Figure 1

View of downtown Managua after the 1972 earthquake showing the 15 – story Banco Central building on the left and the 17 – story Banco de America building on the right. The Banco Central , a reinforced – concrete , moment – resisting – frame structure , experienced severe structural damage , but large interstory drift caused severe nonstructural damage. The Banco de America , a shear – wall structure , experienced minor structural damage , and only minimal non – structural damage.

(Photo by H. Degenkolb)

a. Banco Central building. Note the extensive concrete spalling at the beam—column joints. (Photo by L. Wyllie)

b. Banco de America building. (Photo by L. Selna)

Figure 2

Exterior views of the Banco Central and Banco de America Buildings following the 1972 Managua , Nicaragua Earthquake.

a. Typical office in the Banco Central showing the extensive nonstructural and contents damage. (Photo by L. Wyllie)

b. Typical Office in the Banco de America showing negligible nonstructural and contents damage. (Photo by H. Degenkolb)

Figure 3

Photos of Offices in the Banco Central and Banco de America Buildings following the 1972 Managua Nicaragua Earthquake.

Figure 10

Twelve – Story Union House Office Building in Aukland, New Zealand constructed base isolation and steel plate energy dissipators. (Photo by C. Arnold)

isolation system used is somewhat novel and is laterally very flexible. Added stiffness at the ground floor of the structure, using the energy-absorber concept, was provided to resist wind and earthquake forces. A total of 16 massive triangle-shaped steel plate energy absorbers, 4 on each side of the square building, were used. The plates are 75 mm. thick, and have a base width and triangle height of 600 mm. Figure 11 shows the installation of the energy absorber. Construction of the building has proved the system to be advantageous in terms of both cost and construction time (Boardman, et. al., 1986).

The Friction Damped Braced Frame device has been installed, or will be installed, in at least 4 buildings thus far. One installation is a new 9-story reinforced concrete frame building in Canada, and a second installation is a new hillside house in California. The other two installations involve retrofit strengthening of low-rise reinforced concrete buildings in Mexico.

Translation Activities that Contributed to Applications

Translation activities that have contributed to the application of ADAS elements have occurred in connection with both identifying the need for such devices and the technology base for the design of the devices.

Recognition of the need for reducing the earthquake response deformations has resulted primarily from postearthquake investigations. Implementation of this observation has been a long and arduous process. The relationship between drift and damage was recognized long ago, but it was not until 1976 that seismic drift limits were included in the Uniform Building Code. Note that this followed as quickly as was possible after the 1972 Managua, Nicaragua earthquake.

For nuclear facilities, it was plant operations that revealed the failure of conventional piping system snubbers. Had it not been for this translational observation, the energy absorber technology for nuclear piping systems would likely not have been developed.

The analytical technology required for designing ADAS elements involves nonlinear seismic response evaluations. Tremendous effort dating at least back to Jacobsen (1930) has been devoted to the development of the rigorous and approximate nonlinear analysis procedures that are available today. This represents an important translational activity that has clearly expedited the application of ADAS elements.

Research Dissemination that Contributed to Application

The publication of postearthquake investigation findings, which clearly demonstrate the types of structures that are damaged and those that are not damaged, has been very important for distinguishing the applicability of ADAS elements. Specifically, post earthquake investigation reports have contributed substantially to increasing the awareness among design professionals and building owners that flexible buildings are more severely damaged during earthquakes than stiff buildings. ADAS elements can be incorporated into conventional monment-frame structural systems to stiffen buildings.

a. Finished appearance of energy dissipation.

b. Energy dissipator connections exposed during construction.

Figure 11

Detailed views of energy dissipator used at Union House Building.
(Photos by C. Arnold)