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BUILDING CONSTRUCTIONS 1

**Repetition: Floor structures 1: timber, steel and  
reinforced concrete floors**

[www.epszerk.bme.hu](http://www.epszerk.bme.hu)



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Faculty of Architecture  Department of Building Constructions

## flat floors

traditional floors: timber floors, steel beam floors

## timber floors

today it is the structure of timbered buildings, typically weekend houses and cottages, but also used in residential buildings (until 1920, the majority of the closing floors was timber)

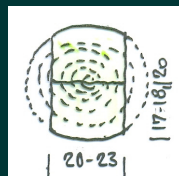
material: • larch (resin content),

- oak (> bending strength), 600-800 kg/m<sup>3</sup>

strength: parallel to the fibers, the compressive and bending strength is greater, 130 kp/cm<sup>2</sup>

timber deformation: shrinkage (drying), swelling (moisture absorption)

design and reconstruction issues: sitting, rotting, fungus

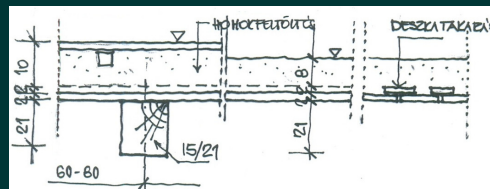


cut from logs

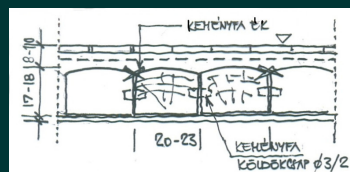


development of floors  
historical overview

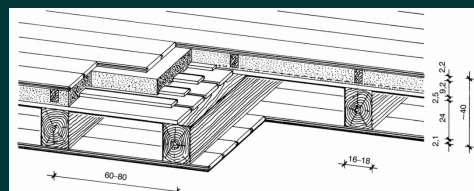
"cheap" floor



dowelled beam floor

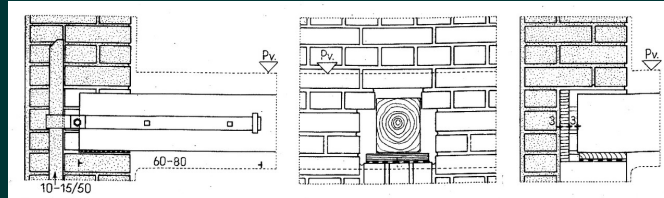


covered beam floor



historical timber floors  
historical overview – timber floors – historical floor structures

## timber floor details



anchorage of a beam head  
to walled iron plate

walling the beam head  
(underlaying, ventilation)

sitting,  
walling

## evaluation

- holding the walls together is ensured by tie rods
- co-working of timber floors (except dowelled floor) and their multi-support is difficult to be solved
- they are vibration-sensitive
- with a min. 8 cm thick filling of incombustible material they are moderately fire-resistant
- despite their small self-weight (due to the layered construction), their airborne sound insulation is favorable,
- hard floors of sanitary rooms (e.g. bathrooms) must be insulated!



## historical timber floors

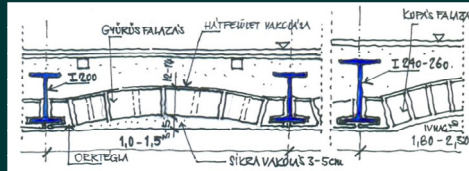
historical overview – timber floors – historical floor structures

## steel beam floors

- rarely in residential buildings, more often in public, mostly in industrial buildings,
- typically used in steel-framed construction systems (halls)
- approx. until 1920, used as an intermediate floor of residential buildings (Prussian vault)
- material: hot rolled steel beams, I and U profile
- design issues:
  - fire and corrosion protection of the beams must be provided,
  - joints - welded: rigid, moment-resistant, screwed: dismantlable

