

Italian philosophy and quality of structure

Philosophers in Italy are exhibiting their deep considerations on the present community and a good life. Structural engineers could also take such ideas into account for activating their motivations to produce works of good quality. Safety is the main issue for structures and its appropriateness can be discussed by a cost-benefit formula for engineering decision making. Aesthetics of a form or pleasure of a space seems to be a different issue from engineering decision problems but still is an element of structural engineering. The resilience has been pointed out in disaster mitigation programs and is closely related or a part of safety issue but sometimes is not considered at a design stage. Regulations are legal rules and provide minimum requirements which may be justified from the cost-benefit formula. Since the structural engineering works in economic market world, the cost competition is inevitable. Fundamental problems of regulation-based engineering are discussed and how to improve the quality of structure which includes the pleasure and the resilience for example to achieve a good life rather than a life formulated by the minimum requirements in terms of the law.