

**An Important note from the Principal Investigator Abolhassan ASTANEH-ASL on the document that follows:**

The following PowerPoint was presented at the June 24, 2002 Public Comment Meeting on NIST Proposed Plan to Study WTC collapse. I was invited to make the comments.

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Professor and Principal Investigator for the NSF Funded UC Berkeley WTC Project (Duration: 10-2001 to 9-2002)



# Comments on the NIST Proposed Plan for Investigation of the World Trade Center Disaster

By

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Presented at the June 24, 2002 Public Meeting  
Marriott East Side New York City Hotel

*I make my comments here today on my own behalf and do not represent any agency or individual. I have had no financial or other interactions with NIST in the past nor I have any at the present.*

This document is part of the “World Trade Center Post-Disaster Reconnaissance and Perishable Structural Engineering Data Collection”, a research project funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation at the Univ. of California Berkeley with Prof. Abolhassan ASTANEH-ASL as Principal Investigator (<http://www.ce.berkeley.edu/~astaneh>) as the Principal Investigator. Duration of the project was from 10/2001 to 9/2002. Further Information and project archives are at <http://lib.berkeley.edu/ENGI/WTC>. © 2001 Abolhassan ASTANEH-ASL.

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**My work on the WTC is dedicated to the memories of all victims of 9/11 terrorist attacks including the firefighters, police officers, emergency response personnel and other rescuers who so heroically sacrificed their lives to save others.**

