



A STUDY FOR BEHAVIOUR AND STRENGTH OF PERFORATED BRICK  
MASONRY WALLS SUPPORTED ON FRAME UNDER UNIFORM LOADING

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ABSTRACT

The experimental results on six specimens of the perforated brick masonry walls supported on frame are given. The influence of height-span ratio of walls  $H_w/l_o$ , beam-column rigid ratio of frame  $K_{mb}/K_{mc}$  and percentage of longitudinal bars of beam  $\rho = A_s/bh_o$  on the behaviour and strength are discussed. The plastic limit analyses for bearing capacity of walls-frame composite structures are carried out and the formulas of their flexural and shear strength, which tally with the test results, are presented. The suggestions of design are put forward for the masonry walls on frame.

INTRODUCTION

The masonry walls supported on frame are composed of the reinforced concrete frame and the masonry walls supported on them. They are widely used in the multistoried masonry buildings, for example, the buildings, in which shop on the ground floor and dwelling house on others. In the fifties of 20th century the elastic analyses for wall-beams have been carried out (Jemochkin, 1960). The study for the composite action of the brick panel walls supported on reinforced concrete beams (Wood, 1957) and the experimental study of masonry walls on beams (Resenhaupt, 1962) have been done. Since the seventies of 20th century, the experimental research on about 256 specimens of simple supporting wall-beams and 15

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specimens of continuous wall-beams, and a lot of the finite element analyses of wall-beams have been done by the Research Group for wall-beams of China, including work of the authors (Feng et al, 1989), (Gong et al, 1988), (Gong, 1989). The behaviour and modes of failure of the simple wall-beams were discussed and the formulas of flexural and shear strength of wall-beams and local compressive strength of masonry above supporting beam at supports were given. Therefore the design of wall-beams has been covered by the Code for Masonry Structures (GBJ3-88) in China (Tanget al, 1992). But the research for masonry walls supported on frame is seldom. Therefore in this paper the test results will be given and try to calculate the bearing capacity using plastic limit analyses methods for the perforated brick masonry walls supported on frame.

## EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH

### Test Program

The investigation's objective are to study behaviour, modes of failure and effects of several important factors on modes of failure and ultimate strength for the wall-beams supported frame. Six specimens on the perforated brick masonry wall supported on single-storey and one span frame were tested to failure in the laboratory. The height-span ratio  $h_w/l_o = 0.485, 0.628$ , beam-column rigid ratio  $K_{mb}/K_{mc} = 0.5, 0.605, 1.185$  and percentages of bottom longitudinal bars of beams  $\rho = A_s/bh_o = 0.56\%, 0.80\%, 1.2\%$ . The compressive strength of concrete cube  $f_{cu}$ , the tension strength of steel bars  $f_y$ , the compressive strength of perforated brick, mortar and masonry  $f_1, f_2, f_m$  and other factors of specimens are shown in Table 1. Each specimen is loaded directly uniformly on the top face by means of two symmetric hydraulics and loading cell through the double layer distributing beams and one layer steel slabs. In the tests the midspan deflection of beam, the longitudinal reinforcement strains on midspan and support of beam, the vertical reinforcement strains on top and bottom of column, the horizontal strains on midspan vertical section of wall, the vertical and horizontal strains on interface between wall and beam, cracking loads and failure load, etc are measured. The typical testing arrangement is shown in Fig. 1.

### Behaviour Under Loads

Test results indicate that the walls-frame composite structures go through elastic, unelastic work and failure stages. When the loads are less than  $0.35 F_u$  ( $F_u$  is ultimate loads), the walls-frame is in elastic stage. The midspan deflection of beam the strains in steel bars and concrete of beam and column are very small and vary linearly with the increase of the loads. The strain distribution in top and bottom section

of column according to Bernoulli's theorem, but the strains distribution in midspan and supports section of wall-beam do not. When the loads increase to about  $0.35 F_u$ , the first vertical flexural crack will appear on the midspan of beam. After that other vertical cracks will appear successively and develop to walls. But variation of stress and deformation is unremarkable. When the loads increase to about  $0.85 F_u$ , with appearing and developing of diagonal cracks in walls or beam near supports, the behaviour of walls-frame changes a lot, i.e. the beam-action weakens and the arch-action strengthens in walls-beam. The walls-frame will go to failure stage and a system for transferring

