The Key Construction Technology Research on the Intercontinental Shanghai Wonderland

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The Intercontinental Shanghai Wonderland is the first natural ecological hotel built in an abandoned mine in the world, which faces many difficulties in the construction process. To solve the difficult problems in the construction process, the study was carried out from the stability analysis of the deep pit cliff, the mechanical performance of the structure, and the construction technology. The Intercontinental Shanghai Wonderland is built around the abandoned deep pit cliffs, and the stability of the deep pit cliffs directly affects the safety of the building. The dynamic response characteristics and the instability characteristics of the mine slope under the dynamic response were analyzed by a three-dimensional dynamic finite element method. The calculation results showed that with effective anchoring support measures, the stability coefficient of slope under static load and small earthquakes was large, which had a certain safety margin. Under the action of large earthquakes, the slope could still meet the stability requirements. The structure of the Intercontinental Shanghai Wonderland is a unique two-point support structure system. It shows the deformation and stress characteristics of one fixed end and one simply supported end under horizontal load. The elastic-plastic time history response of structures under actions of rare earthquakes was analyzed through the finite element analysis software. The analysis results show that the current structural system along with the design of component size and strength can meet the seismic performance of the structure under actions of rare earthquakes. The Intercontinental Shanghai Wonderland was built in a stone pit 88 m below the surface. Therefore, the transportation of materials was a difficulty in the construction process. A set of ultra-deep concrete downward conveying equipment was invented to solve the difficulty. The construction process of the whole structure was simulated by finite element software, which provided a safety guarantee for the construction of the whole structure.

1. Introduction

The Intercontinental Shanghai Wonderland is the first natural ecological hotel built in an abandoned mine with −88 m depth, which has set a world record for the lowest five-star hotel in the world. The Intercontinental Shanghai Wonderland and the Burj al Arab are listed as two of the world’s top 10 architectural wonders. The Intercontinental Shanghai Wonderland is close to the mine cliff, which has a height of more than 80 m. The stability of the cliff slope has a significant influence on the structure safety. According to the mine pit construction environment, a new type of two-point support structure is adopted in the Intercontinental Shanghai Wonderland. The mechanical characteristics of the structure under horizontal load are not typical “cantilever beam” characteristics in high-rise buildings. It shows a special “simply supported beam” characteristic with one end fixed and the other end hinged. The concrete transportation had to be carried down the cliff for 80 m, and the amount of concrete foundation at the bottom of the pit exceeds 50,000 m³. There are many challenges during the construction process.

For complex structural engineering, it is essential to master the mechanical properties in the process of structure construction. However, the mechanical properties in the construction process and the final state of completion are
While the previous studies focus on the above-ground structures, there were few studies that focus on the structures built in an abandoned mine. In this paper, the Intercontinental Shanghai Wonderland is taken as an engineering background, with a complex built environment, a new structure system, and difficulties in building materials transportation and construction. According to the project characteristics, the construction technology of the Intercontinental Shanghai Wonderland was analyzed from the aspects of cliff stability analysis, structural system seismic performance, and construction method.

## 2. Engineering Situation

The Intercontinental Shanghai Wonderland is located in the abandoned mine pit of Tianma Mountain in Songjiang District, an ancient city in the western suburbs of Shanghai. The mine pit is approximately elliptical, with an east-west length of about 280 m and a north-south width of about 220 m. The most profound depth of the pit is 88 m, and the slope foot of the deep pit cliff is about 80°, as shown in Figure 1.

The Intercontinental Shanghai Wonderland project covers an area of 105,350 m². It consists of a five-star hotel and associated buildings with a total construction area of 62,171.9 m², 16 floors in the pit (including 2 underwater floors), and 2 floors above the pit. According to the mine pit construction environment, a new type of two-point support structure is adopted. The main building in the pit is fixed to the weakly weathered bedrock at the bottom of the pit through a block box foundation. Meanwhile, the steel truss is connected to the bedrock at the top of the pit by hinged bearings. The main structure is a steel frame structure system with supports, composed of the main tower structure and the apron structure. The typical building layout diagrams are shown in Figures 2–4.

