

An ACI Manual

# ACI Reinforced Concrete Design Handbook

A Companion to ACI 318-19



Volume 1: Member Design  
MNL-17(21)



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ACI MNL-17(21)

# ACI REINFORCED CONCRETE DESIGN HANDBOOK

A Companion to ACI 318-19

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**ACI MNL-17(21)  
Volume 1**

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DESIGN HANDBOOK**

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## DEDICATION



This edition of *The ACI Reinforced Concrete Design Handbook*, MNL-17(21), is dedicated to the memory of Daniel W. Falconer and his many contributions to the concrete industry. He was Managing Director of Engineering for the American Concrete Institute from 1998 until his death in July 2015.

Dan was instrumental in the reorganization of “Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete (ACI 318-14) and Commentary (ACI 318R-14)” as he served as ACI staff liaison to ACI Committee 318, Structural Concrete Building Code; and ACI Subcommittee 318-SC, Steering Committee. His vision was to simplify the use of the Code for practitioners and to illustrate the benefits of the reorganization with MNL-17. His insight and review comments were instrumental in the development of the ninth edition of the Handbook.

An ACI member since 1982, Dan served on ACI Committees 344, Circular Prestressed Concrete Structures, and 373, Circular Concrete Structures Prestressed with Circumferential Tendons. He was also a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Prior to joining ACI, Dan held several engineering and marketing positions with VSL Corp. Before that, he was Project Engineer for Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill in Washington, DC. He received his BS in civil engineering from the University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY and his MS in civil and structural engineering from Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA. He was a licensed professional engineer in several states.

In his personal life, Dan was an avid golfer, enjoying outings with his three brothers whenever possible. He was also an active member of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Hartland, MI, and a dedicated supporter and follower of the Michigan State Spartans basketball and football programs. Above all, Dan was known as a devoted family man dedicated to his wife of 33 years, Barbara; his children Mark, Elizabeth, Kathryn, and Jonathan; and two grandsons, Samuel and Jacob.

In his memory, the ACI Foundation has established an educational memorial. For more information visit <http://www.scholarshipcouncil.org/Student-Awards>. Dan will be sorely missed for many years to come.

## FOREWORD

*The ACI Reinforced Concrete Design Handbook* provides assistance to professionals engaged in the design of reinforced concrete buildings and related structures. This edition is a major revision that brings it up-to-date with the approach and provisions of “Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete” (ACI 318-19).

*The ACI Reinforced Concrete Design Handbook* provides dozens of design examples of various reinforced concrete members, such as one- and two-way slabs, beams, columns, walls, diaphragms, footings, and retaining walls. For consistency, many of the numerical examples are based on a fictitious seven-story reinforced concrete building. There are also many additional design examples not related to the design of the members in the seven-story building that illustrate various ACI 318-19 requirements.

Each example starts with a problem statement, then provides a design solution in a three-column format—Code provision reference, short discussion, and design calculations—followed by a drawing of reinforcing details, and finally a conclusion elaborating on a certain condition or comparing results of similar problem solutions.

In addition to examples, almost all chapters in *The ACI Reinforced Concrete Design Handbook* contain a general discussion of the related ACI 318-19 chapter.

This edition of *The ACI Reinforced Concrete Design Handbook* was updated and enhanced by ACI staff engineers under the auspices of the ACI Technical Activities Committee (TAC). Each chapter was reviewed by at least two reviewers, who provided valuable comments, suggestions, and insights. The following reviewers are gratefully acknowledged and thanked:

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*The ACI Reinforced Concrete Design Handbook* is published in two volumes: Chapters 1 through 11 are published in Volume 1 and Chapters 12 through 15 are published in Volume 2. Design aids and a moment interaction diagram Excel spreadsheet are available for free download from the following ACI webpage links:

<https://www.concrete.org/MNL1721Download1>

<https://www.concrete.org/MNL1721Download2>

**Keywords:** anchoring to concrete; beams; columns; cracking; deflection; diaphragm; durability; flexural strength; footings; frames; pile caps; piles; post-tensioning; punching shear; retaining wall; shear strength; seismic; slabs; splicing; stiffness; structural analysis; structural systems; truss and-tie; walls.

