

A photograph of a modern two-story office building with large windows and a light-colored facade. The building is surrounded by trees and a parking lot.

Structural Design Example Two-Story Office Building

This Bautex Engineering Report provides an example of the structural engineering details and design considerations for constructing a representative project using Bautex Block as a load-bearing wall system. This example utilizes accepted engineering design models and calculations, but is not intended to be used as plans for the construction of an actual building, and does not take the place of actual engineering design. .

PROJECT BACKGROUND

According to the United States Green Building Council, buildings in the United States account for 38% of all CO₂ emissions and 73% of all electricity consumption. They also claim that high performing "Green" buildings consume 25% less energy than conventional structures and have a significantly higher occupant satisfaction rating.

Bautex Block, a Composite Insulating Concrete Form (ICF) wall system, is very well suited for the construction of office buildings based on their energy efficiency performance, cost effectiveness, durability, and life safety.

In this example Bautex Block is used to construct a two-story office building with a total wall height of 34'-8", with a floor diaphragm located at 20'-0", roof diaphragm at 32'-0", and a 2'-8" tall parapet section. Building depth is 60'-0" with an interior load bearing wall at 30'-0" supporting the floor and roof joists.

The front of the building includes six 4'-0" wide by 10'-0" tall windows on the first level, and six 4'-0" wide by 4'-0" tall windows on the second floor stacked vertically over the first floor windows.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

Building Summary:

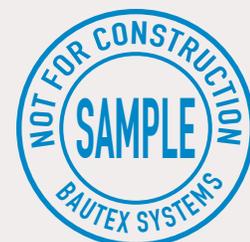
Type: Office Building
Stories: 2
Floor Height: 20 feet
Roof Height: 32 feet
Total Wall Height: 34.67 feet
Building Depth: 60 feet

Loading:

Roof Live Load = 20PSF
Roof Dead Load = 10PSF
Wind Load:
Out of Plane = 25PSF

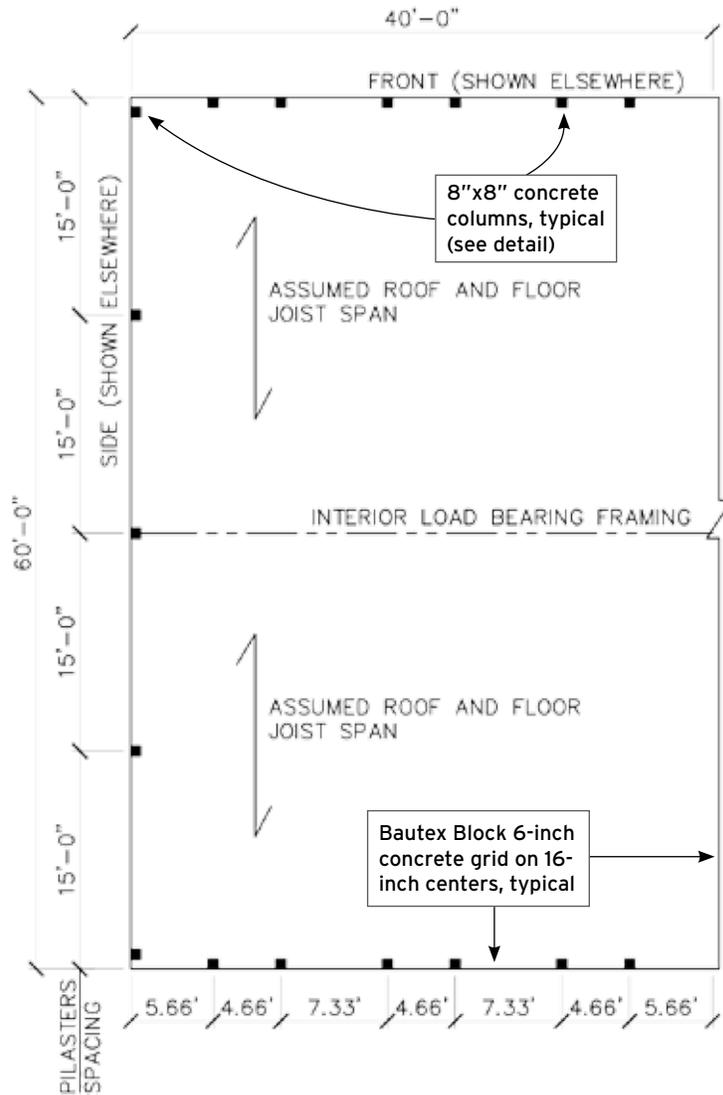
References:

ACI 318-2011
2012 International Building Code (IBC)

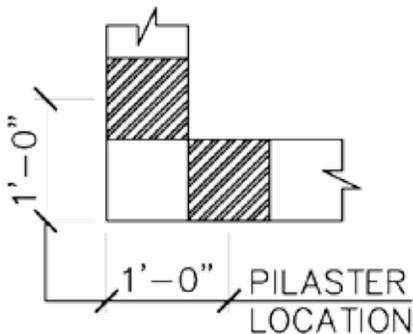


PLAN VIEW

Window openings and lateral deflection control the structural design of the office building. This engineering example uses 8-inch concrete pilasters every 15'-0" maximum, including at corners and openings.



