

# Load Tracing

Load Paths  
Load Diagrams  
Floor Systems



Gatti Wool Mill, Rome (Pier Luigi Nervi, 1951)

# Load Combinations

## Load Types

- Dead Load - D
- Roof Live Load - L<sub>r</sub>
- Floor Live Load - L
- Snow Load - S
- Wind Load - W
- Earthquake - E

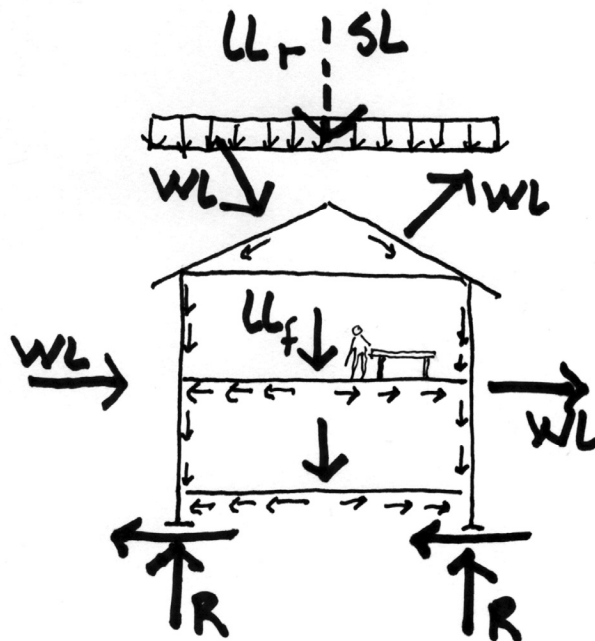
## Load Combinations

### Allowable Stress Design (ASD)

- D
- D + L
- D + (L<sub>r</sub> or S)
- D + 0.75 L + 0.75 (L<sub>r</sub> or S)
- D + (W or 0.7 E)

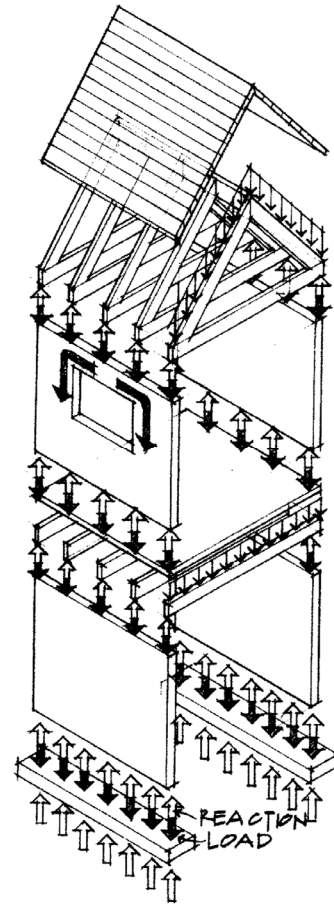
### Strength Design (LRFD)

- 1.4 D
- 1.2 D + 1.6 L<sub>r</sub> + 0.5(L<sub>r</sub> or S)
- 1.2 D + 1.6(L<sub>r</sub> or S) + (L or 0.8W)
- 1.2 D + 1.6W + L + 0.5(L<sub>r</sub> or S)
- 1.2 D + 1.6E + L + 0.2S



# Load Paths

Gravity loads trace from top down to their resolution at the foundation.

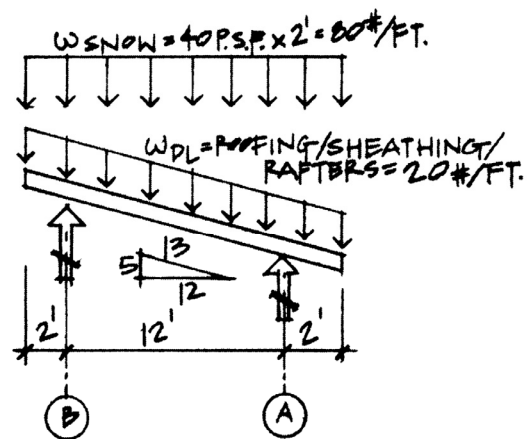


# Load Paths

## Roof Loads

Roof loads can be applied as **projected** loads (e.g. snow or live loads)

or loads on the surface (e.g. dead or wind)



