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(54) CARBON FIBER REINFORCEMENT POLYMER AND ITS RESPECTIVE APPLICATION TECHNIQUE FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF CONCRETE STRUCTURES

(57) The present invention consists of a carbon fiber reinforcement polymer (CFRP) laminate and its application technique on the reinforcement of concrete structures.

The present carbon fiber reinforcement polymer

(CFRP) laminate comprises a clip or cane shape and it is comprised by two or three rectilinear segments connected by one or two transition areas.

This product is meant to be applied on the civil construction area.

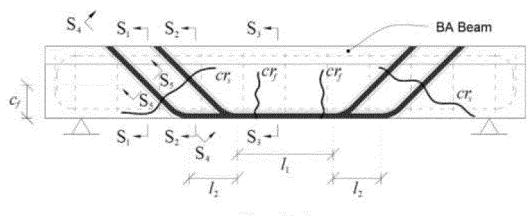


Fig. 3 a)

Description

Technical field

[0001] The present application describes a carbon fib-

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er reinforced polymer laminate and the respective technique for the strengthening of concrete structures.

Prior art

[0002] In several cases of projects in the strengthening of reinforced concrete (RC) structures, the need for the flexural strengthening requires additional measures in the shear reinforcement in order to avoid the occurrence of this type of brittle failure mode which is fragile, that, in general, occurs without signs of its occurrence. Thus, for these cases the rehabilitation practice undergoes the application of two reinforcement systems, one for the flexural and another for the shear. A similar situation also happens for slabs, where sometimes the need for flexural strengthening for negative bending moments requires punching strengthening.

[0003] The two inventors, Prof. Joaquim Barros from Universidade do Minho, and Eng. Filipe Dourado, CEO of Clever Reinforcement Iberica - Materiais de Construção Lda., have intense collaboration on the investigation on the area of carbon fiber reinforcement polymers (CFRP - Carbon Fiber Reinforcement Polymer) applied according to the Near Surface Mounted (NSM) technique, and which in Portuguese can be designated as "Instalação proximo da superficie". Since the beginning of the current century, Eng. Filipe Dourado has collaborated with the ongoing research carried out by Prof. Joaquim Barros on the use of CFRP laminates applied according to the NSM technique for the strengthening of concrete, masonry and timber structures. The efficiency of this technique for the flexural strengthening of RC beams and slabs has been evaluated [1-3], for the shear strengthening of RC beams [4,5], as well as for the simultaneous increase of the flexural and energy dissipation capacity of RC columns, where these CFRP laminates are used with strips (hoops) of wet layup CFRP sheets for shear strengthening and concrete confinement [6], have been demonstrated. The bond conditions of the applied CFRP laminates according to the NSM technique have been properly investigated [7]. Recently, the joint use of CFRP systems for the flexural and shear strengthening was explored by experimental [8] and numerical [9] research, which has demonstrated the interest for the concept of CFRP laminate intended to develop under the present project. The extraordinary efficiency on the shear strengthening provided by rods that were inserted in holes executed in the section of RC beams was recently assessed, having been demonstrated that it is possible to convert shear brittle failure mode into ductile flexural failure mode [10].

[0004] The knowledge heritage acquired by the inventors in the past fifteen years in the scope of the strength-

ening of structures with composite materials has allowed a deep understanding of the advantages and debilities of the current systems. The disadvantages of the strengthening techniques based on the use Fiber-Reinforced Polymers (FRP) are mainly their premature detachment, especially when using the externally bonded reinforcement (EBR) technique, as well as its susceptibility to high temperatures and acts of vandalism. When applied according to the NSM technique, the strengthening capacity of CFRP laminates is not fully exploited, due to the premature rip-off of the concrete cover that includes these laminates, or by sliding alongside the substrate.

General Description

[0005] The present request describes a carbon fiber reinforcement polymer (CFRP) laminate and its technique for the strengthening of concrete structures. More specifically, the request describes a CFRP laminate with a clip shape, formed by three straight segments and two transition zones, or cane, constituted by two rectilinear segments and a transition zone (elbow), in which the extremity branches ensure shear strengthening in beams or punching in slabs, while the remaining part of the laminate ensures flexural reinforcement. This product is meant to be applied in the construction area.

