

**ASG Talk on Buckling Restrained Brace Frame Systems**

# **Buckling Restrained Brace Systems: Some Home Grown Comments and Suggestions**

Presentation to the ASG Meeting  
07 November 2012 by:  
Charles Clifton, The University of Auckland



## **Scope of talk: this will very briefly cover**



- BRB testing at UofA
- Some comments on BRB design
- Some suggestions for enhancing self centering of BRB framed systems for low damage design

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THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND  
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

## **Behaviour and Design of Generic Buckling Restrained Brace System**

- By: Stefan Wijanto
- Supervisor: Associate Professor Charles Clifton
- Second Supervisor: Associate Professor John Butterworth
- Undertaken in 2011

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**Behaviour and Design of Generic Buckling Restrained Brace Systems**

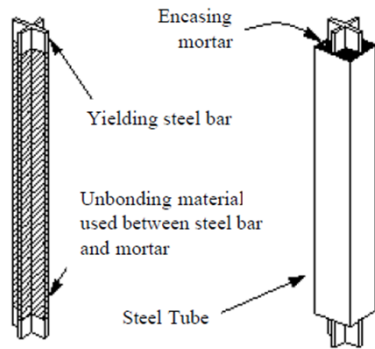
by  
Stefan Wijanto

A thesis submitted in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of  
Master of Engineering

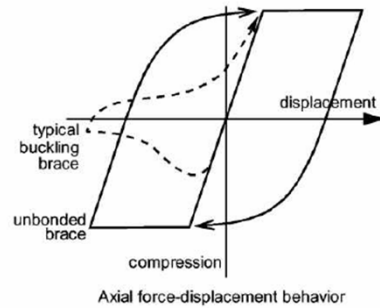
Supervised by  
Associate Professor Charles G. Clifton

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering  
The University of Auckland  
Auckland  
New Zealand  
February 2012

## Buckling Restrained Braces System



(Clark et al., 2000)



(AISC, 2005)

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## Research Project

### Background

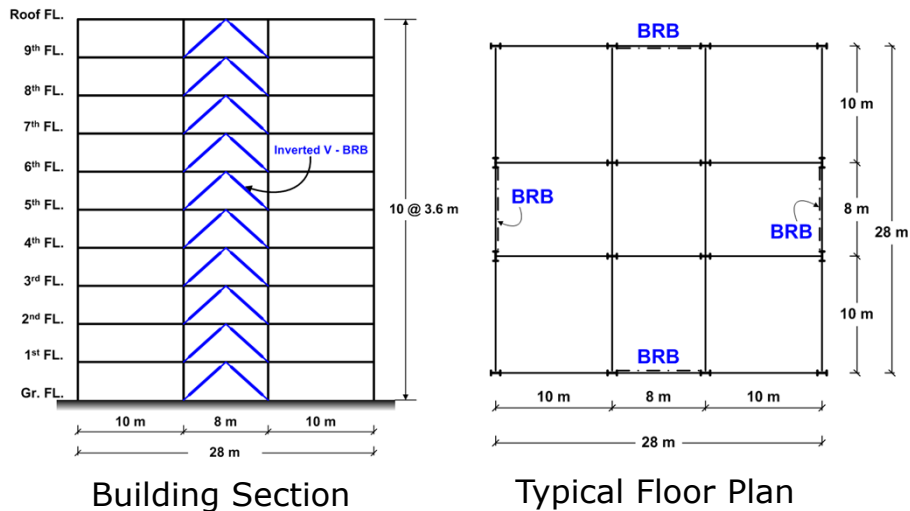
- Earthquake impacts in New Zealand; emphasis on low damage solutions
- Widely applied in North America and Japan
- Subject to overseas patent laws

### Objectives

- Development of a design procedure and application to a 10 storey building
- Determine the performance of the generic designed and developed BRB system through experimental testing; two end connection systems
- Some consideration of enhancing self centering of the BRBF systems