# Load Paths

## Floor Loads

### Member Hierarchy

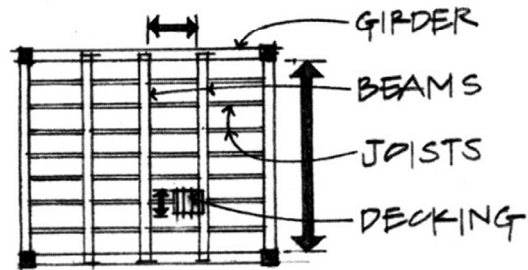
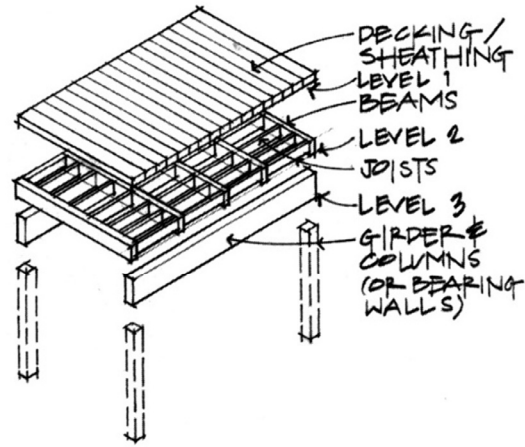
**Flooring** spans between joists

**Joists** span between beams

**Beams** span between girders

**Girders** span between columns

**Columns** carry load to ground



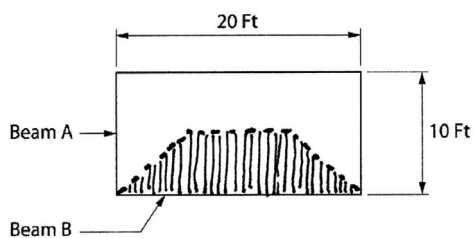
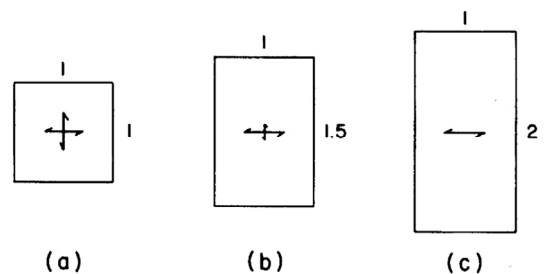
# Load Paths

## Floor Slabs

Concrete slabs span in the direction of the steel reinforcement.

**One-way slabs** should span the shortest direction.

**Two way slabs** span in both directions. Aspect ratios should be square or less than 2:1. The load path divides at 45° from corner.



2-way slab tributary area of beam B

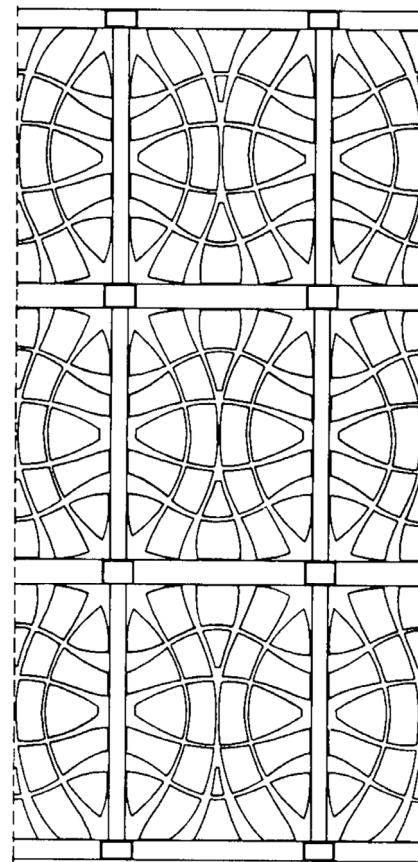


2-way waffle slab

# Load Paths

Ideal load paths following the **isoclines** of maximum tension and compression (principal stress patterns). These give the design with least material, but more complex form.