[0006] Analytical studies and advanced numerical simulations, and the parametric studies performed with these models provided privileged information that are the ground for the CFRP laminate now being presented. In fact, the developed laminate results from the transformation of a laminate currently produced by Clever Reinforcement Iberica - Materiais de Construção Lda in its Elvas factory, where a developed mechanism allows to execute the transition zones (elbows) which grants the laminate with the clip or cane shape configurations.

[0007] These configurations assure to the laminate the ability for strengthening, simultaneously, in flexural and shear RC beams, in flexural and punching RC slabs, and in flexural with anchoring in the case of columns, balconies, cantilevers and related elements. The original CFRP laminate has a constant cross section, with a width that can vary between 10 to 20 mm, and a thickness of 1.4 mm.

[0008] The extremities of the CFRP laminate are introduced in holes opened into the section of the element to be strenghtened, similarly to the Embedded Trough Section (ETS) technique, which demonstrated an extraordinary efficiency on the shear strengthening of concrete beams [10]. The inclination and length of the extremities of the laminate depend on the type of strengthening to be executed, whereby they are data of the strengthening project. The largest and most complete experimental program performed to date regarding the use of CFRP laminates for the shear strengthening of RC beams according to the NSM technique [4] has demonstrated that the efficiency of this technique depends significantly on the

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inclination of the laminates, the quality of the surrounding concrete, the percentage of existing steel stirrups on the beam to be strengthened, and the stiffness of the strengthening systems. On the other hand, the results on the efficiency evaluation tests of the ETS technique for the shear strengthening of beams have demonstrated that due to the fact that the strengthening reinforcement elements are introduced into the section, a far superior level of efficiency is guaranteed when compared with the NSM and EBR techniques. This is justified by the greater confinement offered by concrete surrounding these reinforcement elements when using the ETS technique, as well as the larger fracture surface that is developed during the pullout process of the reinforcement elements crossed by the shear cracks. These conclusions were also confirmed by the presented parametric studies [5]. [0009] To evaluate the potential of the new type of laminate, standard CFRP laminates were manually transformed, in order to be with the intended configuration, namely clip or cane, and a preliminary experimental exploratory program consisting of RC beams and slabs was carried out, from which it was verified the greater efficiency of these new laminates and its respective strengthening technique, when compared to traditional laminates and techniques, as it is shown in Figures 7 and 8. In fact the CFRP laminates with a clip or cane configuration with the extremity(ies) inserted into the section are very efficient on the shear and punching strengthening. Such is due to the high confinement provided by the surrounding concrete to the laminate, the larger surface resisting to the concrete fracture that is mobilized during the pullout process of a laminate crossed by a potential shear crack, and the anchoring effect provided by the center part of the laminate used for the flexural strengthening. In turn, the efficiency for the flexural strengthening is far superior to the one achieved with standard CFRP laminates applied according to the NSM technique, since the extremities of the new laminate, when introduced into holes executed inside the section, assure an extraordinary anchoring effect to the middle part of the laminate used for the flexural strengthening. Therefore, the transition between the three segments, two in the cane laminate, that form this new laminate are the critical zones. These zones are made through a mechanism designed to ensure the proper inclination without loss of stiffness and strength. These zones are thermo-mechanically treated, keeping a plait configuration, and being jacketed with a fiber sleeve.

[0010] Thus, the results of the experimental, analytical and numerical research, along with the already performed exploratory results, show that the proposed laminate has a superior efficiency when compared to what is assured by the existing nowadays. The extremities of this new type of laminate, being inserted into the section of the element to be strengthened, are more protected against the detrimental effect of high temperatures, when compared with the current marketed FRP systems. Therefore, even under fire, the new types of laminates

work like tendons, in which the anchoring is assured by the extremities zones of the laminate that are embedded in the concrete according to the ETS technique. This type of laminate can also be used on the flexural strengthening of columns and cantilevers/consoles (balcony types and related), with full mobilization of the CFRP laminate tensile capacity. In this case, the laminate extremities are inserted, with the intended anchorage inclination and length, into holes executed on the elements connected to the columns or into the elements connected to the cantilevers or consoles.

