reinforcing steel bars which will result in unavoidable corrosion of horizontal reinforcing steel bars for conditions such as below ground and façade walls subject to sea breeze or high moisture ambient conditions.

[0012] Embodiments of the present invention seek to overcome or substantially ameliorate at least one of the above disadvantages.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

[0013] There is disclosed herein a hollow elongated building element into which concrete is to be poured, the element being an extrusion so as to be of a unitary construction, the element including:

a pair of longitudinally extending spaced side walls which are generally parallel;

spaced transverse webs joining the side walls so that the side walls and webs surround a longitudinally extending space; and

at least one longitudinally extending tube located in the space and connected to the walls and webs by a plurality of connecting flanges, so that the tube is spaced from the side walls and webs.

[0014] Preferably, the walls are generally co-extensive and generally parallel.

[0015]

[0016] Preferably, the webs are provided with apertures through which the concrete can pass.

[0017] Preferably, the tube has apertures through which the concrete can pass.

[0018] Preferably, each tube is of a circular transverse cross-section.

[0019] Preferably, there is only one tube.

[0020] Preferably, said tube is a first tube, and said element includes a second longitudinally extending tube, the second tube also being located in said space, and being displaced from the first tube.

[0021] Preferably, the element further includes flanges joining the first and second tube.

[0022] Preferably, each side wall has a longitudinally extending groove and a longitudinally extending joining flange extending from the side wall, with each flange and groove being positioned and configured to engage a respective groove or flange of a like element to secure adjacent elements together by engagement of the flange within its respective adjacent groove by movement of the groove and flange relative to each other, with each groove being formed in a respective one of the side walls and each flange extending from a respective side wall so that the like element is located between the flanges to provide for engagement of the flanges and groove, and the side walls and webs surround a longitudinally extending space that receives the concrete, and the element further includes at least one of the grooves and its respective flange snap engage to connect the adjacent elements.

[0023] Preferably, the movement is generally transverse of the element.

[0024] In an alternative embodiment, the movement is longitudinal sliding relative movement between the element and like element.

[0025]

[0026]

[0027]

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0028] Preferred forms of the present invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:

[0029] Figure 1 is a schematic top plan view of a plurality of building elements forming portion of a wall;

[0030] Figure 2 is a schematic top plan view of one of the elements of Figure 1;

[0031] Figure 3 is a schematic isometric view of the element of Figure 2;

CLAIMS:

1. A hollow elongated building element into which concrete is to be poured, the element being an extrusion so as to be of a unitary construction, the element including:

a pair of longitudinally extending spaced side walls which are generally parallel;

spaced transverse webs joining the side walls so that the side walls and webs surround a longitudinally extending space; and

at least one longitudinally extending tube located in the space and connected to the walls and webs by a plurality of connecting flanges, so that the tube is spaced from the side walls and webs.

2. The element of claim 1, wherein the walls are generally co-extensive and generally parallel.

3. The element of claim 1 or 2, wherein the webs are provided with apertures through which the concrete can pass.

4. The element of claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the tube has apertures through which the concrete can pass.

5. The element of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the at least one longitudinally extending tube is of a circular transverse cross-section.

6. The element of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein there is only one tube.

7. The element of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said tube is a first tube, and said element includes a second longitudinally extending tube, the second tube also being located in said space, and being displaced from the first tube.

8. The element of claim 7, further including flanges joining the first and second tubes.

9. The element of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein each side wall has a longitudinally extending groove and a longitudinally extending joining flange extending from the side wall,

with each flange and groove being positioned and configured to engage a respective groove or flange of a like element to secure adjacent elements together by engagement of the flange within its respective adjacent groove by movement of the groove and flange relative to each other, with each groove being formed in a respective one of the side walls and each flange extending from a respective side wall so that the like element is located between the flanges to provide for engagement of the flanges and groove, and the side walls and webs surround a longitudinally extending space that receives the concrete, and the element further includes at least one of the grooves and its respective flange snap engage to connect the adjacent elements.

10. The element of claim 9, wherein the movement is generally transverse of the element.

11. The element of claim 9, wherein the movement is longitudinal sliding relative movement between the element and like element.