

Viscous Dampers and Replaceable Structural Fuses Improving Building Performance and Functional Recovery

Justin Marshall, DuraFuse Frames Nathan Canney, Taylor Devices

May 21, 2025



Presentation Outline

- How are buildings expected to perform in Earthquakes?
- Replaceable Structural Fuses
- Fluid Viscous Dampers



How are buildings expected to perform in Earthquakes?



What are the responsibilities of Structural Engineers to society?

Design structures that:

- Meet Life-Safety Provisions
- Meet Occupancy Requirements
- Are Economical
- Sustainably Utilize Resources
- Contribute to a Resilient Community





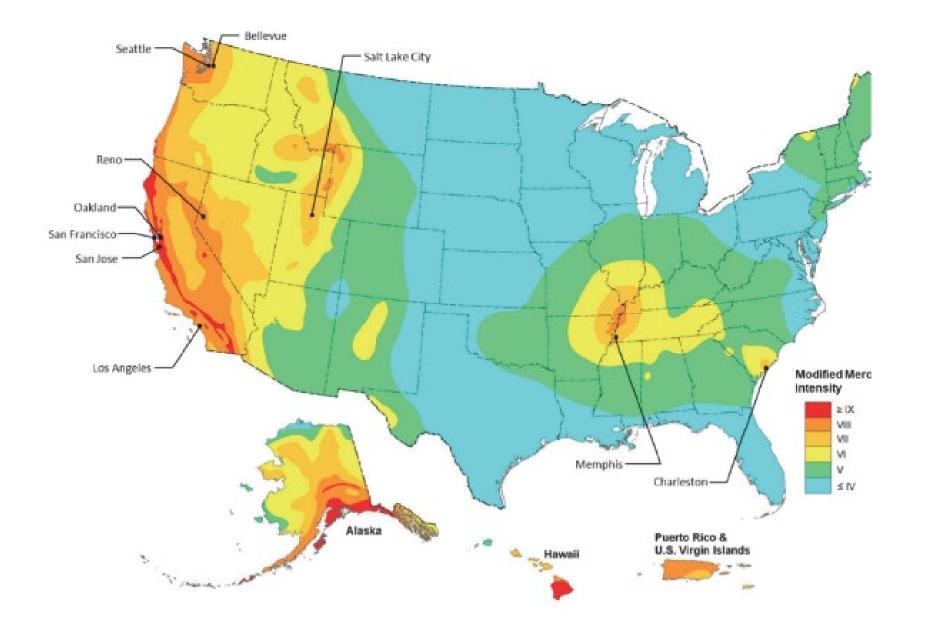


 Figure 1-1
 Regions of the United States at risk of significant earthquake shaking (courtesy of N. Luco, USGS).
 Building Innova

ASCE STANDARD

ASCE/SEI 7-22

ASCE

SEI INCOM

Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and Other Structures

C12.1 STRUCTURAL DESIGN BASIS

The performance expectations for structures designed in accordance with this standard are described in Sections C11.1 and C11.5. Structures designed in accordance with the standard are likely to have a low probability of collapse but may suffer serious structural damage if subjected to the risk-targeted maximum considered earthquake (MCE_R) or stronger ground motion.

> ASCE 7 seismic design targets Ductility-Based Life-Safety Design Provisions

DUCTILITY = DAMAGE

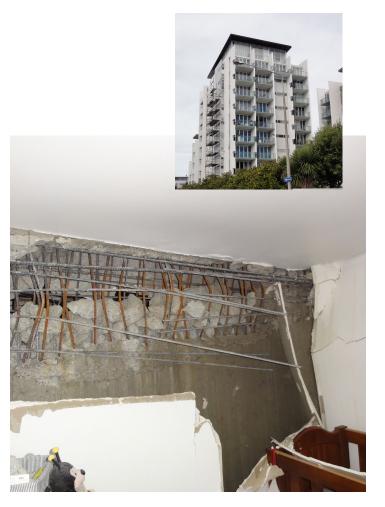
Do you know what will happen to your building in the next major earthquake?



Do you know what will happen to your building in the next major earthquake?