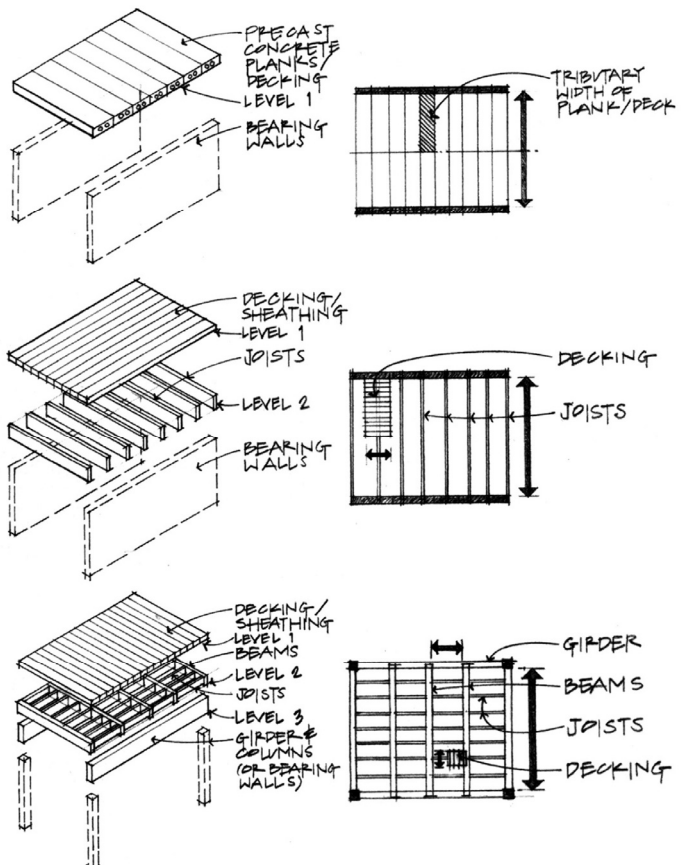
Cassa di Risparmio, Venice  
by Pier Luigi Nervi



# Tributary Area

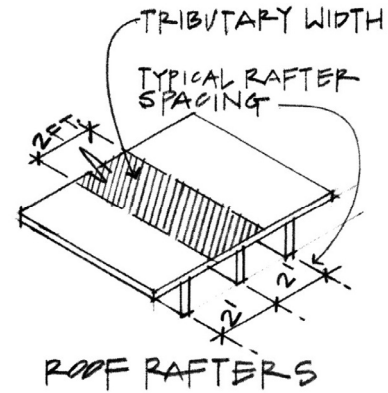
The **tributary area** is an area used to determine the load on a member.

If geometry and loading is symmetric, then load paths and reactions are also symmetric.

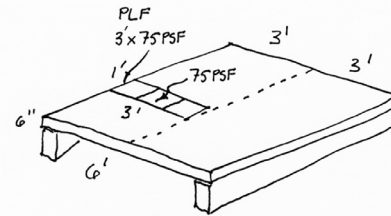


# Tributary Area

The **tributary area** is an area used to determine the load on a member.