[0011] The present CFRP laminate has the ability of, simultaneously, serve as a reinforcement for the flexural and shear strengthening of RC beams, and for the flexural and punching strengthening of RC slabs. It can also be applied on the flexural strengthening of RC columns, balconies and cantilevers, by anchoring the inclined extremity of the new CFRP laminate, designated in this case as sticker laminate, into is holes executed in concrete elements connected to the elements to be strengthened. The strengthening ability of this laminate is higher than any other FRP system currently in the market, since the maximum tensile strain possible to be mobilized is close to the its ultimate tensile strain, as was observed in the exploratory experimental programs already executed, as well as through performed numerical simulations. The technique for the application of this new type of laminate also contributed to its biggest strengthening efficiency, given that beyond the benefits derived from a good laminate anchoring, its extremities are protected from the detrimental effect of high temperatures, whereby the laminate, even under fire, develops a reinforcement ability, as if it is a tendon, much larger than any existing FRP system. The epoxy (S&P 55) adhesive used for bonding the extremities of the laminate to the surrounding concrete, fills by its own weigh the space between the laminate and the substrate into the holes due to its high fluidity, allowing a more complete and guick filling than the currently existing bonding systems.

[0012] Throughout this request it is considered that an elevated fluidity equals a viscosity between 850 e 1150 mPa*s.

The nature of this new type of laminate and the [0013] strengthening technique is based on the accumulation of solid knowledge supported by experimental, numerical and analytical research performed during the last 15 years on the use of FRP for the structural strengthening. This investigation allowed to demonstrate that the CFRP laminates of rectangular cross section, when applied according to the NSM technique, are more effective on the flexural strengthening than the systems applied according to the EBR technique. This comes from the fact that the laminate is confined within a groove executed in the concrete cover, therefore the premature debond observed on systems applied according to the EBR technique is not registered on the laminates applied according to the NSM technique. Beyond this, the analytical and numerical models have shown that the bigger is the ratio

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between the perimeter of the laminate and its cross sectional, the larger is its fixation capacity to the concrete substrate [2]. However, the high stress concentration on the extremities of the CFRP laminates applied according to the NSM technique leads to detachment of the concrete cover that starts in those areas and progresses throughout almost the entire laminate [3]. This limits the potential strengthening of the laminate since the maximum mobilized tensile strain can be significantly smaller than the ultimate tensile strain of the laminate. Thus, by having folded extremities on the laminate, inserted into holes executed into the section of the structure to be strengthened, the premature detachment is avoided, and the critical parts of the laminate are protected against the detrimental effect of high temperatures typical of a fire. [0014] On the other hand, the research carried out on the shear strengthening with CFRP laminates applied according to the NSM and ETS techniques has shown that the strengthening efficiency is higher when the ETS technique is used, given the higher confinement assured by the surrounding concrete [10]. By such fact, in the proposed laminate, its extremities are applied according to the ETS techniques, but now resorting to the rectangular section laminate due to the already stated fact of this geometry assures better bonding conditions than circular section reinforcement. Besides that, the adhesive to be applied on these zones, of high fluidity, will ensure a faster and more complete space filling between the laminate and the surrounding substrate.