Non-structural Damage – Cladding and Fenestration







Non-structural Damage – Furnishings & Equipment



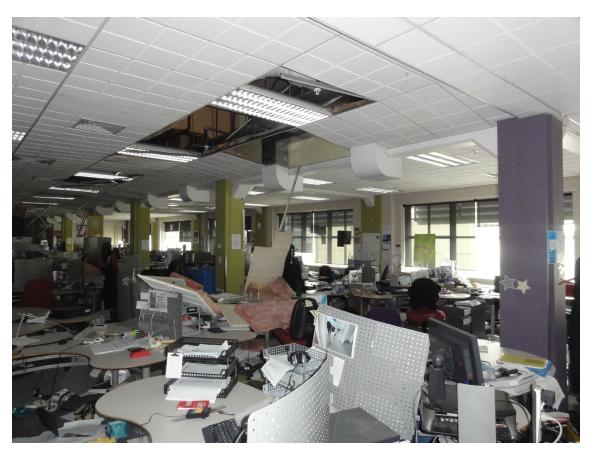




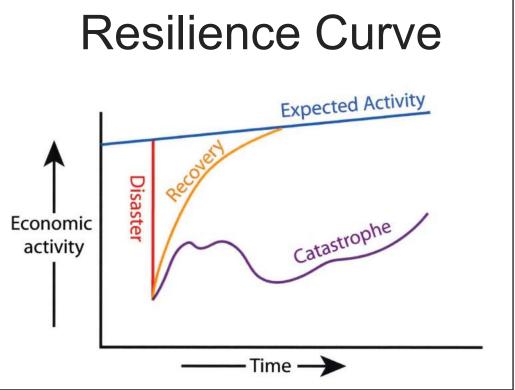
Non-structural Damage – Ceilings











The minimum building code requirements ensure a building has a small chance of collapsing in a designlevel earthquake but there will be damage to the structure.

Ref: "Recommended Options for Improving the Built Environment for Post-Earthquake Reoccupancy and Functional Recovery Time." FEMA P-2090/NIST SP-1254, January 2021. 20% to 40% of modern code conforming buildings would be unfit to occupy

15% to 20% of modern code conforming buildings would not be economically repairable

Older buildings and lifeline infrastructure (bridges, power plants, water, ...) would perform even worse How do we solve the problem of expected damage to buildings in Earthquakes?

- 1. Design buildings to be stronger and stiffer
 - Increases construction cost
 - Structural damage may not be repairable
 - Increased damage to certain nonstructural components
- 2. Design buildings to absorb earthquake energy in replaceable structural fuses and viscous dampers
 - Construction cost is similar
 - Reduced damage to structural and non-structural systems
 - Structural damage is repairable



Replaceable Structural Fuses: What are they? How do they improve earthquake response?

What is a replaceable structural fuse?



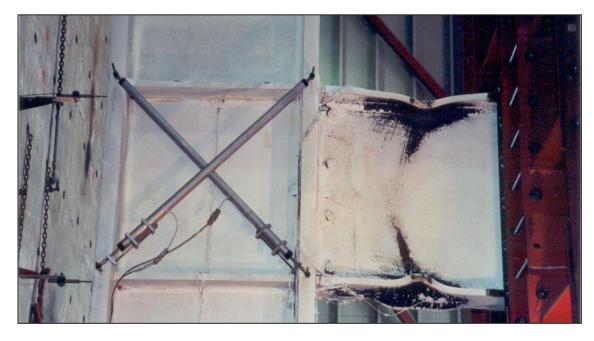


Eccentrically Braced Frame with damage in the Link Beam (Christchurch, NZ 2011)

Steel Moment Connection with Bottom Flange Fuse Plate (2022)

Replacable Fuses in Steel Moment Frames





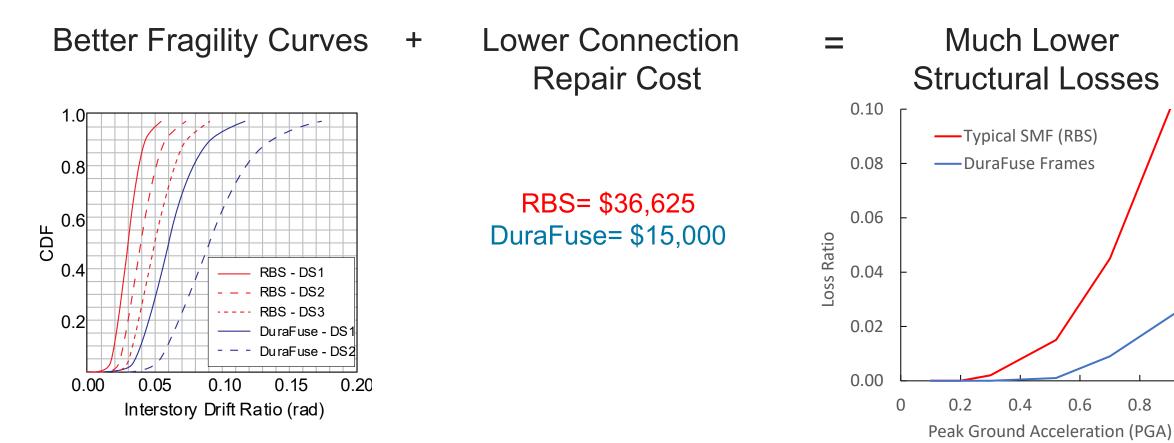
DuraFuse Frames[®]