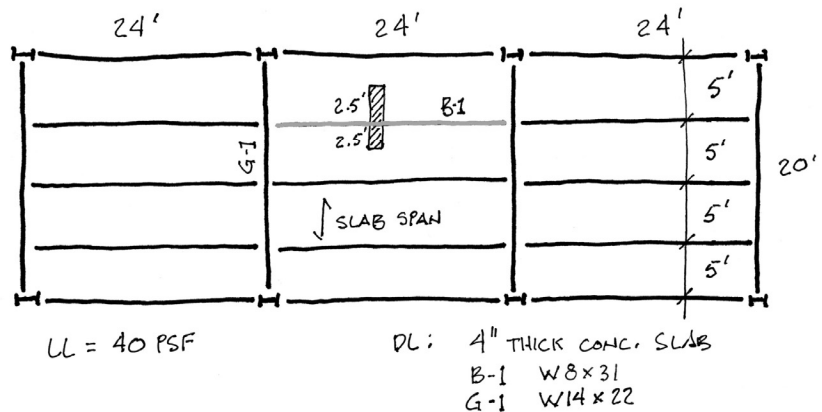
Each member has a tributary area that can be used to find the total load on that member.



# Load Transfer

example 1

Construct the load diagram and find end reactions for **Beam B-1** and **Girder G-1**



**For Load on B1:**

**Floor Dead Load = 4" slab + W8x31 beam**

$$\text{DL slab} = 150 \text{ PCF} \times (4/12) \text{ FT} = 50 \text{ PSF}$$

$$50 \text{ PSF} \times (2.5' + 2.5') \text{ SF/LF} = \mathbf{250 \text{ PLF}}$$

$$\text{DL beam W8x31 (selfweight)} = \mathbf{31 \text{ PLF}}$$

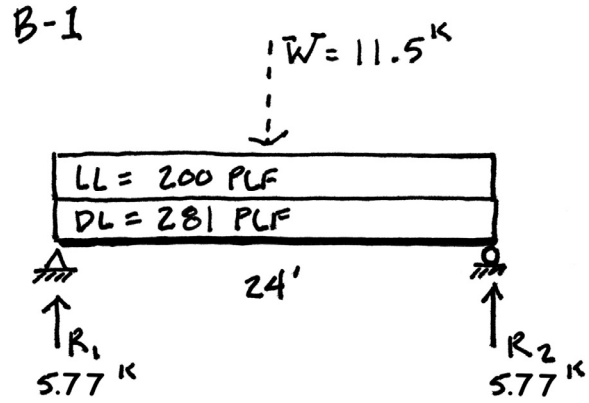
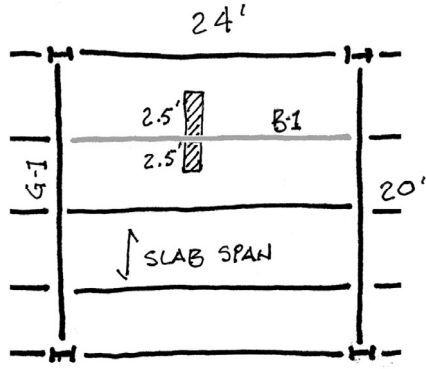
$$\text{TOTAL DL} = 250 + 31 = \mathbf{281 \text{ PLF}}$$

**Floor Live Load = 40 PSF**

$$40 \text{ PSF} \times (2.5' + 2.5') \text{ SF/LF} = \mathbf{200 \text{ PLF}}$$

# Load Transfer example 1

Construct load diagram and find end reactions for beam **B-1**



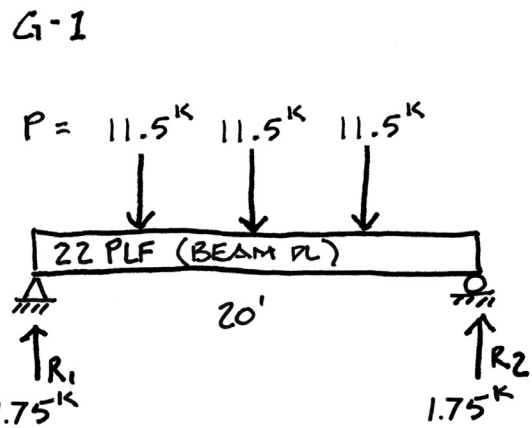
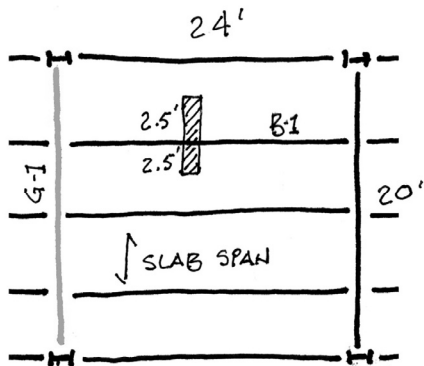
$$W = w \ell = 481 \text{ PLF} \times 24' = 11544 \text{ LBS}$$