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### Case Study Model

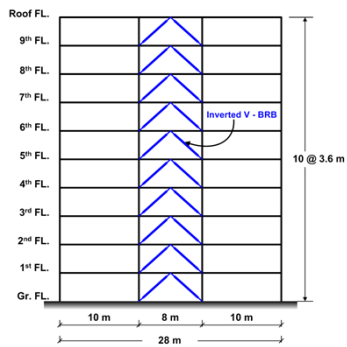


Building Section

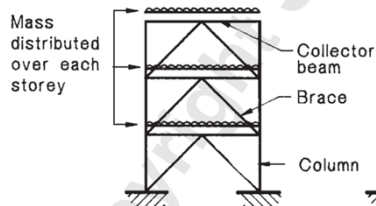
Typical Floor Plan

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### Questions considered




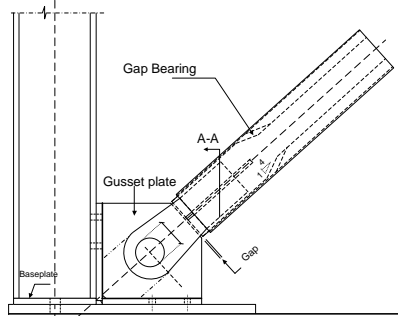
- Collector beam supported by brace or not for G&Q loading
- Semi-rigid connections between collector beam and column
- Type of connection between brace and frame
- Column base detail



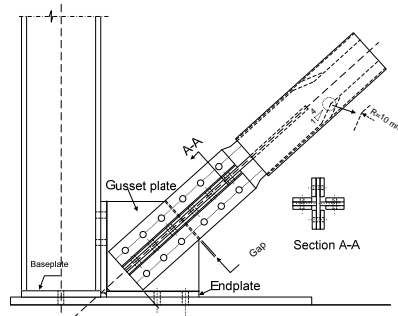
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## Specimen Detailing





**Pinned Specimen**




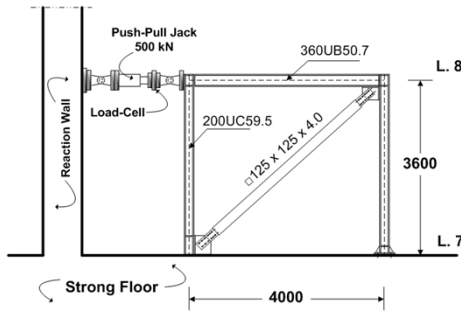
**Bolted Specimen**

- Effect of each connection type on brace and frame performance
- Ensuring brace can resist moments developed with the bolted specimen

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## Laboratory Test Model

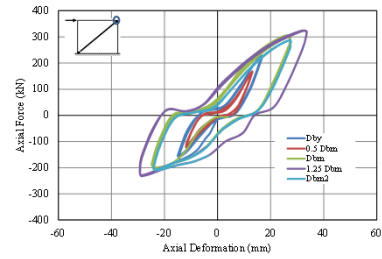




- Brace comprised flat plate yielding element with *Densotape* separation from non shrink grout
- Detailing of cruciform and end connection detail to:
  - Ensure stability of overall brace between ends at gusset plates
  - Transfer in-plane end moments into restraining element
  - Confining yielding to core
  - Suppress member buckling of core

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## BRB Dynamic Test



### Key points:

- Design concept worked for brace and connections
- Slip in both connections must be suppressed with suitable detailing
- Strength and stiffness comparable in tension and compression
- Gusset plate induced moment resisted by restraining elements

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## Design Considerations





## Column Baseplate Connections

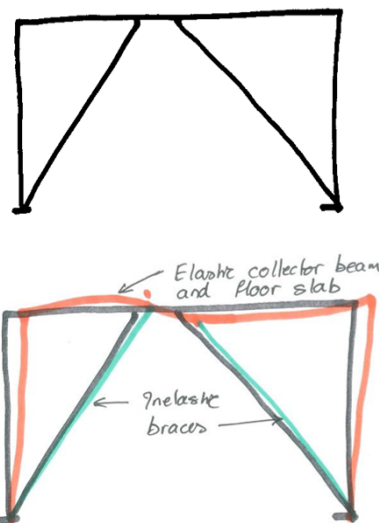
- High tension/compression forces
- May need shear key
- Adjust length of HD bolts to control stiffness
- Make these end connections rotationally elastic
- Don't want hinging in the columns at the column bases



