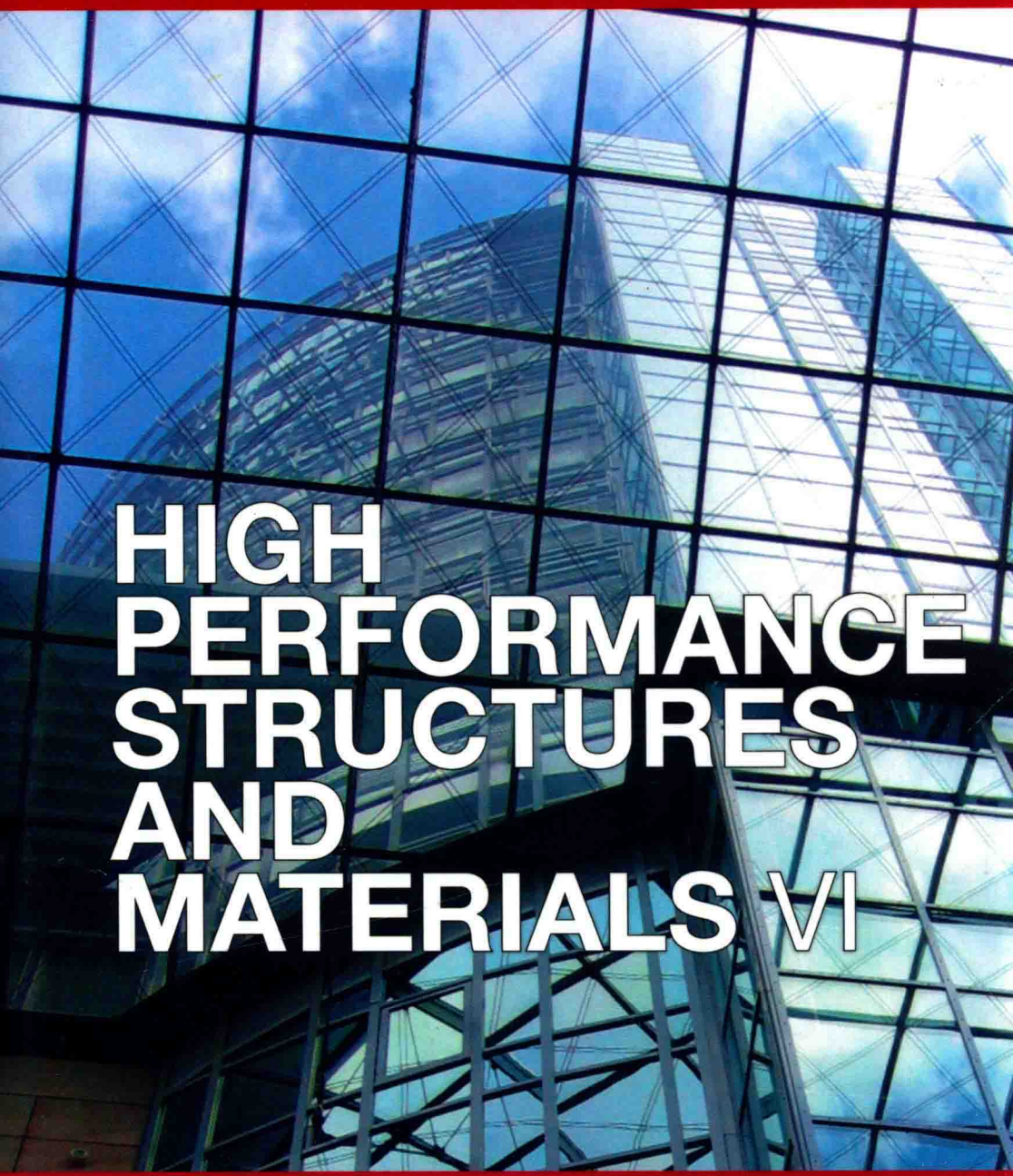

HIGH PERFORMANCE STRUCTURES AND MATERIALS VI

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Preface

This book contains most of the papers presented at the 6th International Conference on High Performance Structures and Materials held at the Wessex Institute of Technology in the New Forest, UK. The Meeting was co-organised by the Wessex Institute, the Free University of Brussels and the University of A Coruña.

The Conference followed the success of the previous five meetings in the series, held in Seville in 2002; Ancona in 2004; Ostend in 2006; The Algarve in 2008; and Tallin in 2010.

This volume addresses issues involving advanced types of structures, particularly those based on new concepts or new materials. The objectives of many papers is to search for high performance but altogether sustainable materials of the type which are now receiving increased attention.

The contributors also underline a series of current trends in structural design, including the interaction of three key components i.e. materials selection – component design – structural and construction design. These trends take into account optimisation principles in such a way that the maximum amount of structural materials can be transformed, re-used, dismantled and displaced. These concepts contribute significantly to the sustainability of the constructions. An excellent example of these principles is included in the special session on Transformable Structures, organised by Niels De Temmerman and some of his co-workers, which includes several case studies.

This volume is a valuable contribution to our understanding of materials and structures and their interaction. The Editors are grateful to the members of the International Scientific Advisory Committee who helped select the papers published in this volume, as well as to all authors for their excellent contributions.

The Editors
New Forest, 2012

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