Table 1—Test data of specimens

specimens	FW 1	FW 2	FW 3	FW 4	FW 5	FW 6
dimension of specimens (mm)						
beam $b_b \times h_b$	120×120	120×160	120×120	120×120	120×120	120×120
Column $b_c \times h_c$	120×120	120×120	120×100	120×120	120×120	120×100
Wall $h_w \times h$	970×112			1130×112		
span $l_o$	2000			1800		
$h_w / l_o$	0.485			0.628		
Column Hcn	940	910	640	840	840	570
$K_{mb} / K_{mc}$	0.5	1.185	0.605	0.5	0.5	0.605
reinforcement of beams and columns						
top of beam	2Φ6					
bottom of beam	2Φ8	2Φ10	2Φ8	2Φ8	2Φ10	2Φ6
$\rho$ (%)	0.84	0.98	0.84	0.84	1.29	0.56
column	4Φ6					
steel hoop	Φ6@80					
strength of material (N/mm <sup>2</sup> )						
concrete $f_{cu}$	34.09	31.38	31.87	33.71	28.93	26.28
brick $f_1$	22.41			16.49		
mortar $f_2$	9.77	7.44	9.0	16.33	14.06	16.92
masonry $f_m$	4.90	5.10	5.12	3.39	4.34	5.04
strength of steel bars (N/mm <sup>2</sup> )						
diameter	Φ6	Φ8	Φ10	Φ6	Φ8	Φ10
yield strength $f_y$	424.3	327.4	309.0	420.0	320.1	285.6
ultimate strength $f_{su}$	456.1	389.7	394.7	451.9	447.3	373.1
percentage of elongation (%)	20.0	31.7	16.0	19.2	25.9	37.7

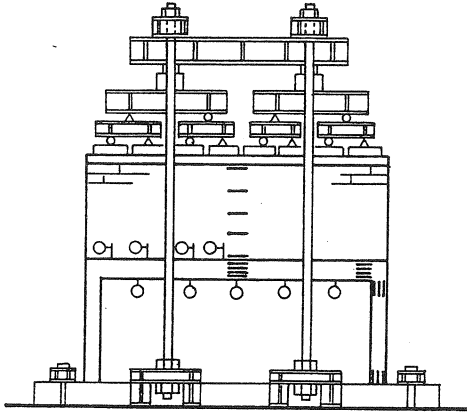


Fig.1 Testing arrangement

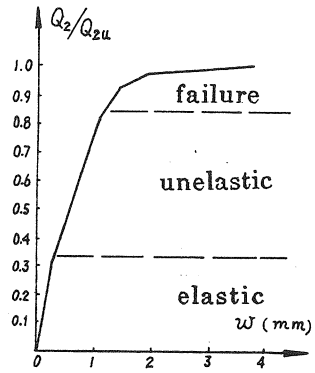


Fig.2 Load-deflection curve

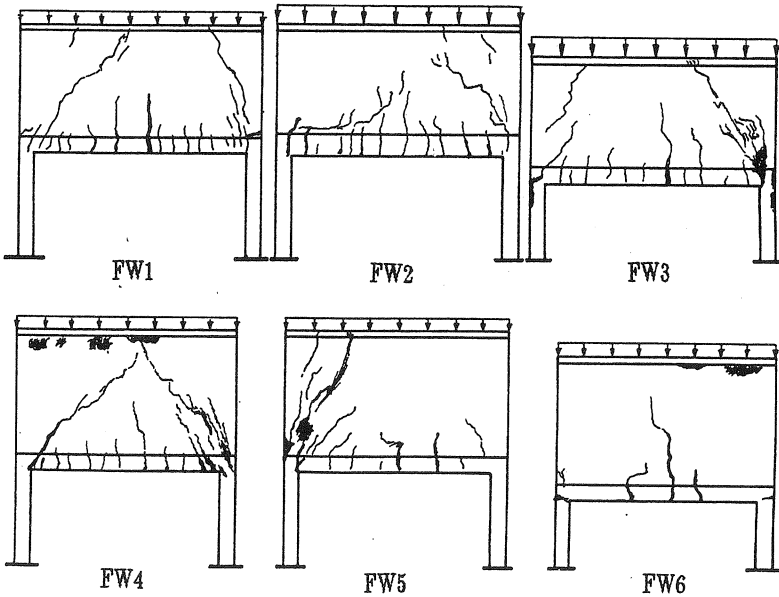


Fig.3 Failure crack patterns

forces like arch and frame composite structures is formed finally. The test results are shown in Table 2.

