

Application of Modular Air-Tuned Damper System in High-Rise Buildings

Sebastian MENDES, Ph.D., P.E.

Project Engineer

Thornton Tomasetti

New York City, USA

smendes@thorntontomasetti.com

Dr. Mendes has over five years of engineering experience and assisted with the analysis for this paper.

Zhi ZHANG, Ph.D.

Senior Engineer

Thornton Tomasetti

New York City, USA

zzhang@thorntontomasetti.com

Dr. Zhang has one year of engineering experience and performed the analysis for this paper.

Pierre GHISBAIN, Ph.D., P.E.

Senior Project Engineer

Thornton Tomasetti

New York City, USA

pghisbain@thorntontomasetti.com

Dr. Ghisbain developed Thornton Tomasetti's in-house design tool for evaluating the performance of high-rise buildings installed with air-tuned damper systems.

Marguerite PINTO, P.E.

Vice President

Thornton Tomasetti

New York City, USA

mpinto@thorntontomasetti.com

Marguerite Pinto oversaw the development and installation of Thornton Tomasetti's prototype air-tuned damper system in Brooklyn.

Elisabeth MALSCH, Ph.D., P.E.

Senior Principal

Thornton Tomasetti

New York City, USA

emalsch@thorntontomasetti.com

Dr. Malsch pioneered the development of the air-tuned damper system at Thornton Tomasetti.

Contact: smendes@thorntontomasetti.com

1 Abstract

High-rise buildings are progressively being designed and constructed in increasingly slender and complex shapes. Consequently, excessive wind-induced vibrations of these structures are a growing serviceability concern due to their flexibility. Tuned mass dampers (TMDs) are regularly incorporated into high-rise buildings for mitigating excessive wind-induced vibrations. However, traditional TMDs are only effective over a narrow domain of frequencies, require an immense mass and occupy a significant volume of interior space. A novel modular air-tuned damper system was developed which is more cost-effective and flexible in distributing its mass throughout a building to make efficient use of unused space. Importantly, the air-tuned damper system is capable of being tuned across a broad domain of frequencies to more effectively alleviate wind-induced vibrations. This paper presents a case study demonstrating the performance of a high-rise building under 1-year and 10-year wind events whilst equipped with the air-tuned damper system. Dynamic analyses were performed for evaluating the reductions of the building's lateral accelerations considering different air-tuned damper configurations. The performance of the building under the different damper configurations is discussed.

Keywords: wind-induced vibrations; vibration mitigation; tuned mass damper; air-tuned damper