Reduced Beam Section (Dogbone)

Post-Earthquake Structural Losses



1



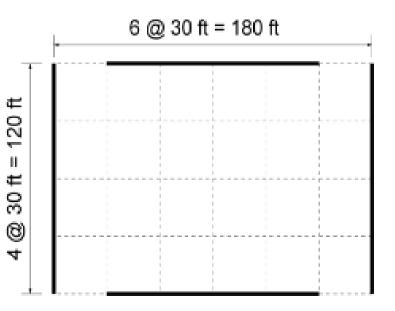
SP3 Haselton SP3 Baker CROUP EISMIC PERFORMANCE PREDICTION PROGRAM

Impact of Repairability on Functional Recovery

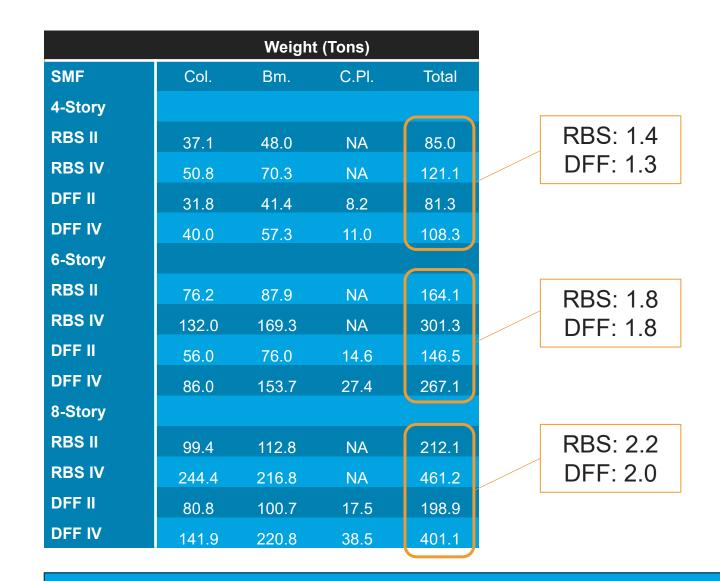
Case Study

- Case study of 4-, 6- and 8-story buildings designed as an office building (Risk Category II) and a hospital (Risk Category IV)
- Assess impact of two design strategies:
 - Increase strength and stiffness (current code provisions)
 - Design with replaceable fuse connection
- Each building was analyzed using a suite of earthquake recordings to estimate performance and post-EQ repair costs