*Modes of Failure*

The following failure modes will appear possibly for walls-frame. *Flexural Failure*. It is the failure caused by yielding of longitudinal bars in beam or column. When the height-span ratio  $h_w/l_o$  of walls and the percentage of longitudinal bars  $\rho$  of beam are small. At first a tensile-flexure plastic hinge is formed in midspan section of beam. Because the second plastic hinge appears in supported section of beam or top section of column, two different failure mechanisms are formed. It is the failure mechanism aroused by yielding of vertical bars near outside of column, i.e. that the compressive-flexure plastic hinge is formed and caused by yielding of longitudinal bars of top of beam near supports, i.e. that the flexural plastic hinge is formed.

Table 2—Test results and comparison

specimens	FW 1	FW 2	FW 3	FW 4	FW 5	FW 6
characteristic loads and mode of failure (kN/m)						
vertical cracking on beam	47.0	56.3	19.0	72.5	82.9	63.2
inclined craking on beam	94.0	122.1	123.2	196.9	176.2	/
yielding of bars in beam on midspan	94.0	/	123.2	/	/	137.1
yielding of bars in beam on supports	112.8	/	131.5	/	/	/
yielding of bars in column on top	/	/	/	/	/	170.8
inclined cracking on walls	104.3	122.1	123.2	196.9	176.2	/
local crushing	/	/	146.9	196.9	178.2	/
ultimate bearing capacity	112.8	131.5	146.9	217.6	178.2	171.3
mode of failure	F-S	S(T)	F-S(L)	S(C)(L)	S(C)(L)	F
comparison with calculated values						
(test values) $Q_{\Sigma}^e$ (kN/m)	112.8	/	131.5	/	/	170.8
values by [4] or [5] $Q_{\Sigma}^e$ (kN/m)	115.4	/	123.9	/	/	155.2
$Q_{\Sigma}^e / Q_{\Sigma}^c$	1.023	/	0.942	/	/	0.909
test values $V^e$ (kN)	106.5	124.1	140.5	170.1	150.5	/
values by [6] and [2t] $V^e$ (kN)	116.4	141.2	122.5	153.7	158.0	/
$V^e / V^c$	1.093	1.138	0.872	0.904	1.050	/

Notes: F—flexure failure; S—shear failure; T—diagonal tensile failure; L—local crushing; C—diagonal compressive failure

**Shear Failure** It is failure aroused due to compressing or tensioning inclinedly of masonry walls near supports and crushing or splitting inclinedly of concrete of beam-column joints. The longitudinal bars of beam and the vertical bars of column are not yielded. There are two shear failure modes. The diagonal tension failure is failure aroused due to principal tensile stress  $\sigma_{ep}$  is more than tension strength  $f_{mt}$  of masonry walls and when  $h_w/l_0$  is minor usually. The diagonal cracks are developed by toothing mortar joint tabularly, and the angle of inclination of the diagonal cracks is less than  $45^\circ$ . The diagonal compressive failure is failure aroused due to principal compressive stress  $\sigma_{cp}$  more than compressive strength  $f_m$  of masonry walls and when  $h_w/l_0$  is major usually. The diagonal cracks are developed through the brick and level mortar joint steeply. Many short parallel inclined cracks appear and soon the masonry between placed points of loading (about  $1/3 \sim 1/4$  span from supports) and column is crushed inclinedly. The angle of inclination of diagonal cracks is about  $55 \sim 60^\circ$ .

**Flexure-shear Failure** It is the failure which occurs due to yielding of the bottom longitudinal bars in midspan section of beam and crushing inclinedly of the masonry walls between placed points of loading and column. After that the top longitudinal bars in supports section of beam or the vertical bars in upside section of column are yielded and the flexural failure mechanisms are formed.

**Local Crushing Failure** It is the failure which occurs due to the stress concentration is very large in masonry and concrete above column near supports and the local stress more than local compressive strength. When  $h_w/l_0$  is larger, the local compressive failure of masonry near the supports and the local crushing of concrete above column appear easily. The failure crack patterns of all specimens are shown in Fig. 3.