CORNER DETAIL



ENGINEERING DESIGN

The structural design for the 2-story office example was done using a RISA 3D model and design calculations from ACI 318. The eccentricity at the top of the wall was assumed to be 5-1/2 inches.

In this case, the model showed that lateral deflection ($L/360$) controls design of the structural members. The standard concrete grid in the Bautex Block carries much of the load on the walls, but the walls must be augmented with 8-inch concrete pilasters at various locations and spacings.

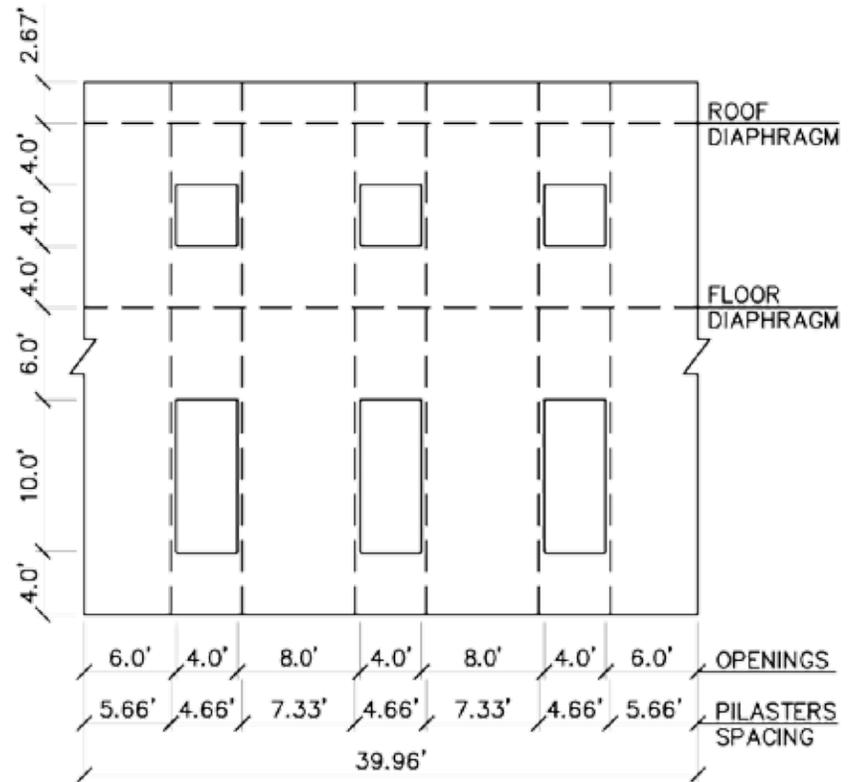
Concrete specified for this project was 4,000 psi structural concrete at 8-9" slump and 3/8" maximum aggregate for all the walls, including pilasters. Bautex Block grid and enhanced beams and columns are poured at the same time.

Screen Grid

Bautex Block provides standard 6-inch cylindrical concrete columns and beams on 16-inch centers throughout the wall section. In these areas, #5 reinforcement bar was specified in all the Bautex cores, both vertically and horizontally.

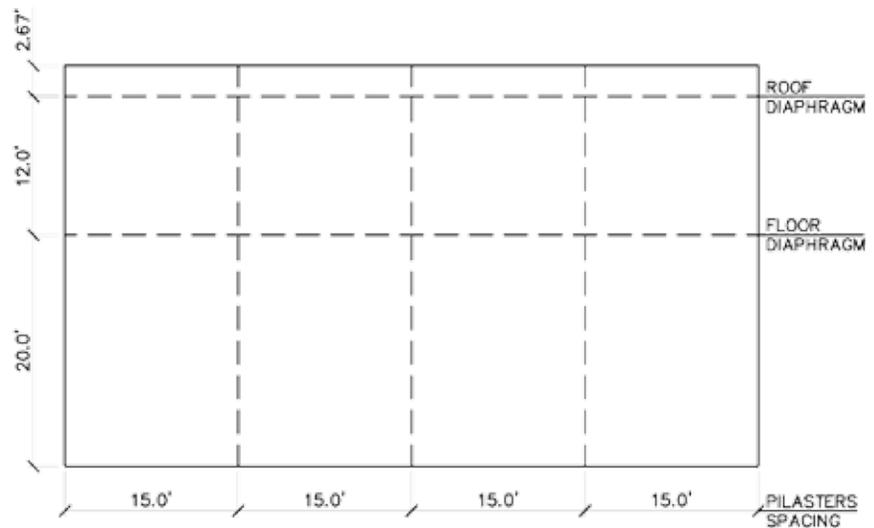
FRONT ELEVATION

Total wall height is 34'-8" with the second floor plate height at 20'-0" and roof plate height at 32'-0". Design includes 8-inch concrete pilasters on either side of openings and at corners on the front and rear walls (40'-0" bay pictured).