Case Study Buildings

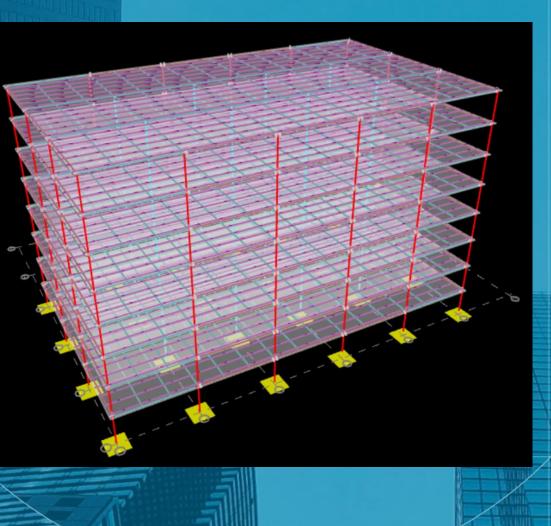


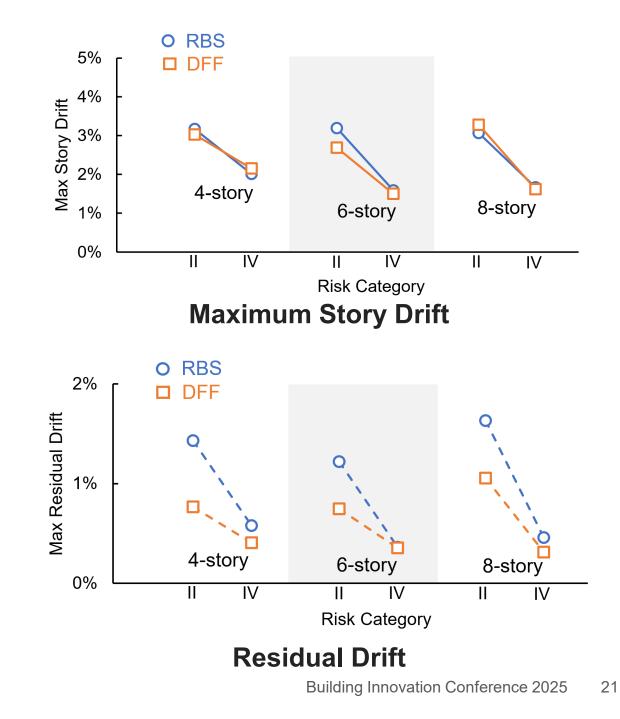
Plan View



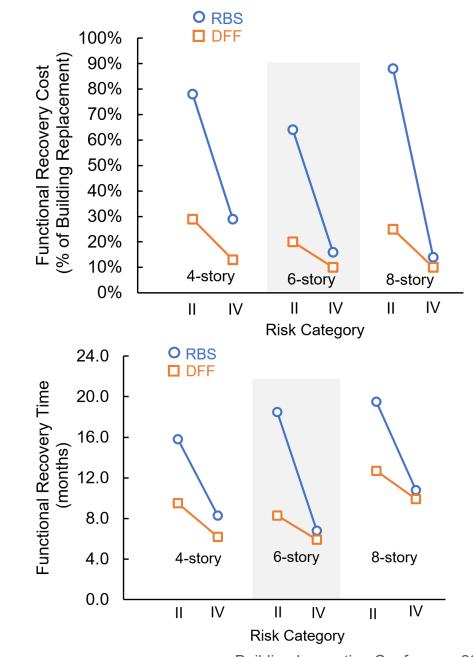
RBS – Reduced Beam Section (Dogbone) Conventional Connection DFF – DuraFuse Frames Proprietary Replaceable Fuse Connection

