Our Members

Raths, Raths & Johnson announces leadership transition

Kurt Hoigard

Chuck Guedelhoefer

Raths, Raths & Johnson Inc. (RRJ) has transferred its leadership from Chuck Guedelhoefer, president of the firm since 1995, to Kurt Hoigard, principal and owner. Hoigard has been a key leader of RRJ, both as an engineer and as a principal, for the past 29 years. As the firm's new president, he will be responsible for corporate operations while continuing to serve clients as a project principal and industry expert.

As part of RRJ's leadership transition, Guedelhoefer will remain a principal at the firm and will continue in his roles on current projects as well as on new consulting and expert assignments. RRJ principal and co-owner Kenneth M. Lies will remain vice president. In addition, RRJ's senior consultants, Robert J. Kudder, Jeffrey R. Garrett, and Dennis K. Johnson, have been named principals. They will be responsible for project management, thought leadership, business development, and quality assurance across RRJ's range of expert consulting services.

Over his 37-year career at RRJ, Guedelhoefer has directed hundreds of investigations and served as lead expert witness in numerous high-profile collapses, design-and-construction-defect cases, and building-repair projects. Notable projects include the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station cooling tower in Mississippi that was struck by a tornado; the Tropicana Casino parking-structure collapse in Atlantic City, N.J.; the I-35W bridge collapse over the Mississippi River in Minneapolis, Minn.; the Cline Avenue Bridge collapse investigation in East Chicago, Ind.; the Harper House Condominium facade investigation and repair design in Baltimore, Md.; investigation of and repairs to construction of the Miami International Airport mover guideway girders in Miami, Fla.; and the Wolf Trap Performing Arts Theater roof collapse and repair design in Vienna, Va.

Hoigard's engineering career at RRJ began in 1985 as an engineer and manager of the firm's field and laboratory services. He has specialized in the investigation and repair of distressed and deteriorated structures and the performance of building materials and systems. Since becoming a principal and owner in 1993, he has led the firm's evaluations, investigations, and field and laboratory testing services, building a suite of specialty services in the areas of building enclosure peer review, forensic analysis, and air-and-water-leakage-performance testing to meet the growing challenges of RRJ's legal and construction clients. Hoigard has consulted on a wide range of project types, providing expertise in structural analysis, complete collapse, construction quality-assurance programs, water-leakage investigation, material evaluation, and repair and restoration design; and expert witness testimony on significant building-envelope and structural failures.

Hoigard received both a master of science in civil engineering and a bachelor of science in civil engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. He is a licensed professional engineer in Illinois and 29 other states.

—Source: Raths, Raths & Johnson Inc.

New AltusGroup tech brief outlines precast concrete wall sustainability

AltusGroup has published a technical brief outlining how insulated precast concrete wall systems provide a sustainable exterior envelope solution by allowing buildings to reduce energy use and costs.

The brief also discusses the resiliency benefits of the concrete enclosure systems. Precast concrete is designed to withstand harsh weather and remain durable over time to extend the product's life span. This, along with sustainable manufacturing practices, can reduce a building's carbon footprint while enhancing long-term cost effectiveness.

The five-page brief also highlights the evolution of building standards, such as the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED certification and Green Globes International, and how they influence product selection.

—Source: AltusGroup

Spancrete's new RePlenish pervious precast concrete stormwater solution is being installed. It aids in runoff reduction and filtration by allowing water to flow through sidewalks, alleyways, and parking lots. Courtesy of Spancrete.

Spancrete releases RePlenish pervious precast concrete system

Spancrete has released its new RePlenish stormwater solutions. This system revolutionizes stormwater management by allowing water to flow through traditionally impenetrable surfaces, such as sidewalks, alleyways, and parking lots, thus aiding in runoff reduction and filtration.

During and after a storm, unmanaged rainwater can overwhelm storm drains, which can lead to sewer backups and flooding. The phenomenon is especially common in urban areas, where greater areas of paved surfaces funnel large amounts of water into storm systems.

The patent-pending, multilayered RePlenish pervious precast concrete system allows rainwater to flow through its surface, reducing flooding issues and sewer backups. The water can then be collected and reused or naturally flow into the aquifers.

The system undergoes rigorous third-party environmental testing to prove it can excel in real-world applications. The design of RePlenish resists clogging and reduces maintenance, and unlike cast-in-place concrete, it can be used immediately after installation.

—Source: Spancrete

Gate adds to Hillsboro staff as Southwest business grows

Michael Trosset

Trae Morton

Michael Campbell

Gate Precast Co.'s Hillsboro, Tex., office has added three new team members to support a period of steady growth in the company's Southwest region. Michael Trosset is the new Southwest Division sales and marketing manager, and Trae Morton and Michael Campbell have joined the Estimating Department.