## Cambered vault floor - floor with steel beams and brick vaults

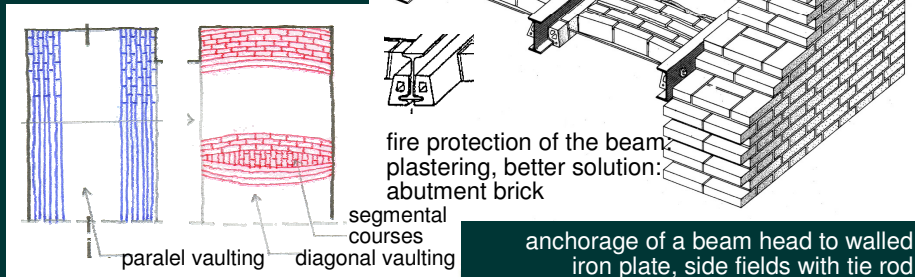
- historical floor, the sections between the beams are bricked as barrel vaults
- today only as reconstruction - but there are many of them



## Cambered vault floor

historical overview – steel beam floors

- 1,00-1,30 m axis distance → from below, the slab can be plastered to flat plane; larger span is plastered in curve
- vault between beams
- taking the lateral pressure of
- equalization of lateral pressure during construction: all fields constructed at the same time
- co-working: thin cement mortar top-filling



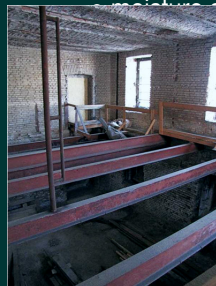
## Cambered vaults 2

historical overview – steel beam floors

## evaluation

steel beam floors:

- holding the walls together is ensured by tie rods
- are solid, medium durable, vibration-sensitive structures,
- co-working of structural elements should be ensured (e.g. with top-filling mortar),
- multiple-support scheme → beams running over two tracts
- with a min. 8 cm thick filling of incombustible material they are moderately fire-resistant,



## Cambered vaults 3

historical overview – steel beam floors

## monolithic reinforced concrete floors

history: - with the introduction of concrete technology, since the early 1900s  
- initially between steel beams, constructed as bottom or top ribbed slabs

- constructed on site, concrete pouring after formwork preparation and reinforcement laying
- material: concrete (due to the curved structure with C16, C20...C30 class, where "C" means the 28-day strength of the concrete, 16, 20...30 N/mm<sup>2</sup>)
- advantage: homogeneous material, robust co-working structure, good soundproofing, ensuring multiple-support, favourable cross-sectional ratios
- disadvantage: high self-weight, expensive formwork, relatively long



reinforcement during placement



formwork during installation

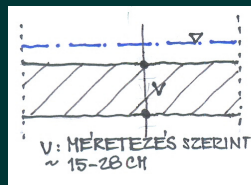


### monolithic floors 1

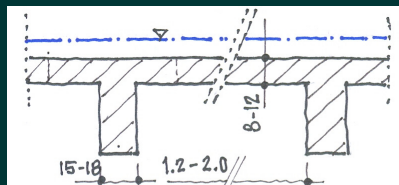
floors - reinforced concrete floors

## type of monolithic reinforced concrete floors

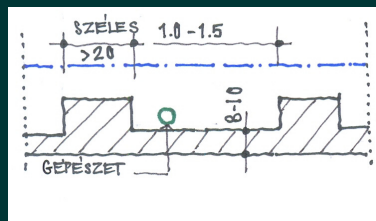
flat floor



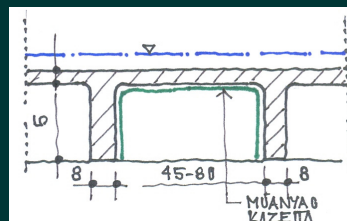
bottom-ribbed floor



top-ribbed floor



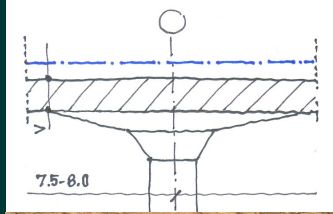
waffle slab



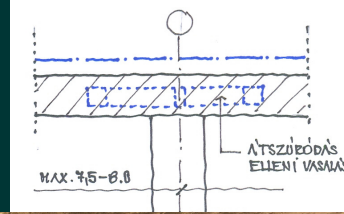
### monolithic floors 2

floors - reinforced concrete floors

mushroom slab  
(with mushroom  
head)



mushroom floor with top-to-  
bottom flat surface ("hidden  
mushroom")

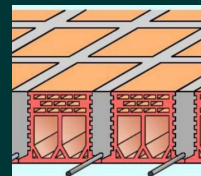
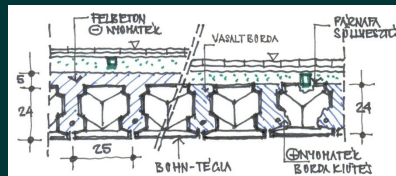