$$R_1 = R_2 = 5772 \text{ LBS (BY SYMMETRY)}$$

# Load Transfer example 1

Construct load diagram and find end reactions for girder **G-1**

**W14x22**



$$\text{BEAM DL} = 22 \text{ PLF} \times 20' = 440 \text{ LBS}$$

$$P = 5772 \times 2 \text{ (from each side)} = 11544 \text{ LBS}$$

$$\text{TOTAL LOAD} = 3 \times 11544 + 440 = 35072 \text{ LBS}$$

$$R_1 = R_2 = 35072 / 2 = 17536 \text{ LBS}$$

# Floor System

example 2

Find Load Diagrams for:

- B1
- B2
- G1

Dead Load

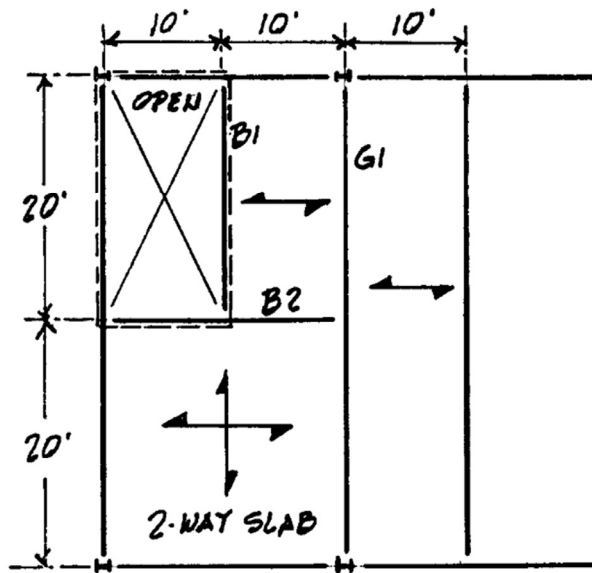
- wall 800 PLF
- floor slab 70 PSF

Live Load

- floor 90 PSF

Notice the order:

- B1, then B2, then G1



Concrete slab floor system spanning in directions shown

# Floor System example 2 cont.

Find a beam not loaded by other beams, e.g. a joist or a simple beam.

Sketch the tributary area – 1/2 span to the next member.

Sketch a load diagram

Calculate the distributed loads in PLF

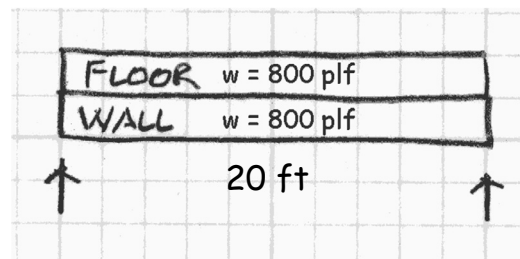
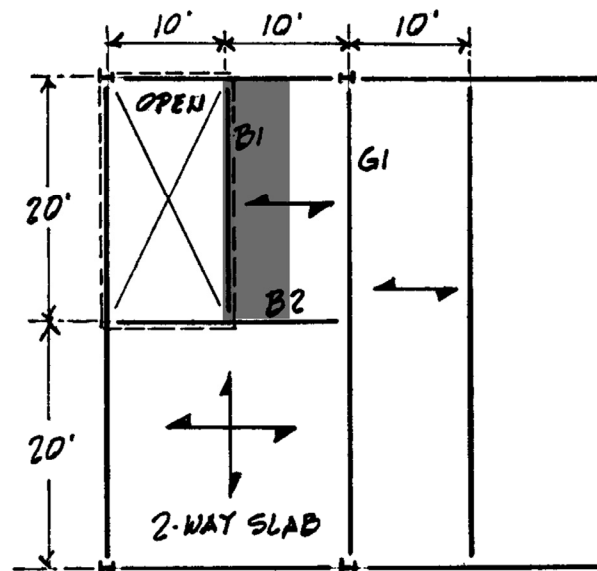
(total DL+LL on floor = 160 PSF)  
 $70 \text{ PSF} + 90 \text{ PSF} = 160 \text{ PSF}$