<section-header><section-header>

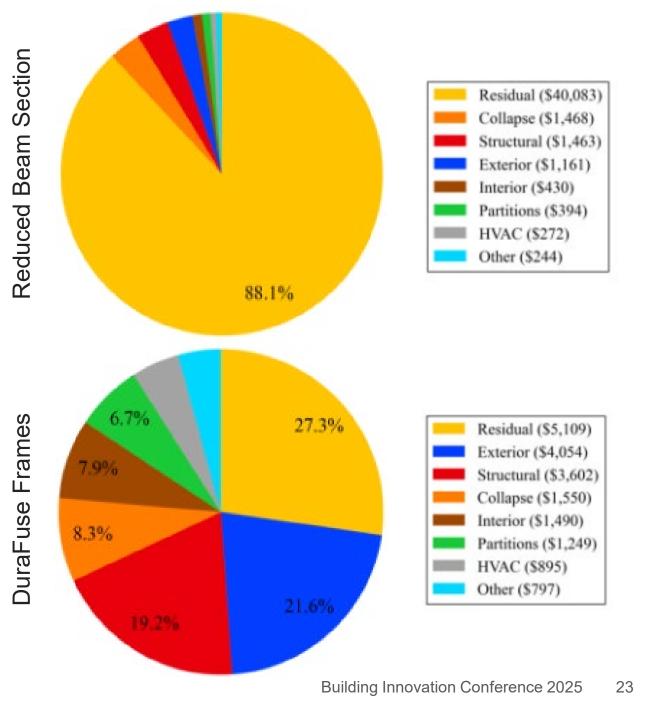




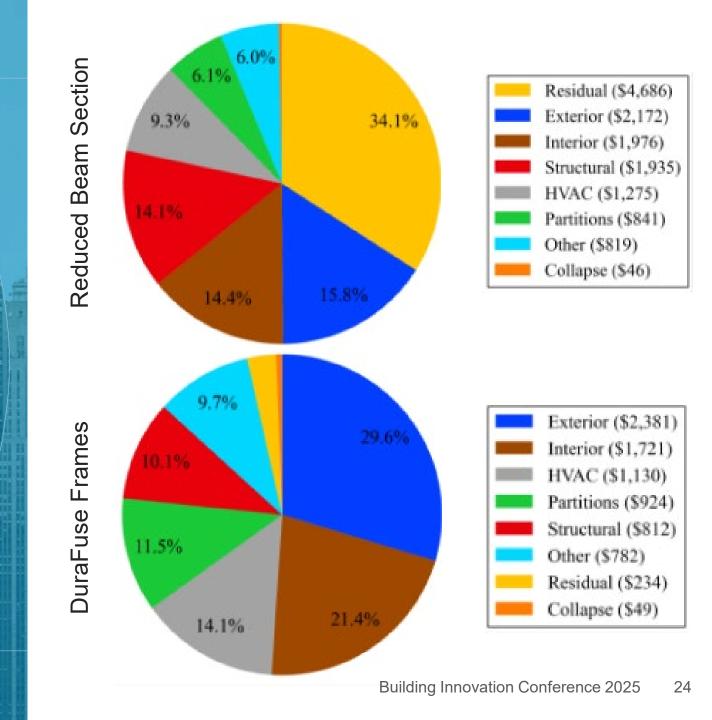




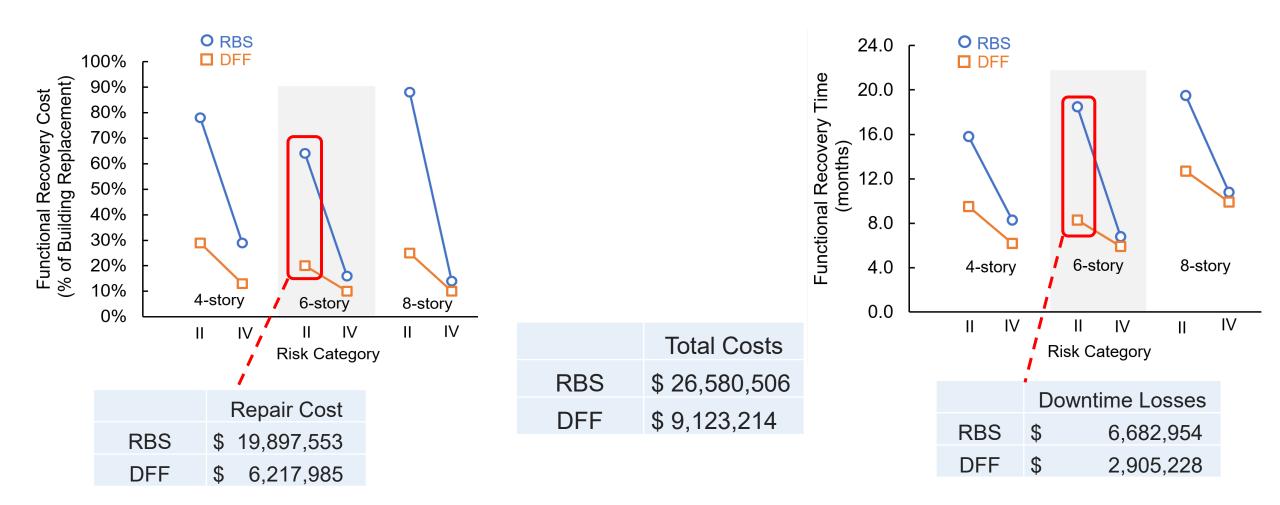
Repair Cost Breakdown (Office Building)



Repair Cost Breakdown (Hospital)



Functional Recovery Cost and Time





Fluid Viscous Dampers: What are they? How do they reduce damage in buildings?