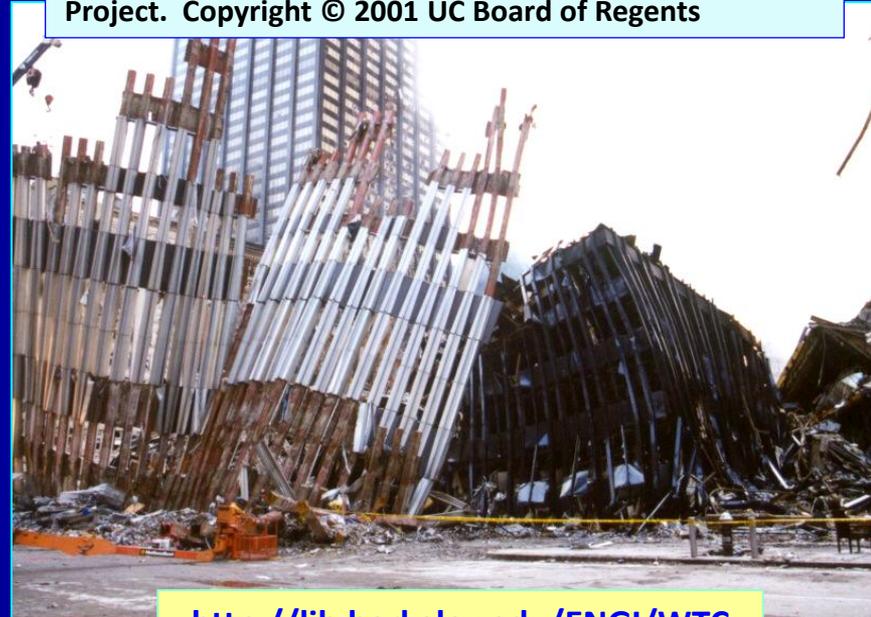
**A. Astaneh-Asl**



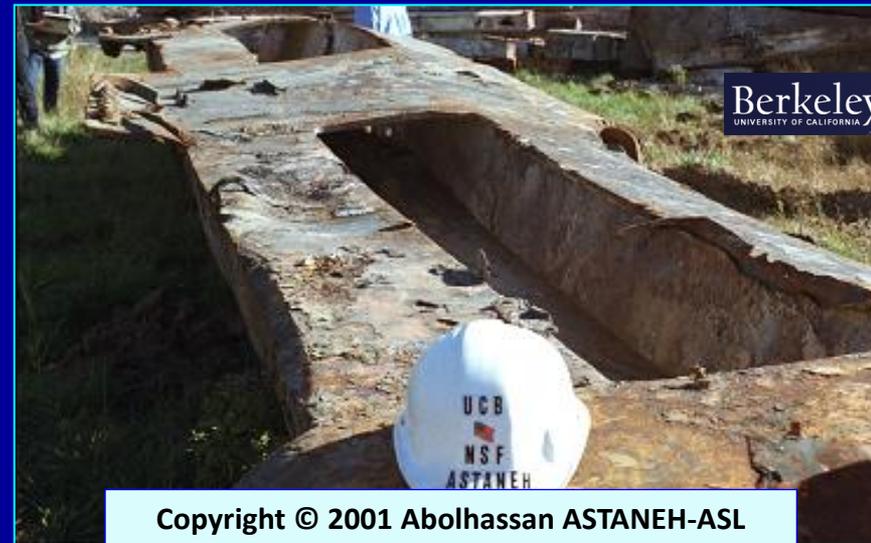
First, I would like to very briefly summarize our ongoing investigation of the collapse of the WTC funded by the National Science Foundation.

I started my field investigation of the structural aspects of the WTC collapse in NYC one week after the 9/11 tragedy.

Photo by William Farrington for A. Astaneh's WTC NSF Project. Copyright © 2001 UC Board of Regents



<http://lib.berkeley.edu/ENGI/WTC>



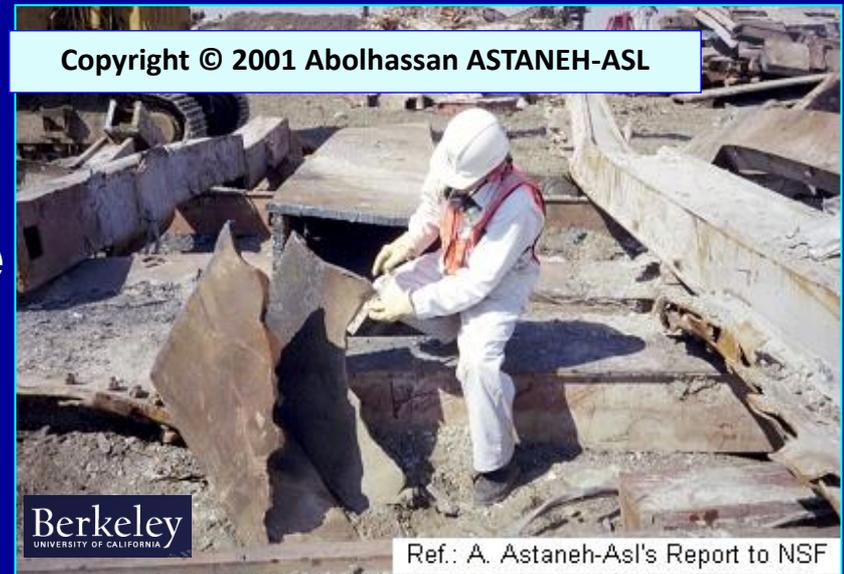
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Outside Columns of the World Trade Center Exposed to Intense Fire