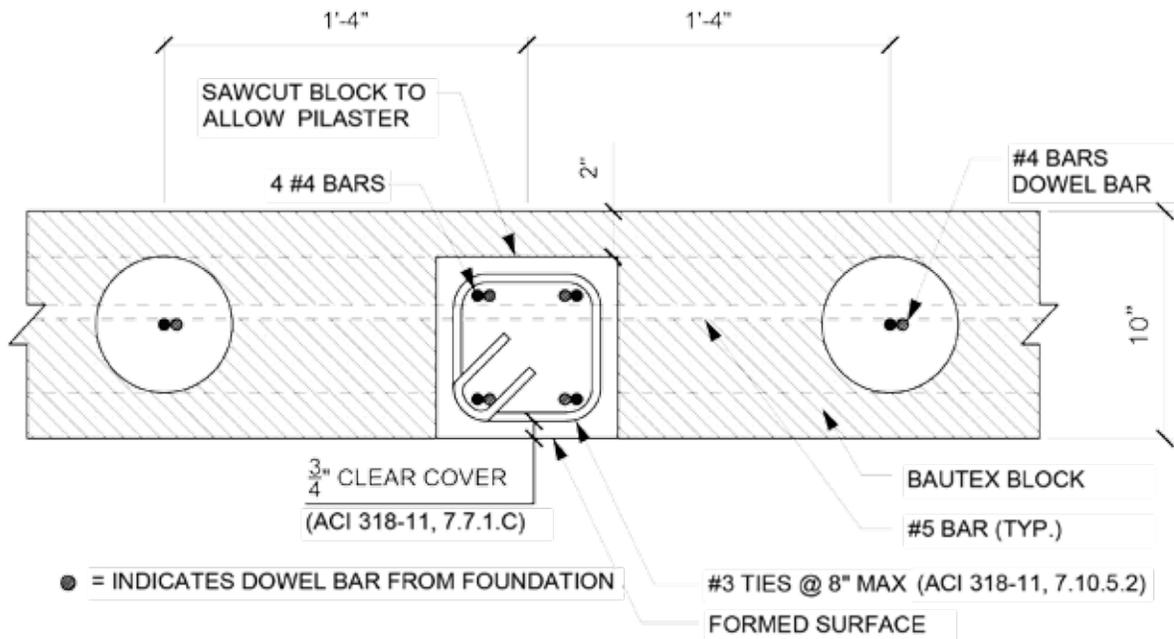


SIDE ELEVATION

The non load-bearing sides of the office require 8-inch pilasters on 15'-0" centers. With a building depth of 60'-0", five columns are required on each of the sides of the building.



8" PILASTER DETAIL



Enhanced Concrete Elements

To provide enhanced structural capacity for the walls in certain areas where required, the design called for the construction of 8-inch concrete pilasters using #4 reinforcement bar as shown in the pilaster detail.

The pilasters are formed on three sides using the Bautex Block and standard concrete shoring on the fourth side. The pilasters are connected to the standard Bautex concrete grid by passing reinforcement bar horizontally through the pilaster, connecting the horizontal cores in the walls extending to either side of the pilaster (see Pilaster Detail).

The spacing of pilasters on the front and rear load bearing walls is dictated by the openings. Pilasters are located on both sides of each window, and also serve as an enhanced window jamb. There are three windows and six pilasters in each bay on both the front and back sides of the building.

There are three pilasters on each of the non-load bearing sides of the building on 24'-0" spacings just off both corners and mid span.

RESULTS

In this example project, all of the exterior load bearing walls were constructed using concrete and Bautex Block. Supplemental structural systems were not required. The ability to use a single wall system to provide the structure, building envelope, and insulation significantly simplifies and speeds up construction, and can help to reduce overall project costs.

In addition to structural capacity and design flexibility, the patent-pending Bautex Block provides R-14 continuous insulation and thermal mass, 4-hour load bearing fire rating, very low noise transmission STC of 51, and is a FEMA 320/361 compliant safe room material. Bautex Block is manufactured in San Marcos, Texas.

BAUTEX ENGINEERING SERVICES

The structural design of the Bautex Wall System is based on widely understood specifications from the American Concrete Institute's Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete - ACI 318. For more information, consult the Bautex Wall System Design & Engineering Guide.

To streamline and make your design process more efficient, Bautex does offer to have a completely engineered wall system with sealed structural engineering plans provided for your next project.

For more information on engineering design and solutions, visit the Bautex Systems website or contact our sales and construction support teams.



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