651 Gateway, South San Francisco, CA

350 California - San Francisco, CA



Bayer's Berkeley Campus - Berkeley, CA

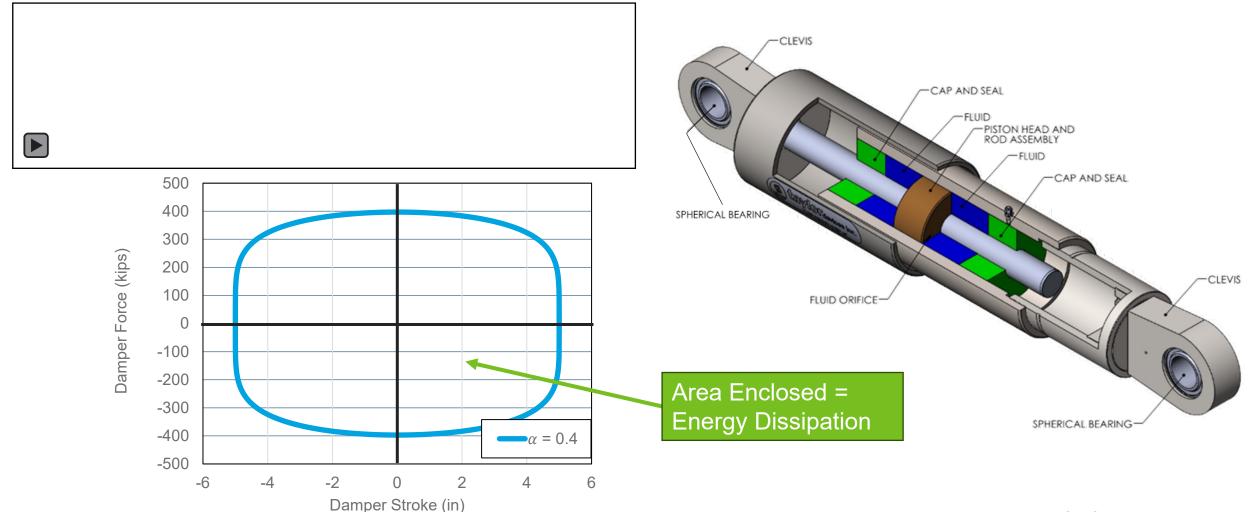
181 Fremont, San Francisco, CA





651 Gateway, South San Francisco, CA

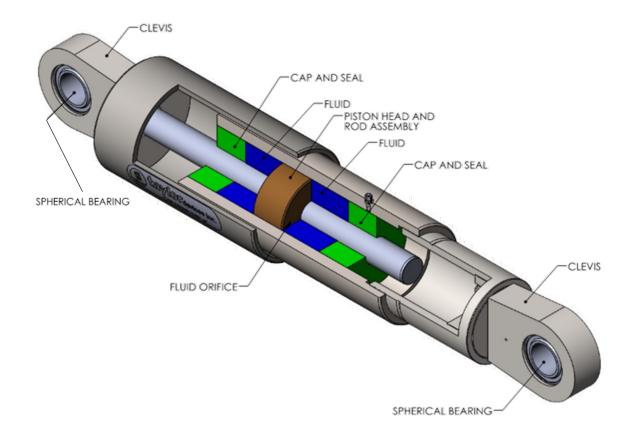






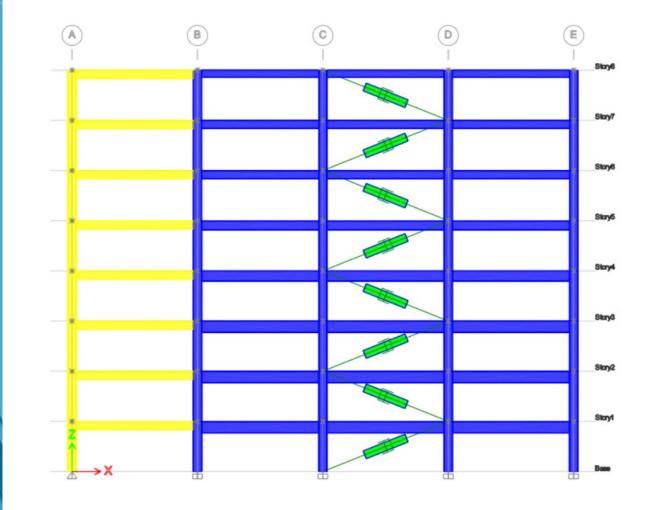
- Reduces Story Drift
- Reduces Floor Accelerations
- Reduces Damage to Structural and Nonstructural Systems

Increased Resiliency!!