## PLASTIC LIMIT ANALYSES

### Basic Assumptions and Failure Mechanism

The steel bars is a rigid-plastic material. Its stress-strain curve is shown in Fig. 4. Assume  $f_y = |f_y'|$ . The masonry is also assumed to a rigid-plastic material. Its stress-strain curve is shown in Fig. 5. Its yielding strength at uniaxial stress is:

$$f_{mp} = \gamma_m f_m \quad [1]$$

Where,  $\gamma_m$  is plastic effective compressive coefficient,

$$\gamma_m = 0.75 - f_m / l_0 \quad [2]$$

The yielding condition at plane compressive stress is shown in Fig. 6.

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_1 &= f_m & (\text{when } 0 \leq \sigma_2 \leq f_m) \\ \sigma_2 &= f_m & (\text{when } 0 \leq \sigma_1 \leq f_m) \end{aligned} \quad [3]$$

Ignore the act of concrete and masonry at tension. Assume that the frame-beam flexural mechanism, the frame-beam and column flexural mechanism and walls-beam shear mechanism are occurred possibly according to the test results. It is shown in Fig.7.

#### Flexural Capacity

*The Frame-Beam Flexural Mechanism* We may obtain the upper bound solution according to the plastic virtual work equation. The external work and internal work are, respectively,

$$W_e = Q_2 l_n^2 \theta / 4 \quad [a]$$

$$W_i = 2(M_{b2} + N_{b2}z + M_{be2}) \theta \quad [b]$$

$W_e = W_i$ , then

$$Q_2 = 8(M_{b2} + N_{b2}z + M_{be2}) / l_n^2 \quad [4]$$

*The Frame-Beam and column Flexural Mechanism* We may obtain also the upper bound solution. The external work is calculated by formula [a]. The internal work is:

$$W_i = 2(M_{b2} + N_{b2}z + M_{cu2} + N_{cu2}e') \theta \quad [c]$$

$W_e = W_i$ , then,

$$Q_2 = 8(M_{b2} + N_{b2}z + M_{cu2} + N_{cu2}e') / l_n^2 \quad [5]$$

where,

- $Q_2$ —uniform loads on top face of walls-frame,
- $l_n$ —clear span, face to face of column,
- $l_c$ —computation span take  $l_c = l_n$ ,  $l_c$  is span centre to centre of column,
- $M_{b2}$ —moment in midspan section of beam,
- $N_{b2}$ —axial tension force in midspan section of beam,
- $M_{be}$ —moment in supported section of beam,
- $M_{cu}$ —moment in upside section of column,
- $N_{cu}$ —axial compressive force of column,
- $z$ —internal moment arm,
- $e'$ —distance between axial force and interside bars of column.

#### Shear Capacity

*Lower Bound Solution.* We may divide a walls-beam into 11 parts (Fig.8.). The stress of part 2 and 6 equal 0.1 and 5 are uniaxial compressive parts. 3 and 4 are biaxial compressive parts. 7 is uniaxial tension part. Assume part 1 to achieve the yielding strength of masonry, then the shear of vertical section is shear corresponded with static possible stress field. We may obtain the lower bound solution for the shear strength in the walls of walls-frame.