Due to the particularity of the construction environment, this project needed to solve the following difficulties:

1. The Intercontinental Shanghai Wonderland is located in an abandoned mine pit. The building is close to the cliff, and the nearest place is only 1 m away from the cliff. The cliff slope has a height of more than 80 m, which belongs to the super slope. The stability of the cliff slope has an important impact on the safety of buildings and personnel. It is necessary to analyze and evaluate the stability of the cliff slope to ensure that the super slope is safe and reliable.

2. The main building in the pit is fixed to the weakly weathered bedrock at the bottom of the pit through a block box foundation. Meanwhile, the steel truss is connected to the bedrock at the top of the pit by hinged bearings. Therefore, the mechanical characteristics of the structure under horizontal load are not typical "cantilever beam" characteristics in high-rise buildings. It shows a special "simply supported beam" characteristic with one end fixed and the other end hinged. Seismic waves will be transmitted to the main structure through the base rock of the pit.
bottom and the top of the pit. The conventional calculation method of seismic action does not apply to this project.

(3) The amount of concrete foundation at the bottom of the pit exceeds 50,000 m³. The concrete transportation had to be carried down the cliff for 80 m.
and then horizontally transported 200 m at the bottom. The concrete transportation process is easy to block the pipe and segregate. Due to the steep cliff, people and vehicles could not pass through, which made it challenging to transport concrete. The main steel structure is a hyperbolic structure, with a maximum vertical inclination of 23°. The construction process required high stress and deformation control. The total steel used for the structure is about 6846 tons, and the heaviest single component is 32 tons. Moreover, the construction site was limited, which made the construction difficult.

3. Key Construction Technology of the Intercontinental Shanghai Wonderland

3.1. Stability Analysis of Deep Pit Cliff. The Intercontinental Shanghai Wonderland is located in an abandoned mine pit with a depth of 80 m. After years of weathering, the cliff surface has been completely weathered, as shown in Figure 5. To ensure the stability of the slope of the main building during construction and operation, the geological structure of mine pit was investigated and analyzed. The surveyed area was divided into 4 areas. The hotel project is located in area No. 3, as shown in Figure 6.

The investigation results showed that there were nearly east-west compressive and torsional microfaults on the south side of the mine pit, with a dip angle of 195°. They are composed of mylonite and mylonitized broken rock where chloritization and clayization are common. The rock types in the four areas surveyed in the abandoned pit were all neutral volcanic lava, which was dense in lithology and mainly composed of andesite. There was a small amount of horn flash andesite and quartz andesite. They were fully weathered andesite, strongly weathered andesite, moderately weathered andesite, and slightly weathered andesite. There was a tiny...
fault with a large dip angle in the No. 3 area where the project is located.

According to the geological conditions of the deep pit, the slope support was supported by prestressed anchor cables, anchor bolt, and sprayed concrete. Prestressed anchor cable supports were adopted in the range of slope elevation 0 to 11.5 m, and sprayed concrete was applied on the surface. The prestressed anchor cables adopted unbonded free anchor cables with a bore diameter of 170 mm, designed prestress of 750 kN to 1750 kN, and total lengths of 15 m to 35 m. 2000 prestressed anchor cables were used in total. The drilling diameter of the anchor bolt was 100 mm. The support at the bottom of the slope used an anchor bolt with a diameter of 25 mm. The support for the strong weathering layer used an anchor bolt with a diameter of 30 mm. The total number of the 25 mm anchor bolt was 2988, and the 30 mm anchor bolt was 9789, as shown in Figure 7.

The stability of the pit slope is critical because it directly affects the safe use of buildings in the pit. To truly reflect the 3D stress state of the pit, a 3D dynamic finite element method was used to establish a 3D solid mechanical model of the pit. The dynamic response characteristics of the slope under earthquake action and the instability characteristics of the slope were then analyzed.

3.1.1. Finite Element Model. The Abaqus software is used to carry out the mode analyzing calculation, and the 3D finite element model is shown in Figure 8. The entire model was 130 m high, 677.4 m long, and 626 m wide. For earthquake response analysis, the boundary of the model is an infinite element, the total number of elements was 247867, and the total number of nodes was 253779. The mesh elements around the pit were densely divided, and the maximum size of the elements was not more than $2 \times 2 \times 2$ m. The total number of units in the dense range was 185729.