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## Suggestion to Mobilise Floor Slab Out of Plane Strength and Stiffness

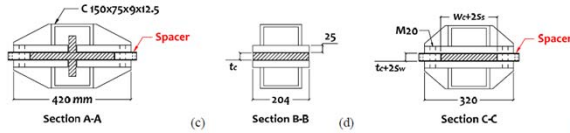
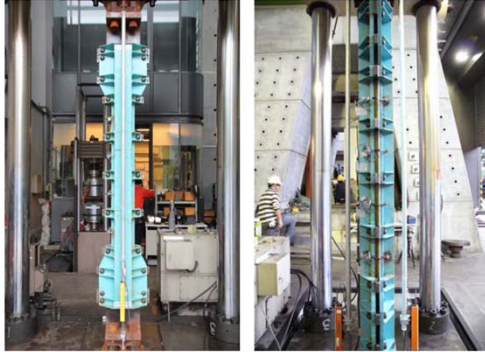
- To enhance self centering
- With v-brace use an EBF configuration but with elastic beam
- Use floor slab stiffness (as seen in Chch eqs and now being quantified) to promote self centering



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# 15WCEE: BRB without filler material?



### A Type of Buckling Restrained Brace for Convenient Inspection and Replacement

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Koh-Chuan Tsai  
National Central University, Taipei, Taiwan



**ABSTRACT**  
In this study, cyclic loading tests on three novel all-steel buckling restrained braces (BRBs) are conducted to investigate the high mode buckling phenomenon. The proposed BRB is composed of a main core plate and two identical restraining members which restrain the core plate under axial tension. The proposed BRBs can be readily replaced following a minor earthquake. The two restraining members can be conveniently disassembled and the damaged core plate can be replaced if necessary. Tests confirm that the larger the applied axial compressive stress, the shorter the high mode buckling wave length would develop. The maximum buckling wave length is about 12 times the core plate thickness when a core compressive stress of 1.7% is reached. Tests indicate that the proposed BRBs can effectively sustain large cyclic stress reversals. The high mode buckling wave length can be satisfactorily predicted using the proposed model.

**Keywords:** buckling restrained brace, restraining member, high mode buckling, wave length, axial failure

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In contrast to the behavior of buckling braces, BRBs can be designed and fabricated to sustain yielding in both tension and compression (Watanabe *et al.* 1988). Therefore, BRBs have been increasingly adopted as hysteretic dampers to improve the earthquake resisting performance of the building and bridge structures (Cui *et al.* 2004, Tsai *et al.* 2005, Tsai and Huang 2006). A typical BRB has the core member encased by the buckling restraint so that the failure of the core member cannot be easily detected. When the core member is subjected to the compression, the buckling restraint must provide sufficient stiffness to prevent overall flexural buckling of the BRB (Watanabe *et al.* 1988). Lateral expansion restrains the core member section due to Poisson effect under axial compression. Thus, the friction transferred to the restraint (Watanabe *et al.* 1988, Wu *et al.* 2011). The clearance allows the core member to buckle first and the high mode buckling wave length would allow the core member goes into the plastic range. The overall high mode buckling force is then produced at the center of the high mode buckling wave (Wu *et al.* 2011, Lin *et al.* 2012). The restraint local failure could occur due to the high mode buckling of the core member when the restraint is not strong enough (Takanishi *et al.* 2010, Lin *et al.* 2012). Takanishi *et al.* carried out experimental and numerical studies of steel-filled BRBs to propose a criterion for the local restraint failure due to the core plate stress-axial buckling. Cui and Chen also presented the design recommendations for the unbracketed BRB to prevent the global and local buckling. Lin *et al.* provided the recommendations on the seismic design of this BRB used against local buckling failure.

Strong afterbuckles could occur following the main blocks. In order to guarantee effective seismic performance of the buckling-restrained Inverted Braces (BRB<sup>2</sup>) which might experience multiple afterbuckles during the service life, developing the technique for inspecting BRBs is warranted. Previous researchers have based on such concepts for BRBs in which the restraints could be disassembled first for inspection of the core member (Takanishi *et al.* 2010, Cui and Chen 2010).

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