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International Award of Merit in Structural Engineering to Hans Wittfoht

*«Die Fantasie ist es aber,
die uns beflügeln muss».*

Hans Wittfoht 1979

At the opening of the Symposium 'Durability of Structures' in Lisbon on September 6, 1989, the President of IABSE presented Dr. Hans Wittfoht with the International Award of Merit in Structural Engineering. Hans Wittfoht received the award in appreciation of his outstanding contributions to the art and science of prestressed concrete and in recognition of his achievements in the design and construction of bridges.

Hans Wittfoht, born in 1924 in Wittingen, FRG, received his diploma in civil engineering 1951 and his doctor's degree in 1963 at the Technical University of Karlsruhe. Already in the year 1946 he joined Polensky & Zöllner, a firm which owes its considerable success largely to him. In 40 years with the same firm he became member of the Board in 1968 and was an active Partner from 1970 to 1987. In this duty he was responsible for technical developments and overseas activities.

Imagination and courage are two essential attributes of Hans Wittfoht and account for his rather daring design and construction of bridges. He is the inventor of inter-



Hans Wittfoht



The president of IABSE, Prof. Hans von Gunten (left), presents the document to Dr. Hans Wittfoht

nationally accepted methods for the construction of prestressed concrete bridges with his climbing formwork equipment and his free cantilever system. His most startling constructions admired by experts are the Krahenberg bridge along the Rhine (1961-64), the Siegen-Eiserfeld highway bridge (1965-69), the Köhlbrand bridge in Hamburg (1970-74) and the first prestressed concrete bridge put in place by rotation, over the river Tigris in Baghdad (1980-82).

In spite of his strong involvement as a partner of an important firm Hans Wittfoht never hesitated to share his professional experiences to colleagues by numerous lectures and publications. In addition, he is involved in several national and international associations. From 1984 to 1988 he was President of the Fédération Internationale de la Précontrainte (FIP). Since 1985 he has been chairman of the German Concrete Society (DBV). From 1983 to 1987 he was president of the Technical Committee of IABSE and since 1987 he has been Vice President of IABSE.