Floor:

$$160 \text{ PSF} \times 5 \text{ FT} = 800 \text{ PLF}$$

Wall:

800 PLF



Load diagram

## Floor System example 2 cont.

From the PLF loading, calculate a total W load.

Locate W at the centroid of the distributed loading.

Solve the end reactions by summing moments about reactions or by proportions.

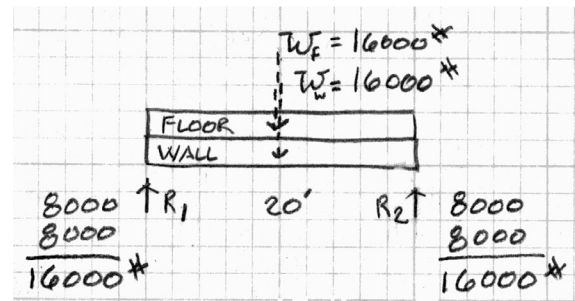
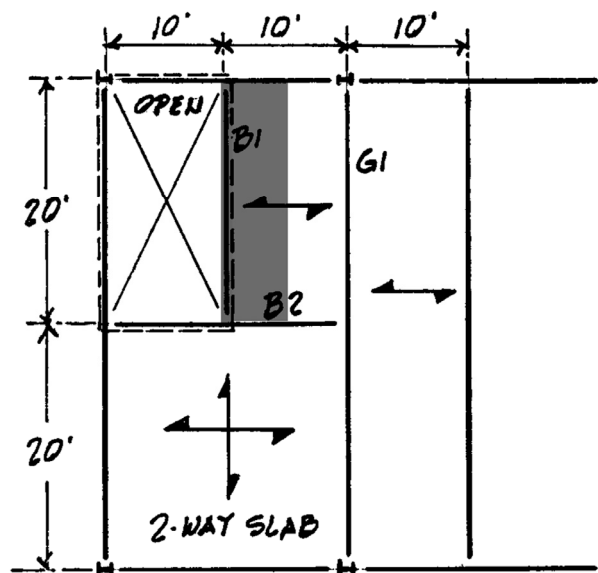
$$w \times L = W$$

Floor:

$$800 \text{ PLF} \times 20 \text{ FT} = 16000 \text{ LBS}$$

Wall:

$$800 \text{ PLF} \times 20 \text{ FT} = 16000 \text{ LBS}$$



Load diagram

## Floor System example 2 cont.

Continue with the next beam supporting a previously solved beam.

Sketch the tributary areas – 2-way slabs divide at 45° from each corner. Areas associated with reactions of other beams are proportional to the load distribution.

Sketch a load diagram

Calculate the distributed loads in PLF, finding peak values of varying loads.