As shown in Figure 9, the slope surface of the pit was modeled according to the actual situation on-site. The model was built according to the fault information documented in the geological survey report. The faults in the mine pit were considered in the finite element model. To simulate the actual situation of the bottom of the pit, the three partial protrusions at the bottom of the pit were also simulated in the finite element. The green unit in the finite element model was the fault weakening layer. The top elevation of the model was +0 m. The bottom elevation of the pit was ~80 m. The bottom elevation of the model was −130 m. The profile of the pit model is shown in Figure 10. The first layer of the pit was miscellaneous fill, as shown in the yellow unit. The second layer was grey clay, as shown in off-white. The third layer was yellow clay, as shown in red. The fourth layer was the middle-weathered rock, as shown in black. The fifth layer was slightly weathered rock, as shown in white. The thickness of the upper three layers of soil L was 38 m. The total height of the five layers H was 130 m. The material properties are shown in Table 1.
To simulate the reinforcement effects of anchor bolts on the pit, the anchor bolts were simulated as link elements. Further, the pretension force was applied to the link elements to simulate the prestress loading effects, as shown in Figure 11.

### 3.1.2. Finite Element Calculation Results

The static load was applied to the 3D model, and the calculated result was taken as the initial stress state of the model. Then, under the conditions of no support and anchoring support, the overall stability of the pit with three working cases was investigated.
There different cases, static overload, small earthquake, and large earthquake, were considered, as shown in Table 2.

In the static overload calculation, the load includes the dead weight of the structure and the overload of the upper structure. In the earthquake responses’ analysis, the maximum input acceleration value is 180 gal in the large earthquake state and 34 gal in the small earthquake state. This was done by applying seismic action in the horizontal direction at the bottom of the model. Based on the calculation results of large earthquakes, the calculation results were analyzed. Under the condition of no support, the maximum total displacement was 150 mm, which appeared on the boundary of the pit. The maximum displacement around the pit was 40 mm. The maximum stress was 5.4 MPa, and the area of greater stress was at the bottom of the pit. Under the condition of anchoring support, the maximum displacement around the pit was 80 mm, which appeared on the boundary of the pit. The maximum displacement around the pit was 20 mm. The rock mass instability of the pit is judged by the equivalent plastic strain penetrating from the foot to the top of the slope. Under the condition of no support (factor of safety $F_s = 1.0$), the equivalent plastic strain of the pit penetrated from the foot of the slope to the top of the slope, and the pit reached an unstable state. Under the conditions of anchoring support (factor of safety $F_s = 1.4$), the equivalent plastic strain of the pit penetrated from the foot of the slope to the top of the slope. The calculation results of relative displacement and stability coefficient of slope under different working conditions are shown in Table 3. The calculation results showed that with effective anchoring support measures, the stability coefficient of slope under static load and small earthquakes was large, which had a certain safety margin. Under the action of large earthquakes, the slope could still meet the stability requirements.

### Table 2: The analysis cases.

| Stage | Analysis case | Support type |
|-------|---------------|--------------|
| 1     | Static overload | No support   |
| 2     | Small earthquake | Anchoring support |
| 3     | Large earthquake | No support   |

### Table 3: Calculation result of slope stability.

| Working conditions | Displacement (mm) | Factor of safety |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| No support         | Anchoring support | No support      |
| Static overload    | 0.18              | 1.8             |
| Small earthquake   | 13                | 1.2             |
| Large earthquake   | 125               | 1.0             |
| Supported steel frames are arranged in the guest room area. The frame columns are inclined concrete-filled steel tube columns. The main concrete-filled steel tube columns have a diameter of 600 mm and a thickness of 30 mm. The concrete-filled steel tube column and steel frame beam are made of Q345. The strength of the filled concrete in the tube is C80. |
3.2.1. Modal Analysis of the Intercontinental Shanghai Wonderland. The modal analysis of the Intercontinental Shanghai Wonderland was conducted through the finite element software ETABS and MIDAS. The results of the modal analysis are shown in Table 4. The values in parentheses are the results of MIDAS calculation. The first mode, second mode, and third mode of the outer part are Y translation, X translation, and Torsion, respectively. The first three modes of Tower 1 are X translation, Y translation, and Torsion, respectively. The first three modes of Tower 2 are Y translation, X translation, and Torsion, respectively. The vibration modes of the different parts are shown in Figures 14–16. The calculated period ratios of the first mode and third mode are tabulated in Table 4. These ratios of the outer part, Tower 1, and Tower 2 were 0.86, 0.62, and 0.51, respectively, which met the specification requirements.

