

## **UC Irvine**

### **SSOE Research Symposium Dean's Awards**

#### **Title**

Creating Spaces for Life: Designing with Safety & Stability in Mind

#### **Permalink**

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# Creating Spaces for Life: Designing with Safety & Stability in Mind

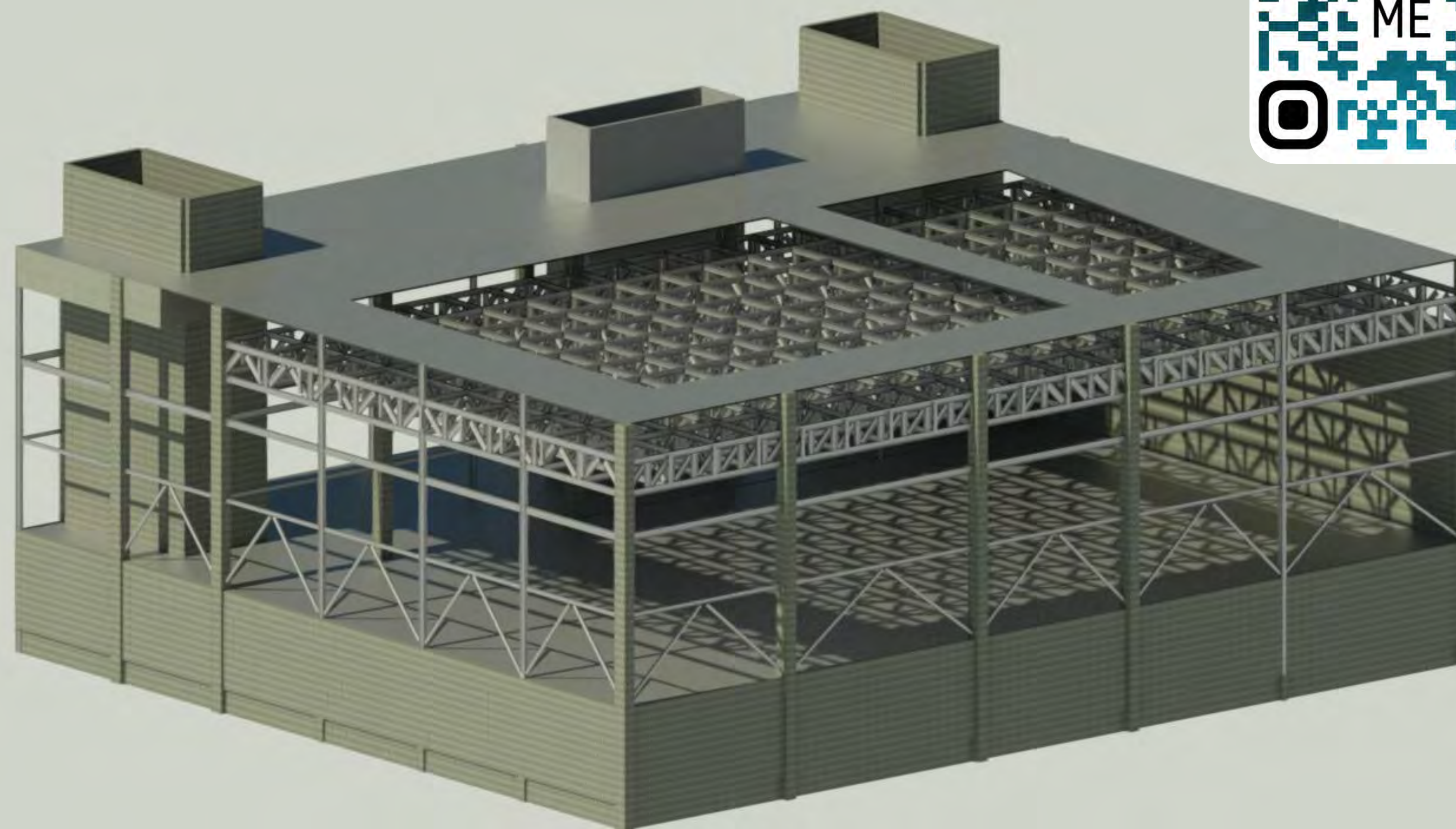
UCI CEE Structural Engineering Senior Design  
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Introducing the **Aquatics & Recreation Center (ARC)** in Stanton, CA\* - a cutting-edge project spanning 17,000 square feet that responds to the needs of the community and reflects their culture. This impressive facility boasts a range of amenities, including a double pool rooftop deck and an intervarsity gym at ground level. What's more, the ARC is constructed atop a subterranean parking garage, designed to accommodate foundation loads with ease.