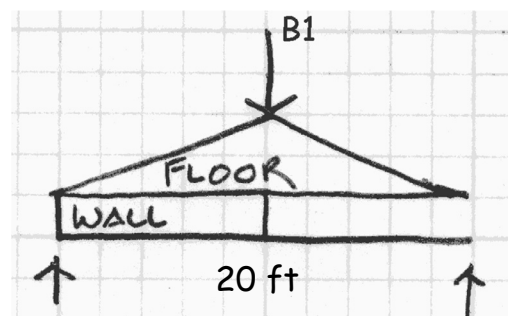
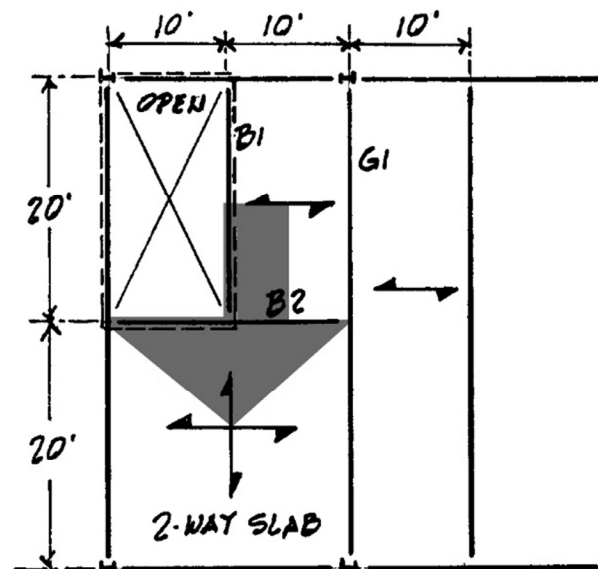
reaction from B1 = 16000 LBS

wall: DL = 800 PLF

floor: total DL+LL = 160 psf

2-way Slab (Peak Load)

$$160 \text{ PSF} \times 10 \text{ FT} = 1600 \text{ PLF}$$



Load diagram



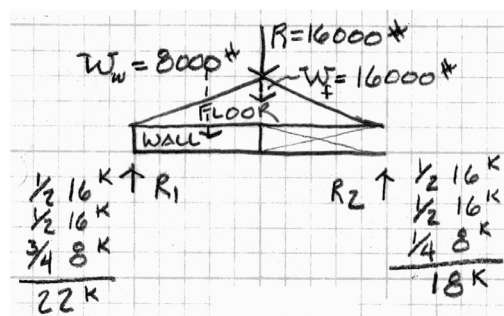
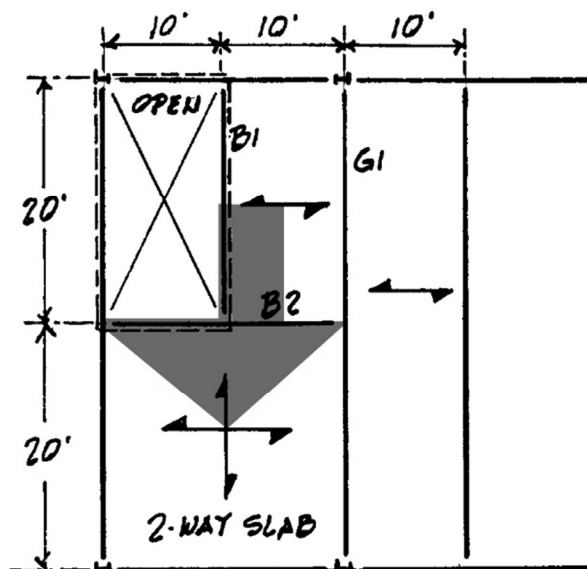
## Floor System example 2 cont.

- From the PLF loading, calculate a total W load.
- Locate W at the centroid of the distributed loading.
- Solve the end reactions by summing moments or by proportions.