Intervals and possible variations

[0015] The efficiency and profitability of the strengthening technique depends on the rigor assured for the required length and inclination of the laminate extremities, as well as on the quality and rigor on the execution of the transition zones (elbows). However, an error below 10% either in the inclination or in the length of the extremities does not affect significantly the performance of the new type of laminate and the respective strengthening technique, as well as in the time execution procedure of such technique. An equal error level is admitted for the diameter of the holes where the laminate extremities are inserted. These relatively high tolerances are justified by the adequate flexibility of the transition zones of the laminate, which allows some adjustment in job site regarding the inclination laminate extremities. The extremity inclination of the laminate can range from 30 to 90 degrees with the beam axis (or the slab middle surface), and it should be as orthogonal as possible to the cracks due to shear (beams) or punching (slabs). Considering the shear and punching failure modes observed on reinforced concrete beams and slabs, respectively, the laminates extremities inclination should be close to 45 degrees, but a variation of +/- 15 degrees is perfectly acceptable (inclinations of 30 to 60 degrees), and the assumption of vertical extremities (orthogonal to the beam's axis or the slab's middle surface) can still be an effective

alternative when difficulties on the execution of inclined holes are a considerable obstacle for technical/economic reasons. The length of each of the parts that compose the laminate, will be completely dependent on the conditions of the project for the structural strengthening, but a 10% error does not compromise its efficacy. However, the higher the length of the laminates embedded into the cross section of the RC element to be strengthened, the greater the efficiency of the shear/punching strengthening.

Brief description of figures

[0016] To better understand the technique, the figures are present in annex, which represent preferable embodiments which, however, are not intended to limit the object of the present disclosure.

Figure 1 shows a clip type of CFRP laminate.

Figure 2 shows a cane type of CFRP laminate.

Figure 3 shows a clip type laminate application for the simultaneous flexural and shear strengthening of reinforced concrete beams.

Figure 4 shows a clip type laminate application for the simultaneous flexural and punching strengthening of reinforced concrete slabs.

Figure 5 shows a clip type laminate application for the flexural strengthening of reinforced concrete columns with laminate extremities anchored.

Figure 6 shows a cane type laminate application for the flexural strengthening to negative bending moments of cantilever type reinforced concrete structures like balconies.

Figure 7 shows a strengthened beam.

Figure 8 shows an exploratory test on the use of the new types of laminates for the simultaneous flexural and punching strengthening of RC slabs: a) laminates' configuration; b) punching failure of the reference slab; c) flexural failure in the strengthened RC slab with a 30% increase on the load carrying capacity and 33% on the deflection ability, using a small percentage of the new laminates, executed by a manual process by transformation of Clever's laminates.

Description of the embodiments

[0017] Hereafter, some embodiments will be described in a more detailed manner, which however are not intended to limit the scope of the present application.

[0018] The present application describes CFRP lami-

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nates as the ones shown on Figs. 1 and 2, as well as the strengthening technique for concrete structures using these laminates.

Types of laminates

[0019] The laminates shown in Figs. 1 and 2 are elaborated from 1.4x10 mm² or 1.4x20 mm² cross section laminates. The transformation, executed by an automatism, introduces the transition zones (Tz), elbows, presented on the referred figures, being the laminate able to take a clip shape (Fig. 1) or a cane shape (Fig. 2). The transition zone is executed by a thermo-mechanical treatment, in which by temperature rise, with an oven existing in the mechanism, the adhesive becomes viscous, in a way that it becomes possible to assure the required inclination to the laminates extremity. This process is followed by application of a rotational movement to the part formed by the transition zone and its corresponding laminate extremity, while the other part of the laminate is kept clamped, which introduces a plait configuration to the transition zone. This transition zone is then dipped with adhesive and jacketed by a fiber sleeve in order to achieve the intended stiffness, being the process finalized by curing this zone.

[0020] In figure 1 it is precisely shown a representation of the CFRP laminate with a clip shape with its both extremities inclined, being able to have two different inclinations (Θ 1 and Θ 2). The laminate is formed with three branches: central with a length of Lb, which has the fundamental function of guaranteeing the flexural strengthening of the RC element to be strengthened; both extremities, whose length can be different, LS1 and LS2, which have as the main objective of providing the required shear strengthening. These branches are connected by a transition zone (TZ), that is formed by thermomechanical treatment complemented by fiber jacket in order to assure the required strength and stiffness to avoid premature failure due to the development of stress gradient caused by the variation on the orientation on the parts of the laminate and the existence of different anchoring conditions on the laminates parts.