The ARC's stunning interior is designed around an atrium layout providing panoramic views of the gym floor from offices and activity rooms at intermediate levels between the rooftop deck and gym floor. The Olympic-sized and recreational pools are located above a column-free atrium, supported by a state-of-the-art mega-truss system that ensures optimal stability and safety.

At the heart of the ARC's design is a deep understanding of the community it serves. The facility has been thoughtfully crafted to reflect the culture and unique needs of Stanton residents, providing a welcoming and inclusive space for everyone. Whether you're a seasoned athlete or just looking to try something new, the ARC has something for you.

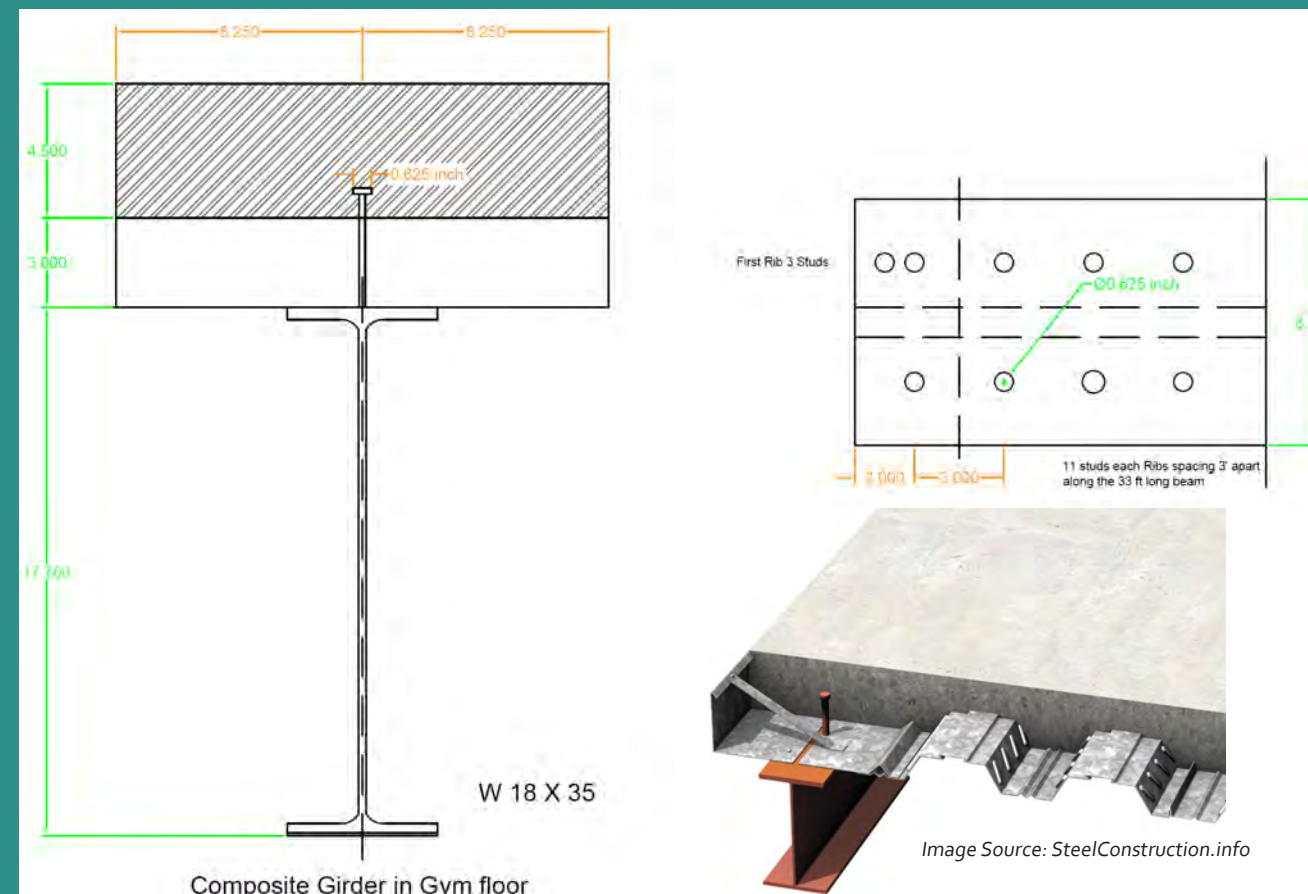
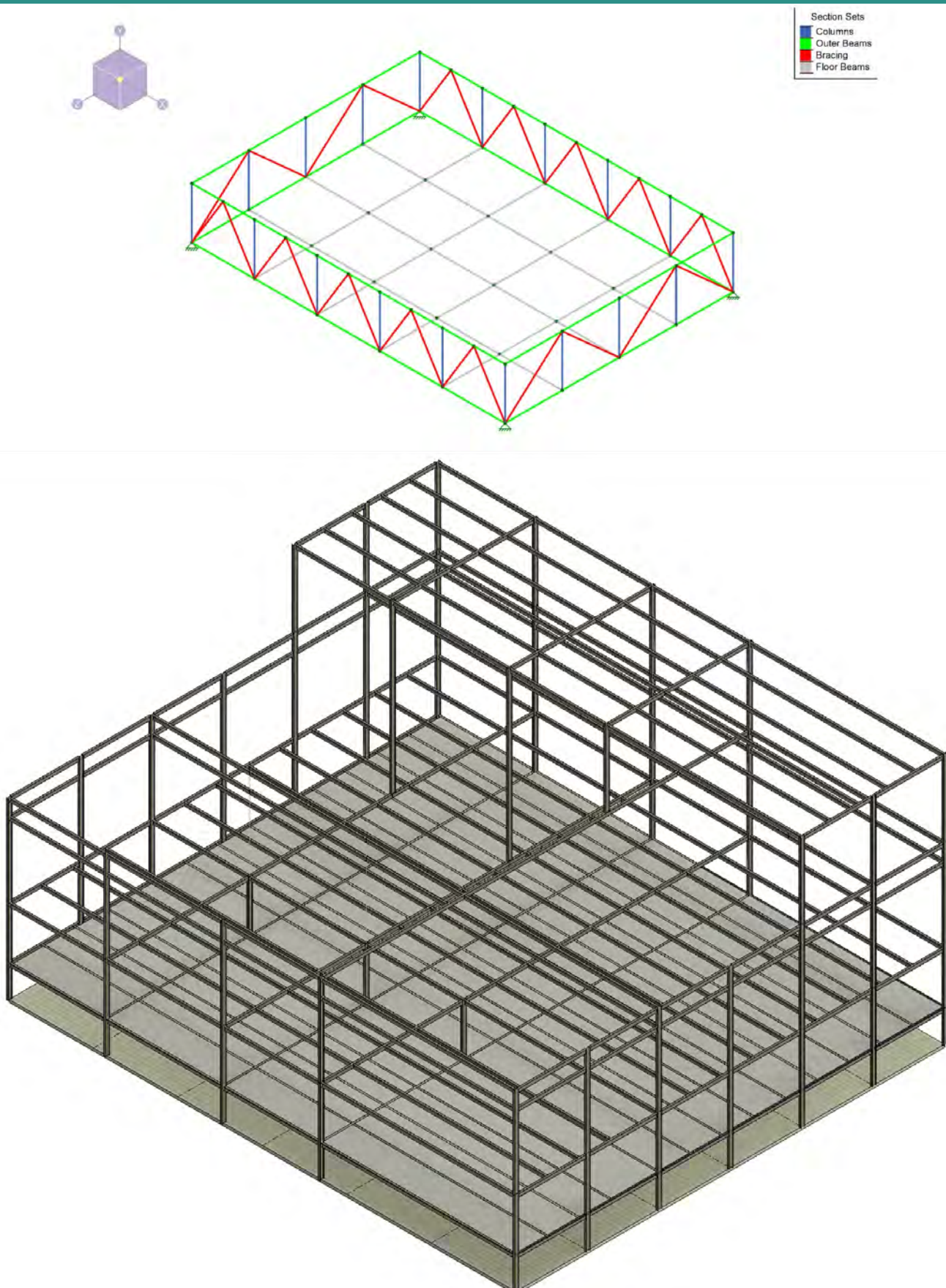


