



topics. However, a few questions will need to be asked of the architect. For example, if the structural steel will be exposed after construction, is an architecturally exposed structural steel (AESS) framing section required? As another example, will the structural steel receive spray-applied fire protection? If so, and the common case of no paint or primer on this steel is not applicable, coordination is required to ensure that the coating and fire protection are compatible.

*Architecturally Exposed Structural Steel Framing*—If the design requires architecturally exposed structural steel, the architect's expectations of the finished product need to be vetted, especially with regard to the appearance of welded joints and finish. The surface preparation and the primer selection need to be coordinated with the finish expectations. The majority of the time, a high-performance coating will be required. In my experience, the high-performance coating has appeared in both the architecturally exposed structural steel framing and the architectural

*Metal Stairs*—Again, this is another specification that some structural engineers like to author. However, in reality, the structural engineer can request this section from the specifier for review. As for the structural performance requirements for the stairs and railings, the master specifications include the load requirements from the 2006 *International Building Code*. I personally have not had a project requiring more stringent structural performance requirements than those included in the 2006 *IBC*. But once again, this is a section that the architect modifies up until the last minute, usually due to value engineering changes. The railing in 11—and even the type of stairs—is subject to revision (pre-assembled steel stairs with concrete 11 to industrial type stairs with floor plate treads). Some of the stairs included in this section are ornamental (architectural). When ornamental stairs are required, welding and finishing expectations need additional coordination with the architect.

*Pipe and Tube Railings*—If the structural engineer wants to edit this section, the materials and finishes of the different types of railings required need coordination. I have observed that the structural engineer is really only interested in the structural performance requirements, not the materials and finishes. The master specification for this section, like many other structural steel sections, includes performance requirements according to the 2006 *IBC*. I believe a review of this section, after editing by the specifier, is all that is required.

*Steel Piles*—I've included this section as an example as to why it is important to determine which version of MasterFormat is being used. I(n