Reaction from B1:  
 $R = 16000 \text{ LBS}$

Wall:  
 $800 \text{ PLF} \times 10 \text{ FT} = 8000 \text{ LBS}$

Floor:  
 $1600 \text{ PLF} \times 10 \text{ FT} = 16000 \text{ LBS}$



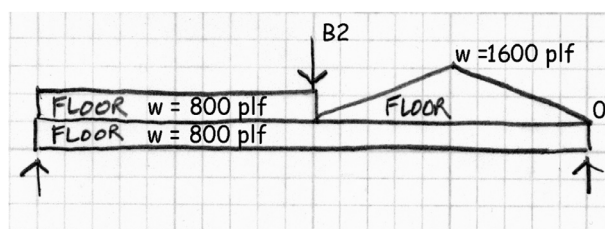
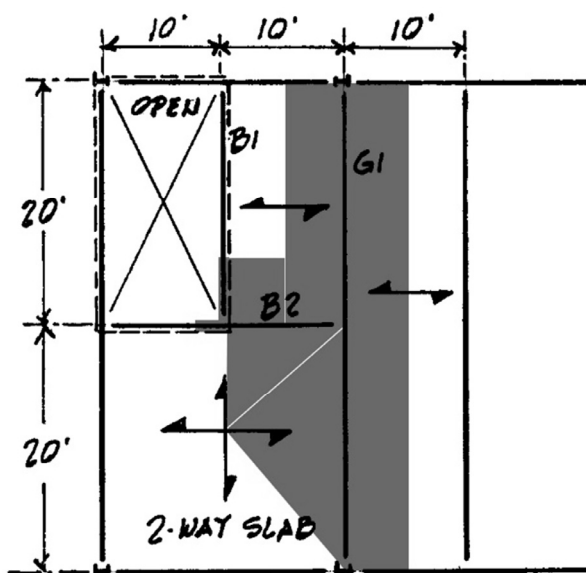
Load diagram

## Floor System example 2 cont.

- Continue with the next beam supporting a previously solved beam.
- Sketch the tributary areas – 2-way slabs divide at 45° from each corner. Areas associated with reactions of other beams are proportional to the load distribution.
- Sketch a load diagram
- Calculate the distributed loads in PLF, finding peak values of varying loads.

Peak Load on 2-way Slab:  
 $160 \text{ PSF} \times 10 \text{ FT} = 1600 \text{ PLF}$

Floor on one side of G1:  
 $160 \text{ PSF} \times 5 \text{ FT} = 800 \text{ PLF}$



Load diagram

# Floor System example 2 cont.

- From the PLF loading, calculate a total W load.
- Locate W at the centroid of the distributed loading.
- Solve the end reactions by summing moments or by proportions.

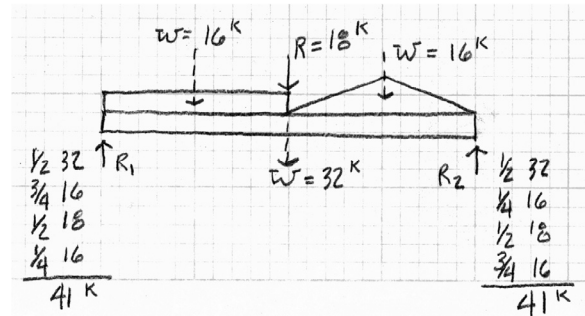
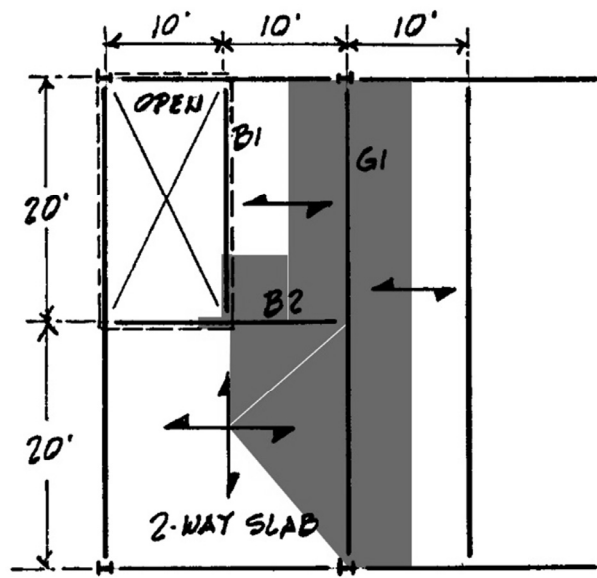
Floor on G1:

$$800 \text{ PLF} \times 20 \text{ FT} = 16000 \text{ LBS}$$

$$800 \text{ PLF} \times 40 \text{ FT} = 32000 \text{ LBS}$$

2-way Slab:

$$1600 \text{ PLF} \times 10 \text{ FT} = 16000 \text{ LBS}$$



Load diagram