[0021] In figure 2 a representation of a cane type CFRP laminate with a folded extremity is shown, being able to take the intended orientation. The laminate is formed by two branches, one with a Lb length for the flexural strengthening, and another with a Ls length which can serve for the shear strengthening and/or to assure an adequate anchoring to the part of flexural strengthening. These branches are connected by a transition area (TZ).

Strengthening techniques

[0022] The strengthening technique consists of installing the laminate part destined to the flexural strengthening (Lb on Figs. 1 and 2) in a groove made on the concrete cover of the RC element to strengthen (zone with a L1 and L2 length as shown on Fig. 3a) and on the installation

of the extremity (extremities) of the laminate into holes previously opened on the section of the element to be strengthened (Fig. 3a, 3e and 3f). After the execution of the groove and holes, they are cleaned by compressed air or an equivalent technique. The groove should have a width (ag) between 4.5 and 5.5 mm (Fig. 3g) and a height (bg) equal to the cross section height of the laminate plus 1.0 to 3.0 (Fig. 3g). On the other hand, the diameter of the hole should be equal to the largest dimension of the laminate cross section dimensions plus 1.0 to 3.0 mm (Fig. 3f). Before introducing the laminate in the groove and holes, the laminate is cleaned with a degreasing agent. The adhesive for fixing the Lb part of the laminate to the concrete, S&P 220, is produced according to the recommendations of the adhesives manufacturer, although another adhesive can be used as long as it is demonstrated by pullout tests that equal or superior conditions of bonding the laminate to concrete are achieved. The adhesive is applied with spatula, collapsible tube or other nozzle mechanism in order to completely fill the groove with the adhesive throughout the length Lb and part of the transition zone for sealing the lower part of the holes. On the lateral faces of the laminate (10 or 20 mm wide), throughout the Lb length, a thin adhesive layer is applied, and the laminate is immediately introduced into the groove and respective holes. After the laminates have been applied, and while assuring a curing period for the adhesive of at least 24 hours, a high fluidity adhesive is introduced by gravity, on the top of the holes, in order to bond the laminate extremities to the surrounding concrete (Fig. 3e, 3f and 3h). The curing period for the two types of used adhesives should be the one stated by the manufacturer of such adhesives.

[0023] The clip shaped laminates are especially suited for the simultaneous flexural and shear strengthening of beams. In the example shown on Fig. 3a, a beam with a T cross section is strengthened for positive bending moments and shear forces by using a clip laminate (L1) disposed along the longitudinal symmetry plane of the beam, as shown on Fig. 3c, and by two clip laminates (L2) disposed along the beam, near the beam lateral faces, as shown on Fig. 3b. Throughout the L1 length, the beam is flexurally strengthened with 3 laminates, as shown on Fig. 3a and 3d, while on the L2 length the beam has only 2 laminates for the flexural strengthening, as shown on Fig. 3a and 3c. The central part of the laminates (Lb) assures flexural strengthening, and offers resistance against the propagation of flexural cracks (Crf), while the extremity parts of the laminates (Ls) assure shear strengthening and offer resistance to the opening and sliding of the shear cracks (Crs). The side parts of the laminate, while inclined, are inserted into opened holes on the beam's cross section, with a diameter equal to the bigger side of the laminate's cross section, bf, plus approximately 2 mm, as shown on Fig. 3e. After the laminate is installed, the hole is filled with high fluidity adhesive in order to fill by gravity the existing spaces between the laminate and the hole's wall, as shown in Fig. 3h and 3f.

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[0024] The clip laminates, as shown in Figure 4, are also proposed for the simultaneous flexural and punching strengthening of RC slabs. The central parts of the laminates are used for the flexural strengthening, as well as to assure anchoring conditions to the extremity parts of the laminate. Such extremity parts have the main function of assuring the punching strengthening and providing suitable anchoring conditions to the central part of the laminate dedicated for the flexural strengthening. The central part of the laminate offers resistance to the propagation of flexural cracks (CRf), while the extremity branches offer resistance to the opening and sliding of shear cracks (CRs).

