

MEET A SEAMASS MEMBER:

Han Xu, PE

Han is a Principal with Thornton Tomasetti in Boston, and a Director on the SEAMASS Board. He has 24 years of professional experience with structural design of buildings, bridges, and infrastructure projects. His engineering and project management expertise includes structural design of steel, concrete, masonry, and timber structures for projects ranging from design of new buildings to structural alteration and renovation of existing buildings. Currently he leads the structural design of many types of building projects including academic buildings, lab and research buildings, student housings, commercial office buildings, museums, libraries, healthcare facilities, industrial facilities, district energy centers, etc.



Han serves as the Northeastern Regional Technical Coordinator for Thornton Tomasetti. He also sits on the Structural Advisory Committee of the Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) of the State of Massachusetts.

Han earned his M.S.C.E. from the University of Maine, Orono, and B.S.C.E., from Nanchang University, Nanchang, Jiangxi, China. He is a Licensed Professional Engineer in MA, ME, CT, RI, NY, NH, VT and NJ.

He has answered the questions below, so we may get to know him better. Thank you, Han, for your contributions to SEAMASS and the Structural Engineering profession!

Why did you join SEAMASS?

I joined SEAMASS because I want to contribute more to our structural engineering community in MA by promoting professional knowledge-sharing. I will work with my fellow directors on the Board to help attract more structural engineers from throughout MA to join and actively participate in our community.

As an engineer, what accomplishments are you most proud of?

I'm proud that I've had opportunities to collaborate with experts in different fields such as architecture, mechanical, construction, etc. I am always amazed at how the collaboration of different people can make impossible things possible. I am proud to be a structural engineer. How cool it is that the stuff you drew on paper will actually be built in a couple of years, and will stand for decades for people to use and enjoy!

Describe a project that you're involved with.

I am currently working on the 10 World Trade project in Boston's Seaport. The project consists of a 17-story, 600,000 GSF lab-office tower, a public assembly space with amazing landscape design in the adjacent triangle-shaped parcel, and a pedestrian bridge connecting two parcels over an active Mass Turnpike off-ramp. A portion of the underground MBTA Silver Line Bus Tunnel across the lab-office tower site is in the middle. At the same time, the architect envisions an open public assembly area at the ground floor.

Ultimately, the solution we developed to resolve all the structural challenges is an arch-shaped transfer truss system on four sides of the tower at the bottom, similar to the Eiffel Tower. I learned a lot through the design and construction phases of the project. It is currently under construction, and if all goes as planned, you will see the tower steel topping off by the end of 2023. I am looking forward to it!

How do you spend your free time?

In my free time I enjoy playing tennis with my wife Lin, hiking, swimming, and skiing with my son Aiden (11) and my daughter Abby (6). We love the fall and winter in NE. When I have time, I go to Stone Meadow in Lexington to hit some balls at the driving range; however, my golf skill still needs a lot of work.