World Housing Encyclopedia

A Resource on Construction in Earthquake Regions

an initiative of
Earthquake Engineering Research Institue (EERI) and
International Association for Earthquake Engineering (IAEE)

HOUSING REPORT

Precast RC frame buildings (Giron and SAE)

Report#	188
Last Updated	01/26/2016
Country	Cuba
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Important

This encyclopedia contains information contributed by various earthquake engineering professionals around the world. All opinions, findings, conclusions & recommendations

expressed herein are those of the various participants, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, the International Association for Earthquake Engineering, the Engineering Information Foundation, John A, Martin & Associates, Inc. or the participant’s organizations.

General Information

Building Type:	Precast RC frame buildings (Giron and SAE)
Country:	Cuba
Author(s):	Grisel Morejon Blanco Kenia Leyva Chang Dario Candebat Sanchez Zulima Rivera Alvarez Yelena Berenguer Heredia Madelin Villalon Semanat Dominik H. Lang Abdelghani Meslem
Last Updated:	01/26/2016
Regions Where Found:	Santiago de Cuba
Summary:	Precast RC frames in one direction with RC walls in one or two directions. Infill walls are made of hollow concrete blocks or rectangular fired clay bricks
Length of time practiced:	25-60 years
Still Practiced:	Yes
In practice as of:	G, GP: ~1970 -1990SAE: ~1990
Building Occupancy:	Other
Typical number of stories:	1-5
Terrain-Flat:	
Terrain-Sloped:	
Comments:	

Features

Plan Shape	Rectangular, solidL-shapeU- or C-shape
Additional comments on plan shape	

Typical plan length (meters)	
Typical plan width (meters)	
Typical story height (meters)	
Type of Structural System	Structural Concrete: Precast Concrete: Moment frame
Additional comments on structural system	Gravity: Precast RC slabs, transferring the gravity loads to the beams and columns and finally to the footingsLateral: The longitudinal direction comprises of squared (0.5 x 0.5 - 0.6 x 0.6 m) column pedestals which form a stiff connection towards individual footing plates with dimensions of ~2 x 2 m; the footing plates provide lateral stiffness by passive soil pressure and friction; sometimes the first story has column dimensions 0.35 x 0.60 m while the upper stories have column dimensions of 0.3 x 0.4 m.
Gravity load-bearing & lateral load-resisting systems	Precast dual system; the structural system comprises of rectangular columns, T-beams and floor slabs with ribs and shear walls
Typical wall densities in direction 1	>20%
Typical wall densities in direction 2	>20%
Additional comments on typical wall densities	
Wall Openings	
Is it typical for buildings of this type to have common walls with adjacent buildings?	
Modifications of buildings	
Type of Foundation	Other Foundation
Additional comments on foundation	The foundation system consists of spread footings with pedestals.
Type of Floor System	Precast concrete floor without reinforced concrete topping
Additional comments on	Prefabricated floor slab elements are supported by concrete beams; slab continuity is established by

floor system	cast-in-situ concrete with horizontal lap-spliced reinforcement in the upper layer.
Type of Roof System	Precast concrete roof without reinforced concrete topping
Additional comments on roof system	Prefabricated floor slab elements are supported by concrete beams; slab continuity is established by cast-in-situ concrete with horizontal lap-spliced reinforcement in the upper layer.
Additional comments section 2	

Building Materials and Construction Process

Description of Building Materials

Structural Element	Building Material (s)	Comment (s)
Wall/Frame		
Foundations		
Floors		
Roof		
Other		

Design Process

Who is involved with the design process?	Owner
Roles of those involved in the design process	
Expertise of those involved in the design process	

Construction Process

Who typically builds this construction type?	Other
Roles of those involved in the building process	
Expertise of those involved in building process	
Construction process and phasing	
Construction issues	

Building Codes and Standards

Is this construction type address by codes/standards?	Yes
Applicable codes or standards	NC 53-114:84
Process for building code enforcement	

Building Permits and Development Control Rules

Are building permits required?	
Is this typically informal construction?	
Is this construction typically authorized as per development control rules?	
Additional comments on building permits and development control rules	

Building Maintenance and Condition

Typical problems associated with this type of construction	
Who typically maintains buildings of this type?	Other
Additional comments on maintenance and building condition	

Construction Economics

Unit construction cost	12 CUC/m2
Labor requirements	
Additional comments section 3	

Socio-Economic Issues

Patterns of occupancy	
Number of inhabitants in a typical building of this construction type during the day	>20
Number of inhabitants in a typical building of this	<5

construction type during the evening/night	
Additional comments on number of inhabitants	
Economic level of inhabitants	Low-income class (poor)
Additional comments on economic level of inhabitants	
Typical Source of Financing	Other
Additional comments on financing	
Type of Ownership	Other
Additional comments on ownership	
Is earthquake insurance for this construction type typically available?	No
What does earthquake insurance typically cover/cost	
Are premium discounts or higher coverages available for seismically strengthened buildings or new buildings built to incorporate seismically resistant features?	
Additional comments on premium discounts	
Additional comments section 4	