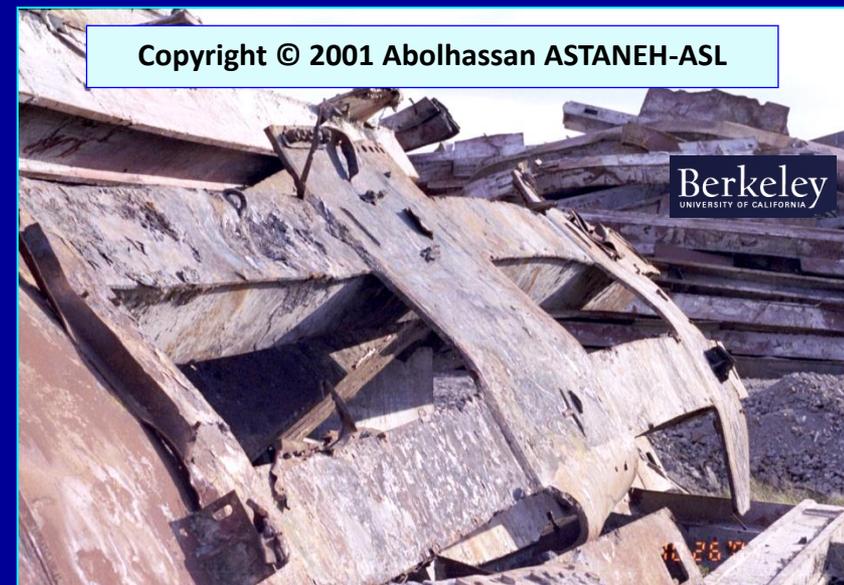


I have investigated the structural remains of the WTC and Building 7 and have collected data on quality of the construction, failure modes as well as fire and impact damage.

I have also identified and saved some steel elements of the WTC that appear to have been impacted by the plane or have been exposed to intense fire.