In his new position as sales and marketing manager, Trosset will educate designers, establish relationships with contractors, qualify potential projects, recommend new industry products, promote design-assist, handle estimating/budgets, and manage marketing staff. He has worked as a project manager at Gate's Kissimmee, Fla., plant since 2009 and holds a bachelor's degree in construction management from the University of North Florida.

Morton, prior to joining Gate, served as senior estimator at Advanced Architectural Stone Inc. for 15 years.

Campbell began his precast concrete industry career in 2012 at Gate's Alabama plant, serving as a quality-control lab technician prior to becoming a full-time estimator. He holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Huntingdon College.

—Source: Gate Precast Co.

Spancrete opened its new production facility in Newnan, Ga., in January. The company celebrated with a grand opening event February 25. Courtesy of Spancrete.

Spancrete held a ribbon cutting in February at its new Newnan, Ga., facility. From left are Greg Wright of the Coweta County Development Authority, Sarah Nagy of Spancrete, John Nagy of Spancrete, Al Antoniewicz of Spancrete, and Candace Boothby of the Newnan-Coweta Chamber of Commerce. Courtesy of Spancrete.

Spancrete opens facility in Georgia to serve Southeast

Spancrete expanded its Southeast operations by opening a new production facility in Newnan, Ga., in January. This new facility brings more than 40 new jobs to the area and provides service to the entire Southeast with solutions such as the Spancrete wall-panel building system.

In addition to offering precast structural and architectural concrete products, Spancrete also provides personalized, expert guidance throughout the entire construction process to ensure that projects are completed on time, on budget, and to high standards of quality.

The new Spancrete facility offers Spancrete hollow-core floor and roof systems, insulated and noninsulated wall-panel building systems, and solid slab and stair components.

To celebrate this expansion, Spancrete held the grand opening of its Newnan facility in February. The event included plant tours, education sessions, speeches from Spancrete and government officials, and an official ribbon-cutting ceremony. Attendees included officials from Newnan and Coweta County; Spancrete chairman and CEO John Nagy; and more than 100 registered architects, engineers, and general contractors.

—Source: Spancrete

Finfrock signs $30 million contract for Hyatt House hotel in Florida

Finfrock Construction Inc. has signed a $30 million contract for a waterfront Hyatt House hotel featuring 183 suite-style rooms with a resort-style pool, an indoor-outdoor cocktail lounge, and an adjoining parking structure in Naples, Fla.

Operating as the hotel developer, architect, and contractor, Finfrock will be using its DualDeck building system, which integrates mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems into prefabricated concrete panels. The Naples Hyatt House is scheduled to open in early 2016.

—Source: Finfrock

This rendering shows the future Hyatt House hotel in Naples, Fla. Finfrock will be using its DualDeck building system in the project. Courtesy of Finfrock.

Henry J. "Bud" Molloy


Henry J. "Bud" Molloy

Henry J. "Bud" Molloy died March 13, 2015. He was 84.

Molloy was born in 1930 in Verdun (now part of Montreal), QC, Canada.

After receiving his bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Florida, Gainesville, he worked for Westinghouse Corp., researching phenolic resins. He then worked for Owens Corning Fiberglas Corp. where, in the early 1970s, he joined a team set up to develop the market for the new alkali-resistant glass fiber and its applications in glass-fiber-reinforced concrete (GFRC) and as reinforcement in other alkaline matrices, such as autoclaved calcium silicate.

He left Owens Corning in 1981 and subsequently became the North American distributor for Nippon Electric Glass Co. Ltd., a Japanese company, for their alkali-resistant glass fiber through his company Henry J. Molloy & Associates. He continued to play a leading role in developing the market for applications of alkali-resistant glass fiber, particularly GFRC, in North America. He was also a partner in Fibre Technologies Ltd., a United Kingdom–based company, through which he contributed to the development of GFRC around the world.

He was a member of PCI's Glass Fiber Reinforced Concrete Panels Committee from 1978 to 2010. As a member of the committee, he assisted in writing MNL128, *Recommended Practice for Glass Fiber Reinforced Concrete Architectural Panels*, and MNL 130, *Quality Control Manual: Glass Fiber Reinforced Concrete*.

Molloy also played an active role in establishing ASTM International's standards for GFRC, which still form the core of the PCI quality-control program for GFRC plant certification.

Molly was an active member of the American Concrete Institute (ACI) beginning in the mid-1980s, particularly on committees 544, Fiber-Reinforced Concrete, and 549, Thin Reinforced Cementitious Products and Ferrocement. He presented many papers on GFRC to technical sessions at ACI conventions and contributed to the writing of ACI544.1R-96, *Report on Fiber Reinforced Concrete* (Reapproved 2009), and ACI 549.3R-09, *Report on Glass-Fiber-Reinforced Concrete Premix*.

He was also a longtime member of the Glass Fibre Reinforced Concrete Association, an international organization dedicated to the worldwide development of GFRC.

—Source: John Jones of Nippon Electric Glass Co. Ltd.

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