### monolithic floors 3

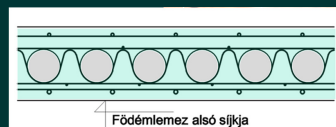
floors - reinforced concrete floors

### floors with closely placed ribs and clay elements

- dense, reinforced concrete ribs between the co-working loadable blocks (notched, ribbed side surface)
- increasing the compressed zone with concrete overlay
- increasing the positive moment with breaking out the rib of the block
- best known is the Bohn type slab (burnt brick clay)



### lightened monolithic RC slabs



hollow block monolithic RC  
slab



recirc plastic



bubble deck slab



### concrete saving monolithic floors 1

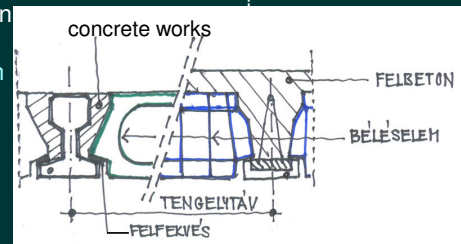
floors - reinforced concrete floors



beam prefabricated in full cross-section      partially prefabricated

by the **extent of prefabrication** they can be:

- prefabricated in full cross-section (RC beam) and
  - partially prefabricated (with ceramic shell)
- by their rebars
- mild and
  - tensioned rebars



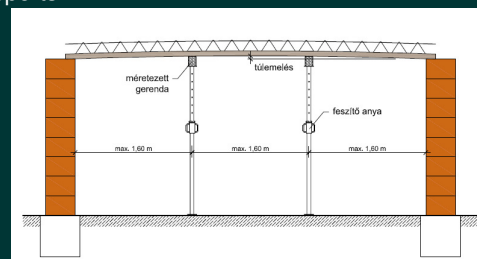
### beam - filler block floors

RC concrete floors – prefabricated floors

### design and installation (floors with beams and hollow blocks)

#### supporting and over lifting during construction

- during construction, the **semi-precast** beams (in ceramic shell) should be
  - supported – carrying a temporary load
  - over lifted - reducing deflection (usually  $l/300$ )
- support
  - up to 2.50-3.20 m span one,
  - over 3.20 m two,
  - over 4.80-5.0 m three supports
 (product-specific, see application manuals!)

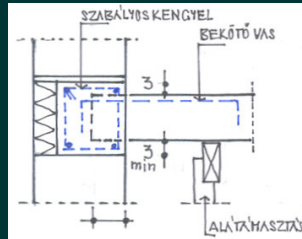


### design and installation – supporting

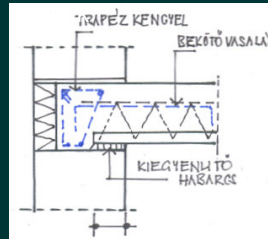
prefabricated floors - beam and filler block floors

## ring beam - beam head joint

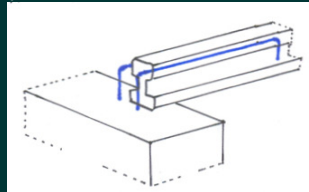
restrained beam end



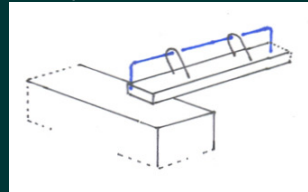
sitting on the last course



prefabricated beam



semi-prefabricated beam



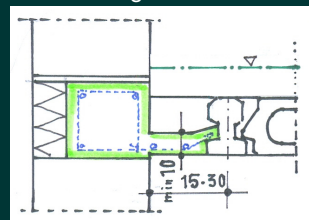
ring beam tie reinforcement



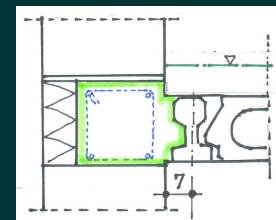
design and installation – ring beam  
prefabricated floors - beam and filler block floors