DuraFuse + Fluid Viscous Dampers (FVDs)

8-Story Risk Category IV Case Study



DuraFuse + FVDs – Case Study

Design Approach:

- Redesign Moment Frame for 75% of ELF Base shear (maximum allowed reduction by the code)
- Ignore Drift in Moment Frame base design
- Control Drift with Dampers using Nonlinear Response History Analysis – Average of 11 Ground Motions

Natural History Museum Commons - Los Angeles, CA



DuraFuse + FVDs – Reduced Steel



	Column Weight (tons)	Beam Weight (tons)	Connection Weight (tons)	Total (tons)
Original Design	142	221	88	451
Damper Design	108	136	54	299
Comparison	76%	62%	62%	66%



More Usable Space:

Column Depth Reduction

• W27 to W24

Beam Depth Reduction

- W36 to W33 at bottom
- W36 to W27 at Story 5
- W24 to W21 at Roof

300 Lakeside, Oakland, CA

DuraFuse + FVDs – Equivalent Drift

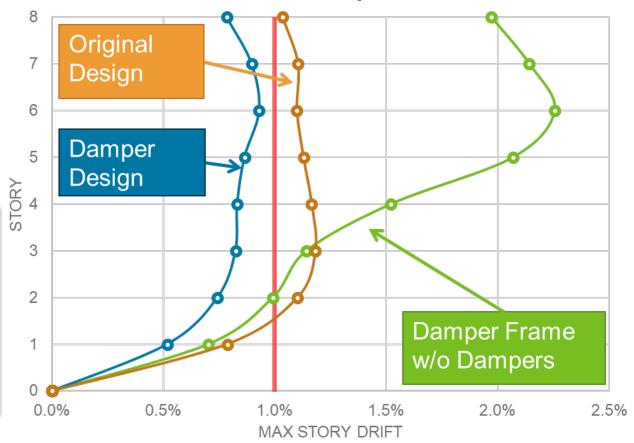


- Both designs targeted 1% drift for the DE level event
- Damper properties selected to control drift