Trey Hamilton  
Managing Editor

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# CHAPTER 1—INTRODUCTION

## 1.1—Introduction

This Manual is intended to assist with the design of reinforced concrete structures using ACI 318-19 (hereinafter referred to as the Code). The focus is on the application of the Code requirements to the individual members with respect to both structural design requirements and detailing provisions. As with the Code, the design procedures and detailing practices illustrated in this Manual do not replace sound professional judgment or the licensed design professional's (LDP's) knowledge of the specific factors surrounding a project.

To illustrate the procedures and details, it is necessary to generate the member actions for which the design will be conducted. Although this Manual provides background and context regarding the analysis of structural concrete systems, it is assumed that the user of this Manual has a basic understanding of structural analysis and the development of the member design actions from such an analysis.

This chapter describes the overall organization of this Manual and additionally describes the loads, geometry, and other details of the example building used to generate actions for member or component design illustrated in subsequent chapters.

## 1.2—Organization and use

A structural system consists of members, joints, and connections, each performing a specific role or function. Structural systems and their component members must provide sufficient stability, strength, and stiffness so that overall structural integrity is maintained, design loads are resisted, and serviceability limits are met.

This Manual is organized into chapters listed below that follow the general progression of the structural design of a building. The early chapters describe the overall building configuration, loads, and development of actions from structural analysis followed by chapters devoted to the design of the individual members within the example structure.

- Horizontal floor and roof members (one-way and two-way slabs, Chapters 7 and 8)
- Horizontal support members (beams and joists, Chapter 9)
- Vertical members (columns and structural walls, Chapters 10 and 11)
- Diaphragms and collectors (Chapter 12)
- Foundations—isolated footings, mats, pile caps, and piles (Chapter 13)
- Plain concrete—unreinforced foundations, walls, and tiers (Chapter 14)
- Joints and connections (Chapters 15 and 16)

In Table 1.2, Code chapters are correlated with the chapters in Volumes 1 and 2 of this Manual.

The fictitious example building depicted in Fig. 1.2a through 1.2d was created to demonstrate how, by various examples in this Manual, to design and detail a typical struc-

Table 1.2—Member chapters

Volume No. ACI MNL-17(21)	Chapter name ACI MNL-17(21)	Chapter No.	
		ACI 318-19	ACI MNL-17(21)
I	Building system	—	1
	Structural systems	4 and 5	2
	Structural analysis	6	3
	Durability	19	4
	One-way slab	7	5
	Two-way slab	8	6
	Beams	9	7
	Diaphragm	12	8
	Columns	10	9
	Walls	11	10
	Foundations	13	11
	Detailing walls	7 and 13	12
II	Serviceability	24	13
	Strut and tie	23	14
	Anchoring to concrete	17	15

tural concrete building according to the Code. This example building is seven stories above ground and has a one-story basement. The building has evenly spaced columns along the grid lines in both directions. One column has been removed along Grid C on the second level to provide open space for the lobby. The building dimensions are:

- Width (north/south) = 72 ft (5 bays @ 14 ft)
- Length (east/west) = 218 ft (6 bays @ 36 ft)
- Height (above ground) = 92 ft
- Basement height = 10 ft

The basement is used for storage, building services, and mechanical equipment. It is 10 ft high and has an extra column in every bay along Grids A through F to support a two-way slab at the second level. There are basement walls at the perimeter.

A single specific gravity load system is not specified herein but rather is left unknown to enable demonstration of the design of several structural systems including nonprestressed and prestressed one-way beam and slab systems; nonprestressed and prestressed two-way slab systems; nonprestressed and prestressed transfer girder to accommodate column removal; and nonprestressed and prestressed beams of various types and sizes. Lateral loads are resisted by concrete shear walls in the north/south direction and concrete moment frames in the east/west direction; both systems are designated as *ordinary* for the purposes of seismic design and detailing. In some cases, member examples are expanded to demonstrate the change in design and detailing procedures when elements or systems are designated as *intermediate* or *special*, but using the results from the original structural