## beam position, ring beam connection parallel to the beams

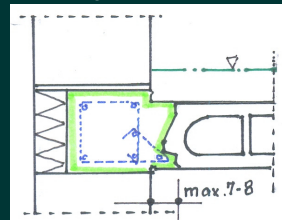
with leveling slab



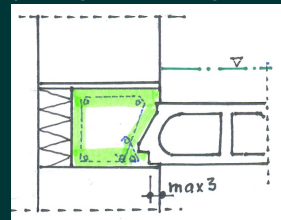
with modulated connection



with ring beam extension



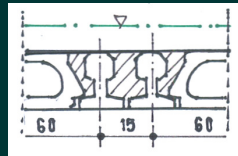
placing into the ring beam



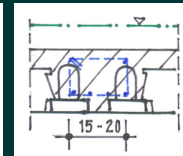
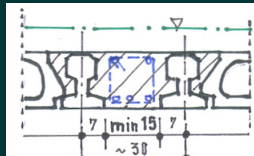
design and installation – ring beam  
prefabricated floors - beam and filler block floors

## increasing options of load bearing capacity

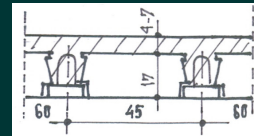
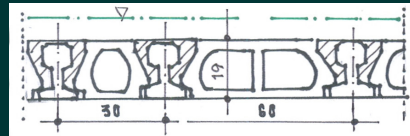
beam duplication



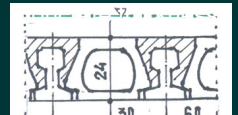
monolithic rib



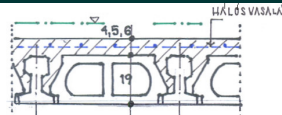
denser spacing of beams (narrower filling blocks)



increased overlay



reinforced overlay concrete

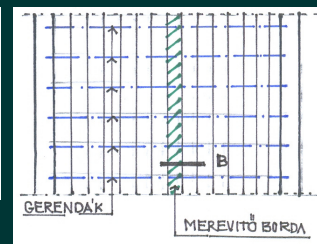
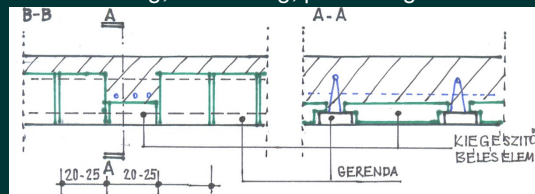


## stronger versions of floors

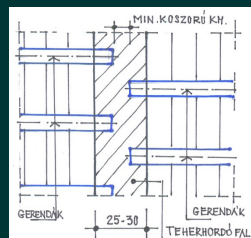
prefabricated floors - beams and filler blocks

## cross rib - stiffening rib

task: stiffening, co-working, preventing cracks



## minimal ring beam on internal load bearing wall !!



number of stiffening ribs:  
2.00-3.75 m span - 1  
3.75-5.75 m span - 2  
5.75-7.00 m span - 3  
(product-specific, see application manuals!)

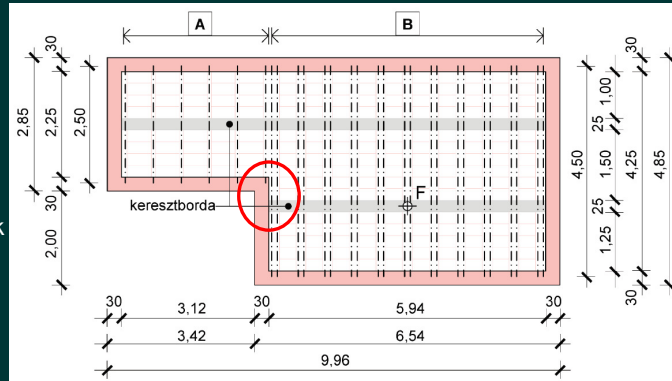


## stiffening (cross) rib, ring beam on internal load bearing wall

prefabricated floors - beams and filler blocks

## floor design

- load-bearing walls
- stiffening walls
- load-bearing direction
- span
- choice of structure
- (span check)
- load capacity check determining the structure
- critical places: openings, penetrations, partitions
- balcony, loggia
- beam spacing
- detail plans



2.50 m span: single beam, 60 cm spacing

4.25 m span: double beam, 45 cm hollow block

the plan serves only as an illustration, the right-hand floor is actually over-reinforced by approx.double than needed



## floor design

prefabricated floors - beams and filler blocks