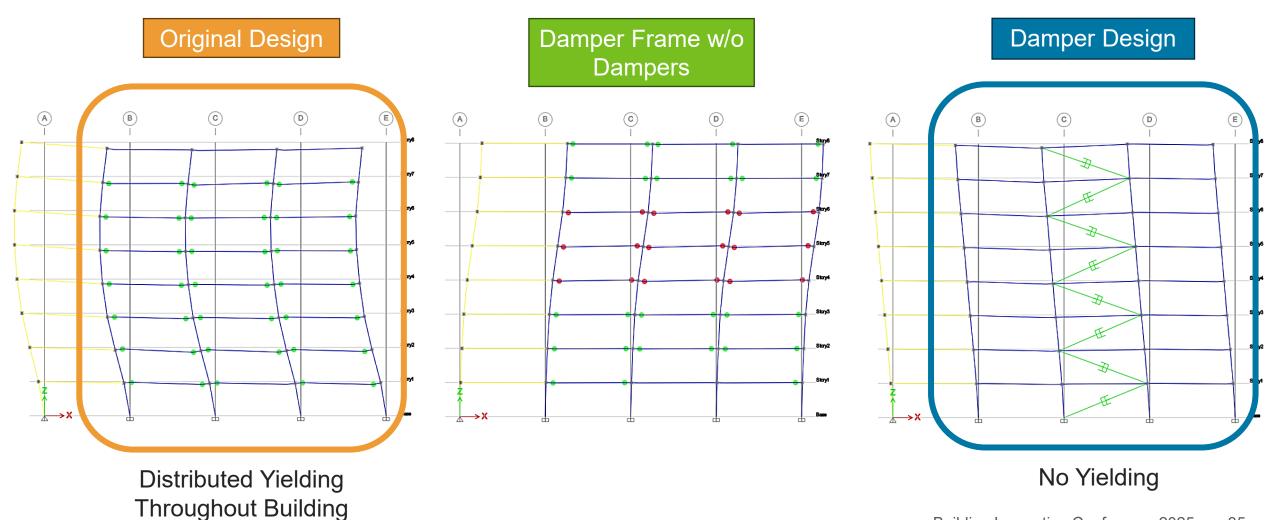
Artise, Bellevue, WA

Max DE Inter-story Drift Ratio



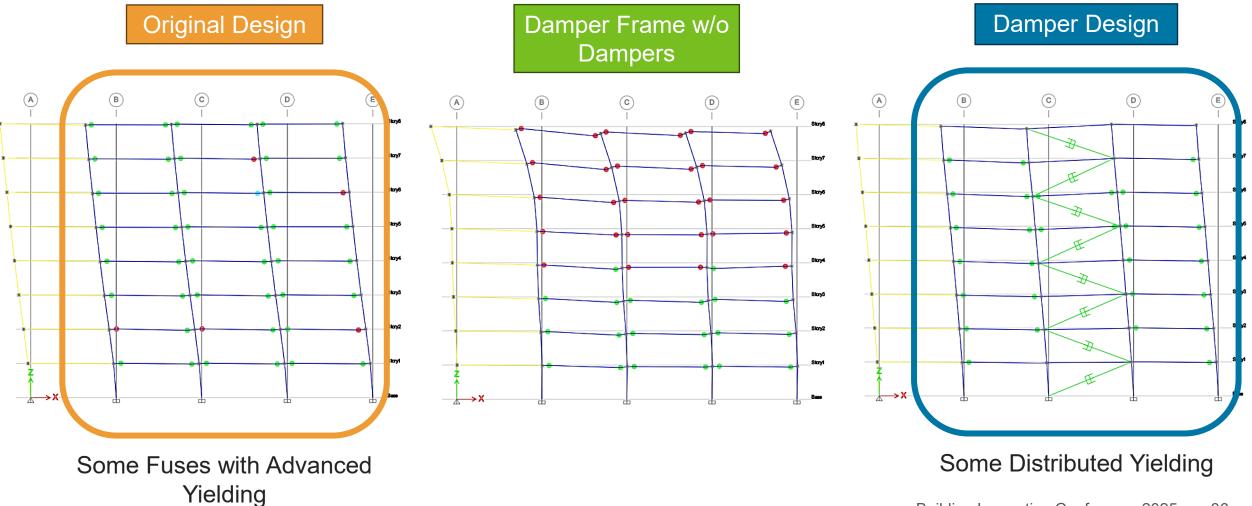
DuraFuse + FVDs – Reduced Damage @ DE





DuraFuse + FVDs – Reduced Damage @ MCE

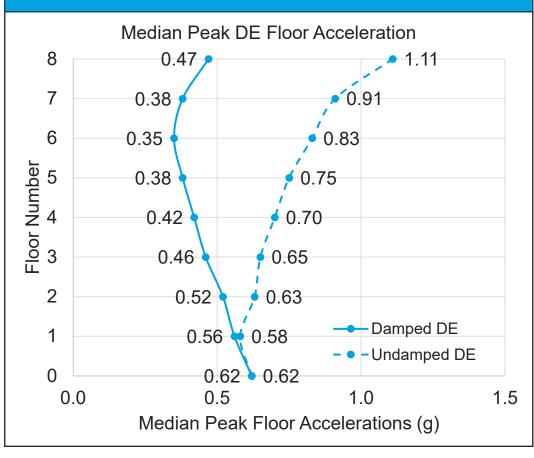




DuraFuse + FVDs – Improved Resiliency



Reduced Floor Accelerations @ DE



Reduced Downtimes @ DE

System	Median Days to Re-Occupancy	Median Days to Functional Recovery
Original Design	123	267
Damped Design	55	219

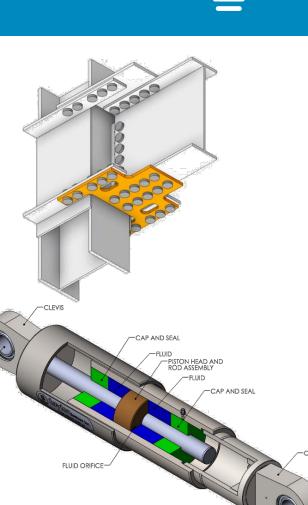
Reduced Repair Costs @ DE

Original Design: Damped Design:

2.9% of total bldg. cost1.3% of total bldg. cost

Conclusions

- Improving earthquake performance and resilience of buildings can be accomplished without increasing construction cost
- Repairable Prequalified Connections with replaceable fuses provide both Life Safety and enhanced Functional Recovery
- Adding Supplemental Damping to a prequalified steel moment frame improves performance and Functional Recovery





Thank You

Justin Marshall, justin.marshall@durafuseframes.com Nathan Canney, nathancanney@taylordevices.com