

CONSTRUCTION HISTORY

BILL ADDIS

The emergence of iron as construction material

Iron began to replace traditional materials for structural elements in buildings frequently from the 1770s. Its main benefits were its high strength and resistance to fire. The methods of manufacture led to entirely new types of structure which soon had an impact on building design and architecture. Furthermore, its very high cost demanded great economy and, for the first time, engineering science was employed to optimise the design of structures with regard to resource efficiency. This 'iron revolution' was largely complete by the 1850s.

Bill's main interest is the history of all branches of building engineering and the development of engineering design procedures since mediaeval times. He was editor of the journal Construction History for about 6 years and Chair of the editorial panel for Engineering History and Heritage for 6 years. He worked for over 15 years at the University of Reading followed by 15 years at Buro Happold Consulting Engineers in London. Since retiring in 2015 he has been a visiting Professor at Universities in Rome, Innsbruck, San Sebastian, Zurich, Brussels and Munich.

Time	Thursday April 29 2021, 11-12 AM (CET)
Register	The lecture will take place online, via MS Teams. Please register here before April 27.
Course	You will receive the link to join the day before Architectural and Construction History (before 1850)

This lecture is organised in the framework of the course 'Architectural and Construction History (before 1850)' by prof. Stephanie Van de Voorde. The course is part of the educational program Bachelor in Architectural Engineering and Master in Urban Studies. The invited lectures by (international) experts in the field are also open for a wider audience. For more information, contact stephanie.van.de.voorde@vub.be or see vub.be/arch



Boathouse No 6, Portsmouth dockyard, 1844. Cast-iron floor girder with wrought-iron trussing rods (photo Bill Addis).