## MILESTONES

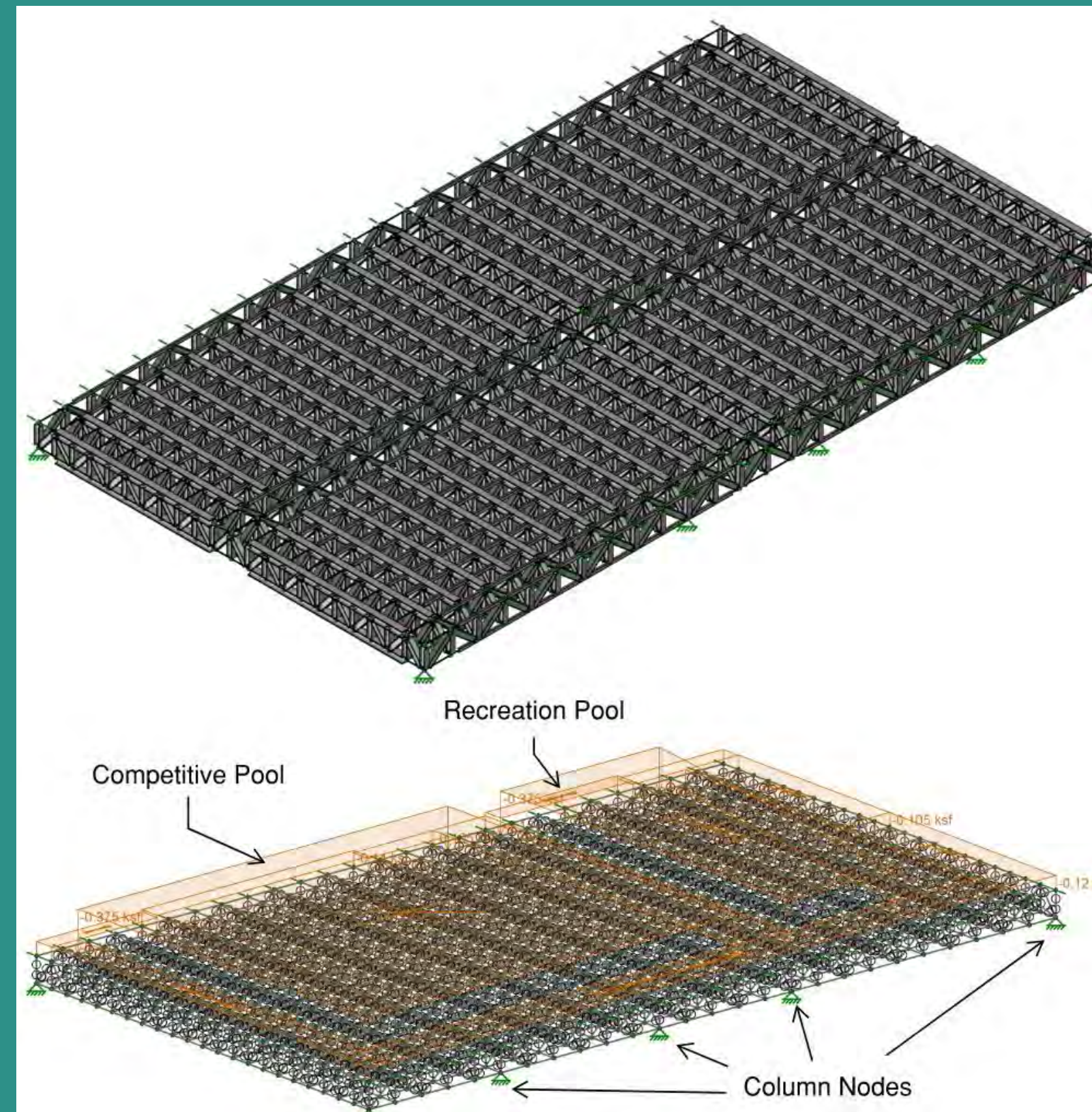
- 01 **PRELIMINARY DESIGN**  
 Site determination  
 Challenges & goals identified  
 Subterranean garage layout  
 Case study: truss beams
- 02 **STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS**  
 Load Calculations  
 Dead & Live Loads  
 Gravity Systems  
 Composite Deckings  
 Roof Support Mega Truss
- 03 **TEST & REFINE**  
 Building models in RISA  
 Run simulations  
 Assess failure modes  
 Modify design  
 REPEAT
- 04 **MODEL IN BIM SOFTWARE**  
 Design base model in Revit  
 Assess ease-of-use & functionality

\*For site selection purposes, soil & fault analysis, as well as demographic research were conducted on three potential project locations. Stanton, CA was selected upon review of acquired

Since the gym floor of the structure is an open-space area, research was conducted about various bracing systems to strengthen the floor directly below the rooftop pools which carries the brunt of the load, so bracing systems were analyzed for how they can best carry these loads. After conducting this research, shear wall was the recommended system for this structure.



The gym floor utilizes Composite Decking, which is a popular construction technology in the industry today. Our composite beams consist of a 3.5-inch deep 4ksi normal weight concrete section and a W18 X 35 section steel with eleven 5/8 inch diameter studs along the 33 ft beam. By combining these two sections, the composite beams provide increased strength, stiffness, and load-carrying capacity compared to single material beams.



Ten columns are placed within the building to support loads sustained by the rooftop, indoor basketball gym, and parking garage. Given the construction set drawings, we arranged column locations in areas that optimized space, material costs, and aesthetic appearance. Structural elements on the roof account for load factors used to find the force transferred to the columns. Moment demand was calculated using W36x160 steel columns.

- 05 **NEXT STEPS**  
 Seismic Design  
 Shearwall Analysis  
 Analysis of Connection Areas  
 Finalize Structural+Architectural models, all floor plans  
 Foundation Design  
 Other Design Considerations (per code provisions)
- 06 **BEYOND STRUCTURES**  
 Sustainability & Economy  
 Alternative material choices  
 Sensitivity Analysis  
 Concrete vs. Steel  
 CO2 Emissions  
 GWP - Global Warming Potential  
 Projected Construction Costs  
 Landscaping & Aesthetics