tevec was an active member of the Czechoslovak group of the FIP. From the FIP Congress in New York

in 1974 onwards he attended most of the other FIP and *fib* congresses. He played a large role in establishing the Slovak National Committee of the FIP and was its first president from 1994 to 1998.

Gabriel completed his Master's degree at the Slovak University of

Technology in Bratislava in 1960. After graduating he joined Doprastav, then the largest Slovak company in the field of design and bridge construction, as an independent structural designer. From 1962 to 1993 he became Head Designer, followed by Head of Structural Design of Bridges and Roads and finally Director of Technical Project Management.

From 1993 to 2000 *Gabriel* co-founded and directed the structural design company Geoconsult. From 2000 to 2011 he again worked for Doprastav.

As a structural designer in the 60s, *Gabriel* was on hand for the construction of the first prestressed, balanced cantilever bridges and precast-beam bridges in Slovakia. In 1969 he contributed to the design of the pylon basement and the anchor block of the first cable-stayed bridge, whose 303-metre-long main span extends over the river Danube.

Between 1986 and 1990 *Gabriel* participated in the design and construction of another major bridge over the river Danube in Bratislava. The Lafranconi Bridge is the first bridge with external tendons in Slovakia. Among his contributions was the design of a new type of light-form traveller for its side spans.

After retiring *Gabriel* worked as an expert consultant on the design and construction of several major highway bridges in Slovakia as well as on a 10-span, extradosed viaduct with a total length of 941 metres in Považská Bystrica.

Gabriel passed away on 12 January 2016 at the age of 80. We honour his memory.

Milan Chandoga
President of *fib* Slovakia

Peter Paulik
Secretary *fib* Slovakia