3.2.2. Seismic Performance Analysis of the Intercontinental Shanghai Wonderland. To determine whether the structure meets the antiseismic design goal (not collapsing under the action of rare earthquakes), an overall 3D model was established in Sap2000. The plastic hinge model was utilized to simulate the concrete-filled steel tube, and the parameters of the plastic hinge model adopt the unified strength theory, which was put forward by Zhong [13]. The elastoplastic time history analysis under this condition was then carried out. The bottom of the building is fixed on the foundation of the pit while the top of the building is hinged on the concrete beam at the top of the pit. The mechanical characteristics of the structure under horizontal load show a special “simply supported beam” characteristic with one end fixed and the other end hinged, as shown in Figure 17. According to the principle of seismic wave propagation, the peak acceleration of the seismic ground motion and the seismic impact coefficient of the response spectrum should be amplified compared to the base seismic motion. The height difference between the support point M and the support point N is 80 m. The earthquake action of this project is very different from the ordinary building structure, and the response spectrum method cannot solve the problems of the seismic design of this project. Therefore, the time history analysis method was used to solve the seismic design problem of this multipoint support structure. Generally, there are two types of input seismic excitation for time history analysis of multipoint support structures. One is to use the displacement of the seismic ground motion as a dynamic load to establish a dynamic balance equation about the absolute coordinate system, which is called the displacement input model. The other is to use the acceleration of the ground motion as a dynamic load to establish the dynamic balance equation, which is called the acceleration input model. If the acceleration input model is used, the software will integrate the acceleration twice during the calculation process. This will produce two constants, namely, the initial velocity and the initial displacement. The software will not modify the constants generated during the integration process, resulting in displacement drift. Therefore, the seismic excitation input of this project adopted the displacement input model.

According to the safety assessment report, the time-waves were all artificial waves, and three sets of artificial waves were selected. The peak displacements of the three sets of artificial waves at points M and N are shown in Table 5. For each group of seismic waves, two acceleration inputs...
were considered in X and Y directions. Three sets of seismic waves were calculated for a total of six working conditions, as shown in Table 6. Working condition 1 was No. 1 seismic wave \(1.0x + 0.85y\). Working condition 2 was No. 1 seismic wave \(0.85x + 1.0y\). Working condition 3 was No. 2 seismic wave \(1.0x + 0.85y\). Working condition 4 was No. 2 seismic wave \(0.85x + 1.0y\). Working condition 5 was No. 3 seismic wave \(1.0x + 0.85y\). Working condition 6 was No. 3 seismic wave \(0.85x + 1.0y\).

The maximum base shear forces of the tower structure under six working conditions are shown in Table 7. In the X direction, the average values of the maximum base shear forces of Tower 1 and Tower 2 are 28011 kN and 46007 kN, respectively. In the Y direction, the average values of the maximum base shear forces of Tower 1 and Tower 2 are 38192 kN and 14807 kN, respectively. Under each working condition, the maximum layer displacement angle was within 1/250, which satisfied the limit requirement of 1/50 of the seismic code. Under the working conditions 1 and 2, some concrete-filled steel tubular columns produced plastic hinge at the bottom of the structure and the connection between the top structure and span truss. However, there was no plastic hinge that occurred in the steel supports and steel beams. Further, no component produced plastic hinge under working conditions 3 and 4. Under working conditions 5 and 6, some concrete-filled steel tubular columns produced plastic hinge at the bottom of the structure, some steel supports produced plastic hinge at the top of the structure, and no plastic hinge occurred in the steel beams. The distribution of plastic hinges is shown in Figure 18.
Figure 15: Vibration mode diagram of Tower 1. (a) The first mode (X translation). (b) The second mode (Y translation). (c) The third mode (torsion).