[0025] The clip or cane laminates, as shown on figure 5, can also be used for the flexural strengthening of columns, where the non-inclined part has the function of assuring the required flexural strengthening, and the extremity(extremities) to assure the needed anchoring conditions for an effective flexural strengthening by avoiding a premature detachment of the laminate.

[0026] The cane laminates, as shown on figure 6, are indicated particularly for increasing flexural capacity for the negative bending moment in cantilever type structures, such is the case of the balconies shown in the figure. The horizontal part of the laminate assures the intended flexural strengthening, while the La length assures the intended laminate anchoring conditions.

[0027] Figure 7 shows the strengthening configuration of RC beams adopted in the ongoing experimental program.

[0028] Figure 8 shows the strengthening configuration of RC slabs adopted in the current experimental program - Fig. 8a, brittle punching brittle failure mode registered in the reference slab, as shown on Fig. 8b, and flexural ductile failure mode observed in the RC slab strengthened with the new types of CFRP laminates, as shown on Fig. 8c.

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[0029]

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[0030] The present technology is not, naturally, in any way restricted to the embodiments described in this document and a person skilled in the art could predict many technology modification possibilities without straying from the general idea, such as defined on the embodiments.

[0031] All embodiments above described are obviously interchangeable. The following claims define additional preferred embodiments.

Claims

 A carbon fiber reinforced polymer laminate with a clip or cane shape and comprising grooves for the insertion of carbon fiber sheets, high fluidity adhesive material, reinforced concrete structure - beam, column, slab and foundation, T section beam, embed-

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ment into the interior section, stirrups, concrete cover and two or three rectilinear segments connected by one or two transition zones (Tz).

- 2. A carbon fiber reinforced polymer laminate according to the previous claim, presenting a constant cross section with a width between 10 and 20 mm and a thickness of 1.4 mm.
- 3. A carbon fiber reinforced polymer laminate according to any one of the previous claims, in which the inclination of the extremities can range between 30 to 90 degrees regarding the beam axis or the slab plane.

4. Strengthening method by using carbon fiber reinforced polymer laminates described in any of the previous claims, comprising the following steps:

- Opening a groove on the concrete cover of the reinforced concrete element to strengthen;
- Opening holes with a diameter equal to the maximum dimension of the laminate's cross section plus 1.0 to 3.0 mm;
- Cleaning of the groove and holes with compressed air;
- Cleaning of the laminate with a degreasing agent;
- Adhesive execution and its application throughout the length of the groove, and application of a thin layer of adhesive on the lateral sides of the laminate;
- Introduction of the laminate part for the flexural strengthening into the groove, and the extremity parts of the laminate into the holes;
- After curing the adhesive applied in the central part of the laminate, fill with high fluidity adhesive the space between the extremity parts of the laminate and the hole's wall.
- 5. Strengthening method by using the carbon fiber reinforced polymer laminate according to the previous claim, in which the width of the groove opened on the concrete cover is comprised between 4.5 and 5.5 mm.
- **6.** Use of the carbon fiber reinforced polymer laminate described on any of the claims 1 to 3, for the reinforcement of reinforced concrete structures.

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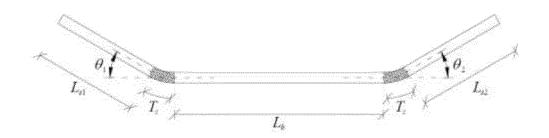