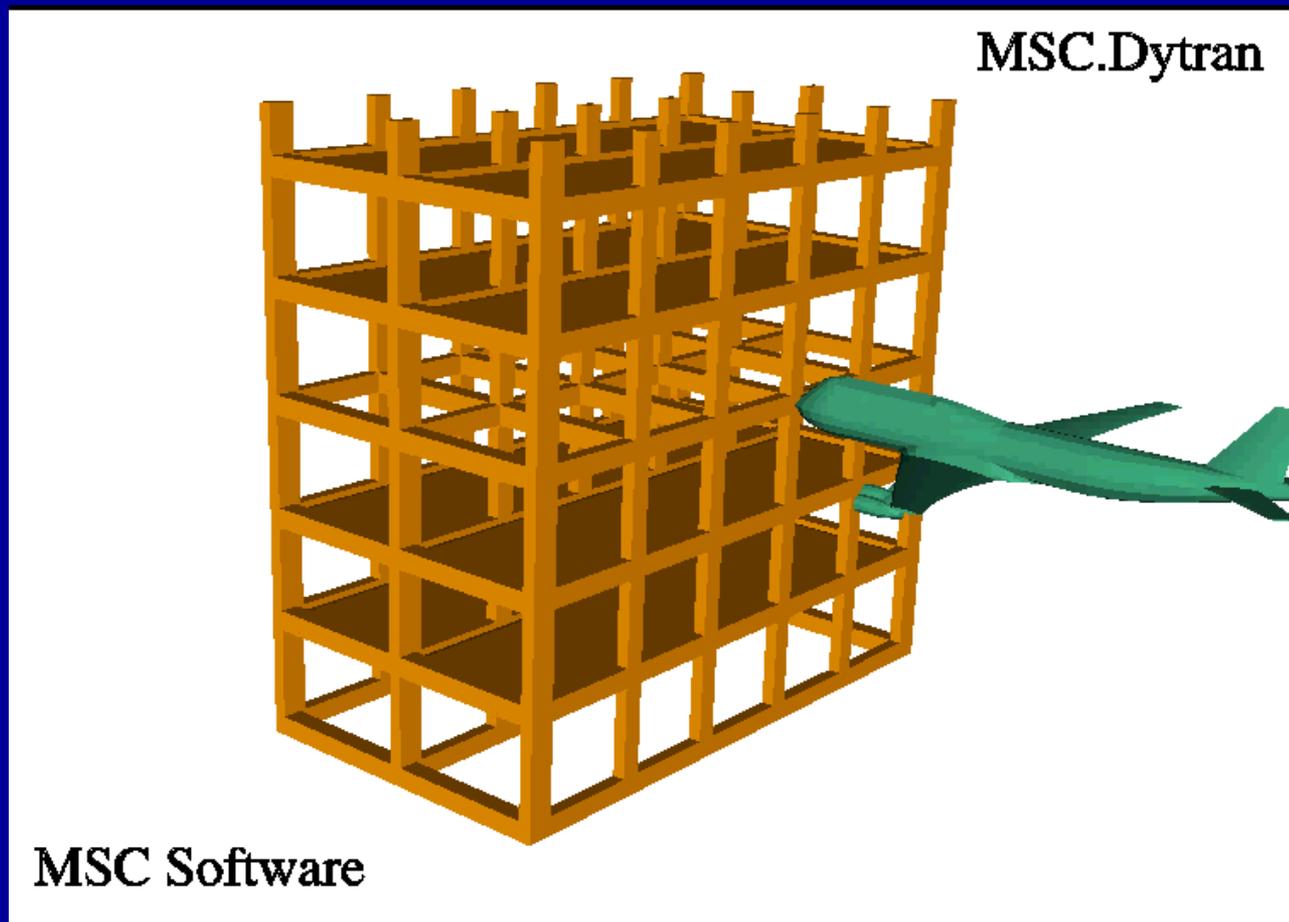


<http://lib.berkeley.edu/ENGI/WTC>





Since April, after receiving drawings, thanks to FEMA and PANYNJ, we have been busy building a realistic model of the world trade center structure to subject it to the impact of airplane and ensuing fire.