Figure 16: Vibration mode diagram of Tower 2. (a) The first mode (Y translation). (b) The second mode (X translation). (c) The third mode (torsion).
The compressive yield strain of concrete-filled steel tube columns was about 0.12%, and the ultimate compressive strain exceeded 1%. The strain time curves of the typical bottom concrete-filled steel tube column with plastic hinge under condition 1 and condition 2 are shown in Figures 19 and 20, respectively. The maximum plastic strain of concrete-filled steel tube columns was only 0.16%, which had just exceeded the compressive yield strain of 0.12%. This was far from reaching the ultimate compressive strain of 1%. It was indicated that the concrete-filled steel tube column has just entered plasticity under a rare earthquake, and the degree of plasticity was low. Therefore, the current structural system along with the design of component size and strength can meet the seismic performance of the structure under actions of rare earthquakes.
Figure 18: Schematic diagram of plastic hinge distribution. (a) Condition 1. (b) Condition 2. (c) Condition 3. (d) Condition 4. (e) Condition 5. (f) Condition 6.

Figure 19: The strain time curves of the typical bottom concrete-filled steel tube column of Tower 1 with a plastic hinge. (a) Condition 1. (b) Condition 2.
3.3. Construction Technology of Intercontinental Shanghai Wonderland

3.3.1. Construction Technology of Downward Ultradeep Concrete Transportation. The deep pit hotel is built in a steep deep pit where the bottom of the pit is complex. Meanwhile, the height difference is large; therefore, the bottom of the pit was designed as a backfill concrete foundation. The bottom of the pit was first leveled with large-volume concrete with a strength of C25. Then, the column cap and two-layer box foundation were constructed. The large-volume backfill concrete foundation at the bottom of the pit was terraced, and the elevation was strewn at random and complex. There were 12 different step elevations, with the highest height of 19 m, as shown in Figure 21. The backfill concrete pouring started from low to high according to the height of steps and the terrain. Due to the large area, the backfill concrete was divided into the left and right pieces for construction. The whole pouring process was divided into 12 times, and the height of each pouring was controlled within 2 m.

The amount of backfilled concrete at the bottom of the pit reached 54431 m³. The concrete transportation needed to be transported down 80 m on the nearly straight wall slope first and then transported horizontally to the range of about 200 m at the bottom of the pit. When the concrete is transported down to a distance of 80 m at a sloping foot of about 80°, it is easy to produce concrete segregation and pipe blockage. Besides, the cliff slope had an irregular section, and the surface was weathered rock, which increased the transportation difficulty of concrete. Therefore, it is difficult to transport concrete in pits by conventional means of transport. To solve the difficulty of concrete transportation at the bottom of the pit, a new type of conveying device was invented. It was composed of three parts including a buffer hopper, a buffer device, and a buffer discharge port, as shown in Figure 22.

3.3.2. Construction Technology of Hyperbolic Complex Steel Frame Structure. The engineering structure of the Intercontinental Shanghai Wonderland is a steel frame structure system with support. The building is divided into Zone A and Zone B, where the profile of Zone A is a two-way roll structure, and the profile of Zone B is a one-way roll structure, as shown in Figure 23. The total steel used for the structure is about 6846 tons, and the heaviest single component is 32 tons. The main steel structure is a hyperbolic structure with a maximum vertical inclination of 23°. The construction process required high stress and deformation control. Moreover, the construction site area was limited, which increased the difficulty of construction.

The whole construction process was mainly divided into 17 construction steps. Taking the typical steel frame TR3A in Zone A as an example, the construction steps are shown in Figure 24.

To ensure the safety of the construction process, the construction process of the structure was simulated by finite element software MIDAS GEN to obtain the mechanical properties of the structure. The FEA model of the structure is shown in Figure 25. The changes in maximum displacement and internal force of members under each load step are shown in Figures 26 and 27.
The 11th step: construction of the eighth steel column, 2-floor steel beams, floor slab laying, and floor slab concrete not pouring.