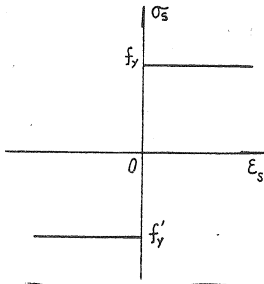


Fig.4 Stress-strain curve of steel bars

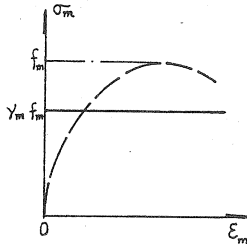


Fig.5 Stress-strain curve of masonry

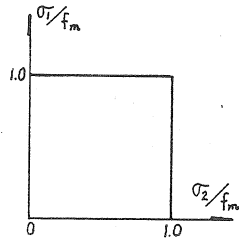


Fig.6 Yielding condition at plane stress of masonry

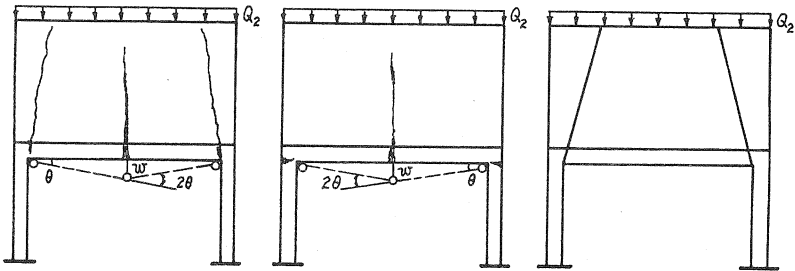


Fig.7 Possible mechanisms of walls-frame

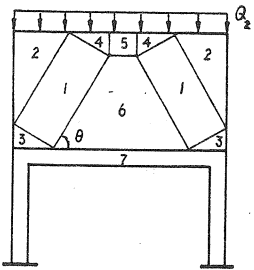


Fig.8 Divided parts of walls-frame

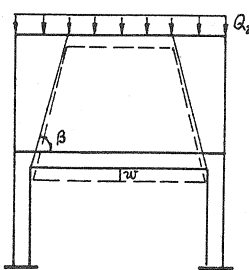


Fig.9 Shear mechanism of walls-frame

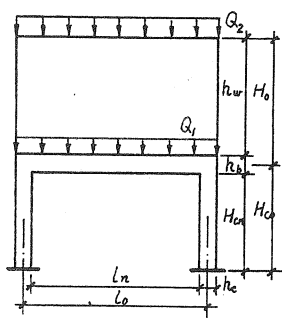


Fig.10 Calculated simplified diagram



$$V_m = \gamma_m f_m h h_w \sin 2\theta \quad [d]$$

Solve the maximum,  $dV_m/d\theta = 0$ , then  $\theta = 45^\circ$ , Obtain

$$V_m = \gamma_m f_m h h_w / 2 \quad [e]$$

*Upper Bound Solution.* Assume that the possible failure mechanism is shown in Fig. 9. We may obtain also the upper bound solution according to virtual work equation. The external work is

$$W_o = Q_2 l_o w = 2(V_m + V_b)w \quad [e]$$

Where  $V_b$  is the shear subjected by beam. We discuss only the shear  $V_m$  subjected by the masonry walls. Then,

$$W_{me} = 2V_m w \quad [f]$$

The internal work is

$$W_{mi} = \gamma_m f_m h h_w (1 - \cos \beta) w / \sin \beta \quad [g]$$

$W_{me} = W_{mi}$ , then,

$$W_m = (1/2) \gamma_m f_m h h_w (1 - \cos \beta) / \sin \beta \quad [h]$$

Solve the minimum,  $dW_m/d\beta = 0$ , then  $\beta = 90^\circ$ . We obtain the upper bound solution is identical with the lower bound solution. Therefore the formula [6] is real shear capacity of the masonry walls of walls-frame.

#### *Comparison with Test Results*

The comparison of calculated values according to formula [4] with test results of specimens FW1, FW3 and calculated values according to formula [5] with test result of specimen FW6 is shown in Table 2 and indicates: the average ratio of calculated value to test data  $\mu = 0.958$ , coefficient of variation  $\delta = 0.061$ . The comparison of calculated values according to formula [6] with test results of specimens, in which are occurred the shear failure or the flexural-shear failure, is also shown in Table 2 and indicate: numbers of specimens  $n = 5$ , average ratio of calculated value to test data  $\mu = 1.011$ , coefficient of variation  $\delta = 0.116$ , the theoretical values according to the plastic limit analysis tally with the test results.

#### SUGGESTIONS OF DESIGN FOR WALLS ON FRAME

##### *General Specify*

The span of walls-frame is not larger than 9m generally. Total height of walls above frame do not exceed 15m usually and must be not less than 0.4  $l_o$ . The height of beam is not less than  $l_o/12$ . The others are the same as general frame and simple wall-beams.

*Loads on Walls and Frame*

The loads on the walls-frame have two parts. The loads on top face of beam  $Q_1$  include the dead weight of beam and the dead and live loads of the first floor slabs. The loads on top face of walls of walls-frame  $Q_2$  are calculated by the following formulas.

$$Q_2 = g_w + \Psi Q_i \quad [7]$$

$$\Psi = 1 / [1 + 2.5 b_f h_f / (l_o h)] \quad [8]$$

where,

$g_w$ —dead weight of all walls above frame,

$Q_i$ —dead and live loads of all floor slabs, excepting the first floor slab,

$b_f, h_f$ —width and depth of the plange walls, respectively.