Earthquakes

Past Earthquakes in the country which affected buildings of this type

Year	Earthquake Epicenter

Past Earthquakes

Damage patterns observed in past earthquakes for this construction type	Some damage was observed during a moderate earthquake; the main damage patterns consisted of fine cracks in infill walls, mainly starting from corners of openings and vertical fine cracks at wall corners; fine cracks in the seismic structural joints.
Additional comments on earthquake damage patterns	

Structural and Architectural Features for Seismic Resistance

The main reference publication used in developing the statements used in this table is FEMA 310 “Handbook for the Seismic Evaluation of Buildings-A Pre-standard”, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, D.C., 1998.

The total width of door and window openings in a wall is: For brick masonry construction in cement mortar : less than ½ of the distance between the adjacent cross walls; For adobe masonry, stone masonry and brick masonry in mud mortar: less than 1/3 of the distance between the adjacent cross walls; For precast concrete wall structures: less than 3/4 of the length of a perimeter wall.

Structural/Architectural Feature	Statement	Seismic Resistance
Lateral load path	The structure contains a complete load path for seismic force effects from any horizontal direction that serves to transfer inertial forces from the building to the foundation.	
Building Configuration-Vertical	The building is regular with regards to the elevation. (Specify in 5.4.1)	
Building Configuration-Horizontal	The building is regular with regards to the plan. (Specify in 5.4.2)	
Roof Construction	The roof diaphragm is considered to be rigid	

	and it is expected that the roof structure will maintain its integrity, i.e. shape and form, during an earthquake of intensity expected in this area.	
Floor Construction	The floor diaphragm(s) are considered to be rigid and it is expected that the floor structure(s) will maintain its integrity during an earthquake of intensity expected in this area.	
Foundation Performance	There is no evidence of excessive foundation movement (e.g. settlement) that would affect the integrity or performance of the structure in an earthquake.	
Wall and Frame Structures-Redundancy	The number of lines of walls or frames in each principal direction is greater than or equal to 2.	
Wall Proportions	Height-to-thickness ratio of the shear walls at each floor level is: Less than 25 (concrete walls); Less than 30 (reinforced masonry walls); Less than 13 (unreinforced masonry walls);	
Foundation-Wall Connection	Vertical load-bearing elements (columns, walls) are attached to the foundations; concrete columns and walls are doweled into the foundation.	
Wall-Roof Connections	Exterior walls are anchored for out-of-plane seismic effects at each diaphragm level with metal anchors or	

	straps.	
Wall Openings		
Quality of Building Materials	Quality of building materials is considered to be adequate per the requirements of national codes and standards (an estimate).	
Quality of Workmanship	Quality of workmanship (based on visual inspection of a few typical buildings) is considered to be good (per local construction standards).	
Maintenance	Buildings of this type are generally well maintained and there are no visible signs of deterioration of building elements (concrete, steel, timber).	

Building Irregularities

Additional comments on structural and architectural features for seismic resistance	
Vertical irregularities typically found in this construction type	Other
Horizontal irregularities typically found in this construction type	Other
Seismic deficiency in walls	The system has a non-ductile behavior; the joint column-column does not guarantee the correct transmission of seismic loads; the joint exhibits weak column-strong beam behavior; the GP variant (with open ground floor) is more vulnerable due to the presence of a soft story; the shear walls have major window openings that are susceptible for failure, considering their poor connections with frame members; in the transverse direction: concrete shear walls with thickness 0.1 m distributed at given axes, these walls are vulnerable for failure to earthquake.

Earthquake-resilient features in walls	
Seismic deficiency in frames	
Earthquake-resilient features in frame	
Seismic deficiency in roof and floors	
Earthquake resilient features in roof and floors	
Seismic deficiency in foundation	The way the foundations are built does not allow the construction of beams that meet the requirements for a seismic design.
Earthquake-resilient features in foundation	

Seismic Vulnerability Rating

For information about how seismic vulnerability ratings were selected see the Seismic Vulnerability Guidelines

	High vulnerability		Medium vulnerability		Low vulnerability	
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Seismic vulnerability class			o			

Retrofit Information

Description of Seismic Strengthening Provisions

Structural Deficiency	Seismic Strengthening

Additional comments on seismic strengthening provisions	
Has seismic	

strengthening described in the above table been performed?	
Was the work done as a mitigation effort on an undamaged building or as a repair following earthquake damages?	
Was the construction inspected in the same manner as new construction?	
Who performed the construction: a contractor or owner/user? Was an architect or engineer involved?	
What has been the performance of retrofitted buildings of this type in subsequent earthquakes?	
Additional comments section 6	

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