The 12th step: The temporary support of the truss is removed, and lower chord basin support of the truss enters the working state.

The 13th step: Pour B7, B6, and B5 floors slab concrete.

The 14th step: Pour B4, B3, and B2 floors slab concrete.

The 15th step: Pour B1 and 1 floor slab concrete.

The 16th step: Pour 2-floor slab concrete.

The 17th step: Floor and wall panel decoration.

Figure 22: Concrete conveying device.

Figure 23: Schematic diagram of the building.

Figure 24: Schematic diagram of construction steps.
The construction simulation calculation results showed that the internal forces and displacements of the members gradually increased from the 1st load step to the 7th load step, which was the stage of vertical truss formation. Since the floor slab concrete was not poured, the change of internal force and displacement of the members was small from the 8th load step to the 11th load step. This was the stage of spanning truss formation on the top of the pit. As the concrete load of the B7 to B2 floor slab was small, the corresponding changes in internal force and displacement were small from the 12th load step to the 14th load step. Due to the large load at this stage, the internal force and displacement changed significantly from the 15th load step to the 17th load step. The maximum deflection of the truss at the top of mine was 67 mm, and the maximum deflection span ratio was 1/435, which met the specification requirements of no more than 1/400.

4. Conclusion

The Intercontinental Shanghai Wonderland is the world’s first natural ecological hotel built in an abandoned mine. The most profound depth of the pit is 88 m, and the slope foot of the deep pit cliff is about 80°. The cliff surface has been wholly weathered after years of weathering, which increased the difficulty of construction. According to the characteristics of this project, the conclusions can be drawn as follows:

(1) To ensure the stability of the slope of the main building during construction and operation, the geological structure of the mine pit was investigated and analyzed. The investigation results showed that there were nearly east-west compressive and torsional microfaults on the south side of the mine pit, with a dip angle of 195°. They are composed of mylonite and mylonitized broken rock where chloritization and clayization are common.

(2) According to the geological conditions of the deep pit, the slope was supported by prestressed anchor cables, anchor bolt, and sprayed concrete. The dynamic response characteristics and the instability characteristics of the mine slope under the dynamic response were analyzed by the 3D dynamic finite element method. Under the conditions of anchoring support, the stability coefficients of the slope under
static overload, small earthquake, and large earthquake were 2.0, 1.6, and 1.4, respectively. The calculation results showed that with effective anchoring support measures, the stability coefficient of slope under static load and small earthquakes was large, which had a certain safety margin. Under the action of large earthquakes, the slope could still meet the stability requirements.

3. A new type of two-point support structure was adopted according to the construction environment. The modal analysis of the Intercontinental Shanghai Wonderland was conducted through the finite element software ETABS and MIDAS. The calculated period ratios of the first mode and second mode of the outer part, Tower 1, and Tower 2 were 0.86, 0.62, and 0.51, respectively, which met the specification requirements.

4. The earthquake action of this project is very different from the ordinary building structure. The time history analysis method was used to solve the seismic design problem of this multipoint support structure. Three sets of seismic waves were calculated for a total of six working conditions. In the X direction, the average values of the maximum base shear forces of Tower 1 and Tower 2 are 28011 kN and 46007 kN, respectively. In the Y direction, the average values of the maximum base shear forces of Tower 1 and Tower 2 are 38192 kN and 14807 kN, respectively. Under each working condition, the maximum layer displacement angle was within 1/250, which satisfied the limit requirement of 1/50 of the seismic code. Some concrete-filled steel tubular columns produced plastic hinge at the bottom of the structure, and some steel supports produced plastic hinge at the top of the structure. The current structural system along with the design of component size and strength can meet the seismic performance of the structure under actions of rare earthquakes.

5. A set of ultradepth concrete downward conveying equipment, which was composed of three parts including a buffer hopper, a buffer device, and a buffer discharge port, was invented to solve the problem of 54431 m³ concrete transportation. The construction process of the structure was simulated by finite element software MIDAS. The maximum deflection of truss at the top of the mine was 67 mm, and the maximum deflection span ratio was 1/435, which met specification requirements of no more than 1/400.

Data Availability

The datasets generated during the current study are available in this paper and available also from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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