

# The Beijing 7 Star Morgan Plaza – And the Magnitude 7.5 Sichuan Earthquake

Morgan Plaza is monumental 40-story building, which was constructed overlooking the site of the Beijing Olympic Games. The magnitude 7.5 Sichuan quake on May 12, 2008 affected large regions of China. Strong shaking was noted at the site of the new hotel. Taylor Devices' site inspector, Quality Control Manager Charles Ketchum III, was in China at this time and went to the Morgan Plaza site for a post-earthquake inspection of the building and its 100 Taylor Seismic Dampers and eight Taylor Spring Dampers.

Interviews with workers at the site reported zero damage to the building, which was still undergoing interior construction. In fact, workers reported that they only knew a quake was occurring when the conventional design buildings next to the hotel began evacuating workers. The only motion that was not suppressed by Taylor Devices' products was a "very soft motion, like a boat swaying gently." Shaking felt in the nearby towers was said by occupants to be severe, with panic among the workers.



## ◀ Beijing 7 Star Morgan Plaza – After the Sichuan Quake

A view from the hotel of the Olympic site. In the center is the Beijing National Aquatics Center (the Water Cube). On the right is part of the Beijing National Stadium (the Bird's Nest).



## ◀ Post-Quake Damper Inspection

Charles Ketchum III, Taylor Quality Control Manager (left), with site workers and site project engineers.

Zero damage was found to the building and its 108 Seismic Energy Dampers and Spring Dampers. At the time of the event at 2 p.m. local time on May 12, 2008, workers inside the building were installing the interior on a rush schedule prior to the beginning of the Beijing Olympic Games on August 8, 2008.