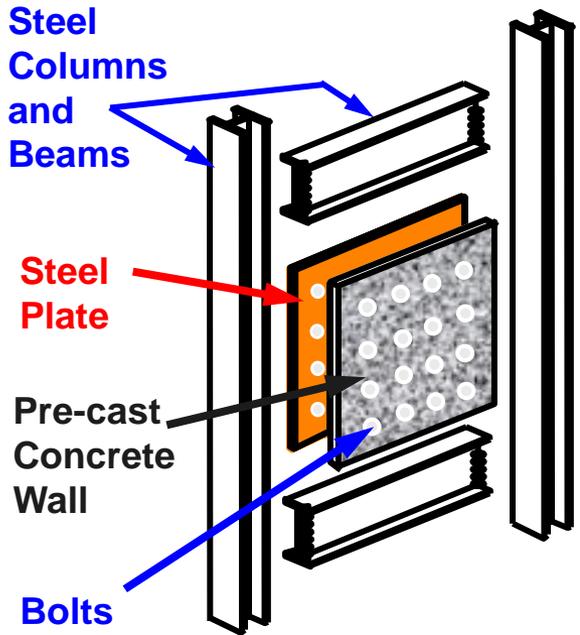




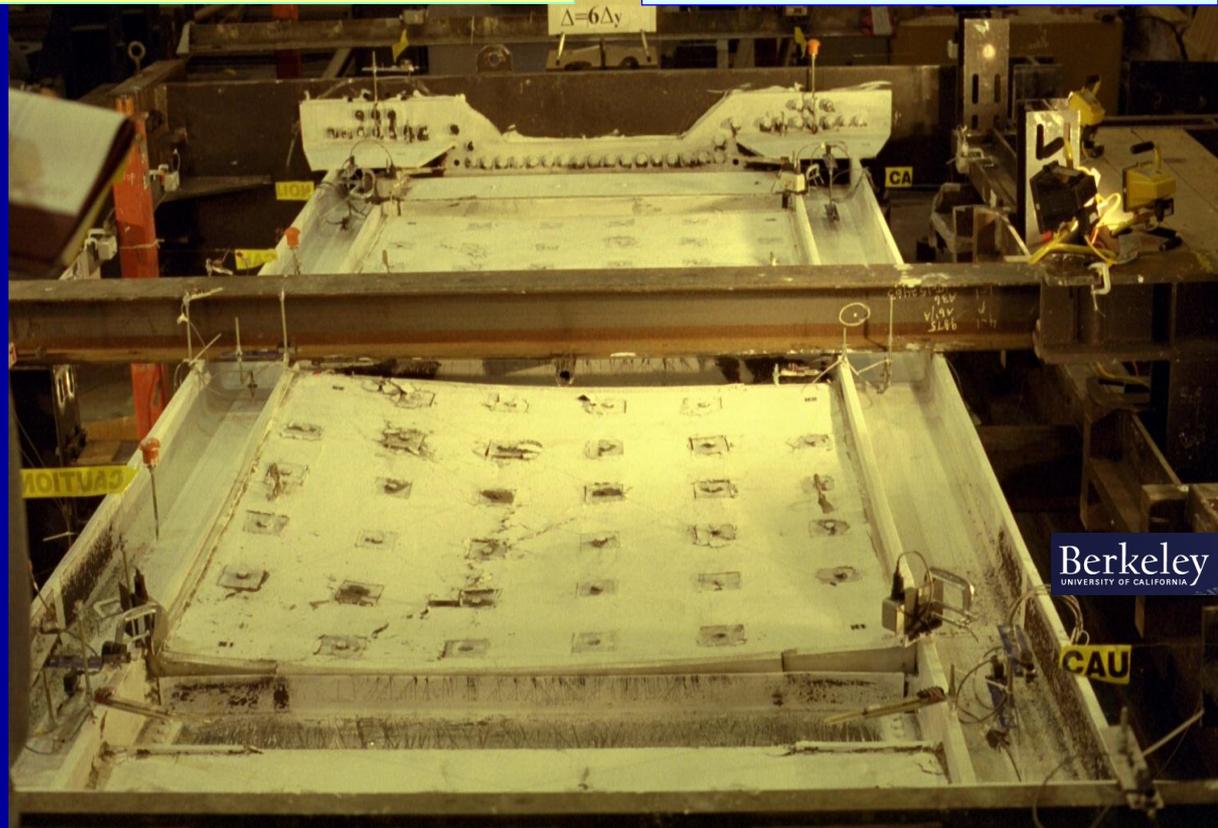
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Components of Composite Shear Wall



Berkeley  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

CAU



# **Comments**

## **on NIST Proposed Plan**

- 1. I strongly believe we need a comprehensive investigation of the collapse of the WTC collapse. The proposed NIST plan, in my opinion, is a sound plan and is what is needed to be done.**
- 2. The NIST plan can provide data on what changes are needed in structural design codes, construction and fireproofing methods as well as fire-fighting, evacuation and rescue procedures.**



# **A Suggestion on NIST Proposed Plan**

- 3. The expertise of academic researchers should be tapped to its full extent in the plan. The involvement of faculty researchers not only brings truly independent and highly qualified expertise to bear on this problem, but, it also helps to educate students whom upon graduation as scientists and engineers can apply the technology and continue disseminating the information generated in this project.**



# Concluding Remarks

**Since 9/11 there has been criticism of possible loss of data due to recycling of WTC steel and lack of researchers' access to ground zero.**



# Concluding Remark

**At this point, it is my belief that, thanks to the efforts of NSF faculty researchers and FEMA/BPAT as well as SEAONY engineers, NIST may have the necessary data and material to embark on this very important investigation.**



# Concluding Remark

**Finally, I would like to call on all sectors of the engineering and scientific community to support and participate fully in this very important effort.**

**I also would like to call on public to support the efforts of the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives which under the leadership of Chairman Boehlert and Congressman Weiner not only has initiated this investigation but has introduced legislation to designate NIST as the lead agency for such investigation in the future.**



# Concluding Remarks

**Only with efforts such as pending NIST plan, which will result in improving our design, construction, firefighting and rescue efforts, we can truly pay tribute to those who perished in the event of September 11 as well as prevent such tragic events in the future.**

**The NIST effort, which will result in saving countless lives in the future, will be a true and ever-lasting monument to the memories of those who perished on the September 11.**