Fig. 1

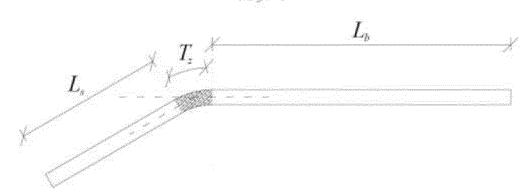
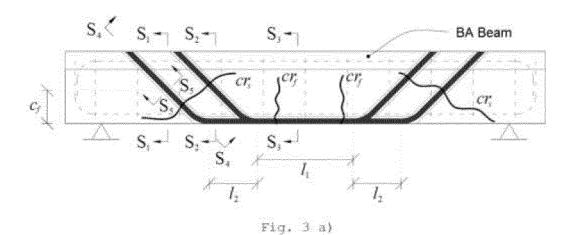
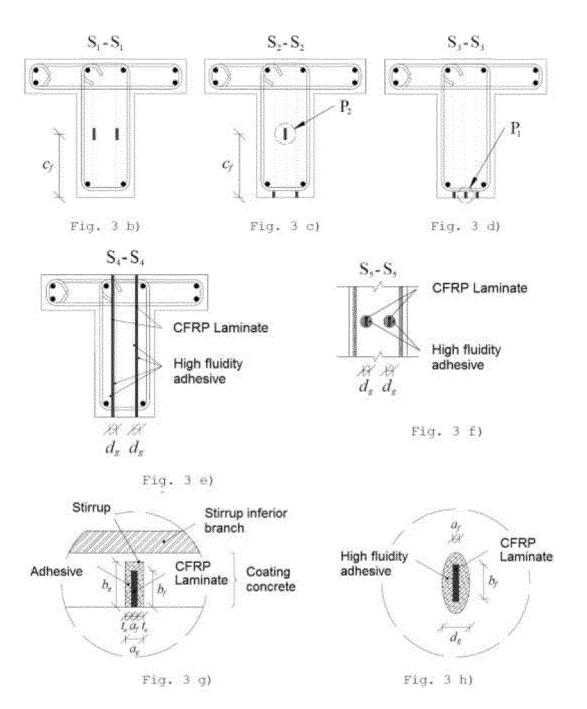
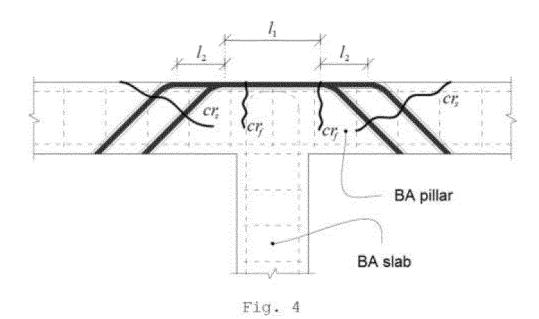
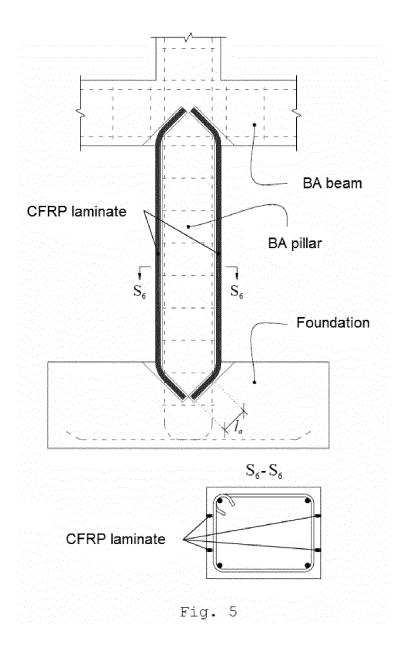


Fig. 2









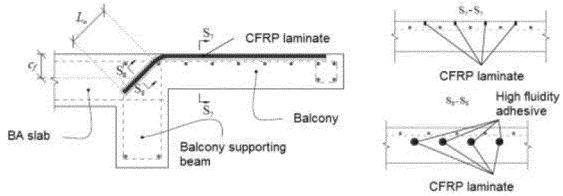
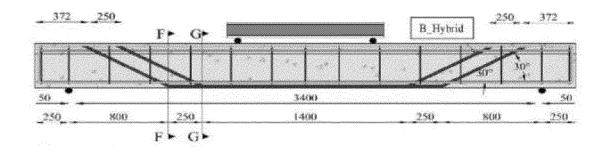