The calculated simplified diagram of the walls-frame is shown in Fig.10.

*Calculation for Interforce*

The interforce of frame under uniform loads  $Q_1$  may be calculated according to general structural analyses.  $M_{b1}, M_{be1}, V_{b1}$  are midspan moment, end moment and end shear of beam, respectively.  $M_{cu1}, N_{cu1}, M_{cl1}, N_{cl1}$  are moment, axial compression of upper end and moment, axial compression of lower end of columns, respectively. The interforce of the walls-frame under uniform loads  $Q_2$  may be calculated by the following formulas. For the columns of frame, have:

$$M_{cu2} = Q_2 l_o^2 / 90 \quad [9]$$

$$M_{cl2} = Q_2 l_o^2 / 180 \quad [10]$$

$$N_{cu2} = N_{cl2} = -Q_2 l_o / 2 \quad [11]$$

For the beam of frame, have:

$$N_{b2} = 0.188 Q_1 l_o \quad [12]$$

$$N_{be2} = 0.094 Q_1 l_o \quad [13]$$

$$M_{b2} + N_{b2} z + M_{be2} = Q_2 l_o^2 / 8 \quad [14]$$

$$M_{b2} + N_{b2} z + M_{cu2} + N_{cu2} e' = Q_2 l_o^2 / 8 \quad [15]$$

$$V_{b2} = (p_{o\max} / S) (S - h_c / 2)^2 / 2 \quad [16]$$

$$S = 0.812 h_b \sqrt[3]{(1 + 2k_{mc} / k_{mb}) E_s / E_u} \quad [17]$$

$$p_{o\max} = Q_2 l_o / S \quad [18]$$

$$z = 0.1 (5.0 + l_o / H_o) H_o \quad [19]$$

Take,  $1.0 \leq l_o/H_o \leq 2.5$ .

For the walls of the wall-frame, have,

$$V_m = Q_2 l_n / 2 - V_{b2} \quad [20]$$

*Calculation for Bearing Capacity*

The bearing capacity of column may be calculated according to the reinforced concrete eccentric compression members to use the following interforce. For the upper end section, have,

$$M_{cu} = M_{cu1} + M_{cu2}, \quad N_{cu} = N_{cu1} + N_{cu2} \quad [21]$$

For the lower end section, have,

$$M_{cl} = M_{cl1} + M_{cl2}, \quad N_{cl} = N_{cl1} + N_{cl2} \quad [22]$$

The bearing capacity of beam may be calculated according to the reinforced concrete eccentric tension members to use the following interforce. For the midspan section, have,

$$M_b = M_{b1} + M_{b2}, \quad N_b = N_{b2} \quad [23]$$

For the end section, have,

$$M_{be} = M_{be1} + M_{be2}, \quad N_{be} = N_{be2} \quad [24]$$

The shear capacity of beam may be calculated according to the reinforced concrete eccentric tension members to use the following formulas.

$$V_b = V_{b1} + V_{b2}, \quad N_{be} = N_{be2} \quad [25]$$

$$V_b = V_{cs} = 0.07 f_c b h_o + 1.5 f_y h_o (A_{sv} / s) - 0.2 N_{be} \quad [26]$$

The shear capacity of walls of walls-frame may be calculated by the following formula.

$$V_m \leq 0.5 \gamma_m f_m h h_w \quad [27]$$

The local compressive capacity of the masonry walls above beam on supports may be calculated according to the following formulas.

$$Q_2 \leq \zeta h f \quad [28]$$

$$\zeta = 0.25 + 0.08 h_f / h \quad [29]$$

### *Detailing*

The strength grade of concrete, brick and mortar must be not under C20, MU10 and M5, respectively. The width and height of opening in walls must be not larger than  $0.3 l_w$  and  $5 H_w / 6$ , respectively. The depth of walls and beams must be not less than 240mm. The minimum section size of column is  $240 \times 240$ mm. The minimum percentages of longitudinal bars in the beams and columns are 0.5% and 0.4%, respectively. The longitudinal bars in beams and columns must be reliably anchored and the usable design anchorage length of longitudinal bars for the walls-frame must be increased 5d than for the general frame.

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