



Stephen Pfund, LERA Consulting Structural Engineers

May 24, 2022 - Spotlights



Name: Stephen Pfund, P.E.

Title: Senior Associate

Company Name: LERA Consulting Structural Engineers

List 2-3 real estate associations or organizations that you are currently a member of:

Member, Structural Engineers Association of New York (SEAoNY)

Member, American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)

What recent project, transaction or accomplishment are you most proud of?

I have recently been working with AI SpaceFactory who engaged LERA to collaborate with AISF and NASA Kennedy Space Center on the "REACT ACO." On this research based project, I have analyzed available lunar environmental data collected during the Apollo missions and working on the development of structural design criteria for 3D printed construction applications on the lunar surface based on established terrestrial design practices. Separately, I am also collaborating with AISF to research, develop, and optimize 3D printed structures to offer alternative engineered building solutions for current applications on the Earth.

How do you contribute to your community or your profession?

I have participated with a team from LERA in the Canstruction NY design competition for the last 10 years, captaining the team for two years, and helping to spread awareness and combat global hunger with our design installations and yearly food donation.

Who was/is your mentor and how did s/he influence/help you in your career?

In college, a key mentor was my graduate adviser at Penn State, Dr. Andres Lepage, who is now professor at Kansas University. Now at LERA, it is Ben Cornelius, one of the partners. One consistent influence that my mentors provide, is guidance to help me look and think beyond my current status and circumstances. Doing so has kept my mind active in looking for the importance and meanings in what work and activities I am involved with today and recognizing what key decisions and next steps can have a positive impact on my future career growth.

What led you to your current profession?

My general interests growing up always revolved around earth science, geology, the understanding of various materials found in our natural environment, and how we as humans interact with those materials including how they can be harvested and used to build. Pursing a career as a structural engineer I decided on a goal to learn and use knowledge of materials such as concrete, steel, wood, masonry, and plastics to design useable and working building structures that we interact with on a daily basis.

Top three things on your bucket list:

Design a building structure that is built on the moon; design and build a house from scratch; and go hiking and snowboarding on all seven continents.

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