Fig. 6



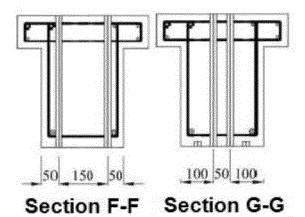
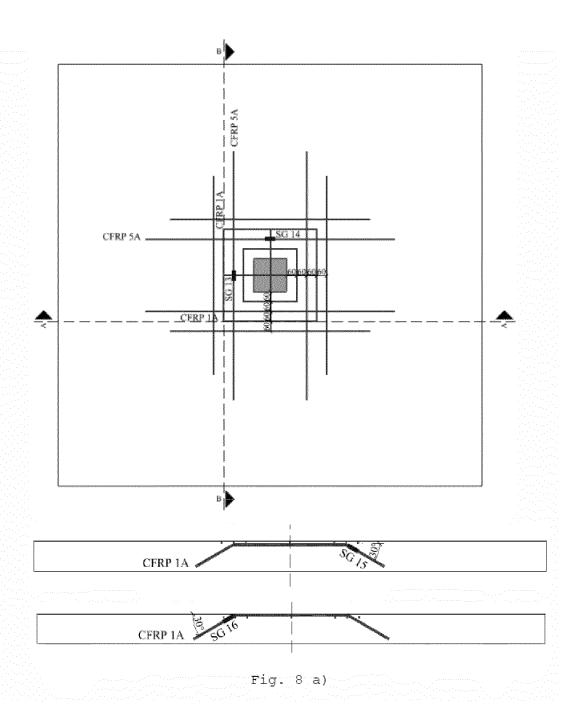


Fig. 7



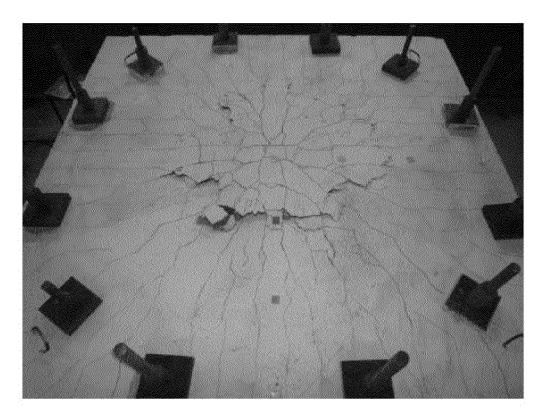


Fig. 8 b)

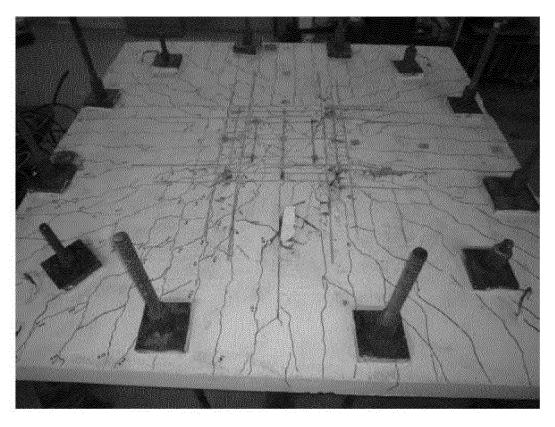


Fig. 8 c)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No PCT/IB2016/053897

5	INV.						
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	EPO-Internal, WPI Data						
20	C. DOCUM	C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT					
.0	Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the rele	Relevant to claim No.				
25	Х	JP 2003 003674 A (SHIMIZU CONSTRUCTION CO LTD) 8 January 2003 (2003-01-08) figures 1,3 paragraph [0007]		1-6			
	Х	JP 2012 207387 A (MISAWA HOMES CO) 25 October 2012 (2012-10-25) figures 7,8		1-6			
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10	Furti	her documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	X See patent family annex.				
	"A" docume	ategories of cited documents : ent defining the general state of the art which is not considered of particular relevance application or patent but published on or after the international late	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be				
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50		actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international sear	ch report			
		December 2016 mailing address of the ISA/	12/12/2016 Authorized officer				
		European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040,					
55		Fax: (+31-70) 340-2040,	Tryfonas, N				

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No
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REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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