

Mason Hardaway Lampton

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Why architectural certification is good

This *PCI Journal* issue's theme is Innovation. It's an opportunity to celebrate the best and brightest minds in our industry and to showcase some amazing new projects, including the Domino Sugar redevelopment project in Brooklyn, N. Y., on page 20. Gate Precast Co. is using 3-D-printed forms to speed delivery and increase consistency of the precast concrete elements for the building's facade.

It's also a good time to discuss innovation related to certification. Several PCI members have talked about creating a tiered certification program for producers of architectural precast concrete. The idea originated with the architects themselves, who have requested a program that allows them to specify levels of detail and performance criteria related to architectural precast concrete certification in project plans.

Architects' expectations of architectural concrete are increasing in scope and detail. Meeting these expectations is a challenge for the whole industry. Clarifying how architects ensure the quality of architectural precast concrete in their designs alleviates their risk, which reduces a major barrier to including it in their designs or pitching it to their clients. That makes it easier for our members to win new projects.

Not all of the details have been worked out, but I think that the details and any concerns can be addressed if we build the program around the right sets of goals. As long as the certification is based on talent and output, it will create room for every producer, large or small, to fairly compete. Any producer that can deliver the best-quality architectural precast concrete designs should be rewarded for that accomplishment. This is ultimately what innovation is all about.

PCI was founded as an organization that creates and supports certification. It has helped turn the precast/prestressed concrete industry into a major competitor by validating that our certified plants meet strict performance criteria defined by regulators and peers. Certifications are a huge part of what PCI offers, and these programs differentiate PCI from other industry organizations.

As a precast concrete producer in the bridge/infrastructure side of the industry, I hope departments of transportation will soon pursue a similar demand for tiered certification. Setting higher expectations for quality and performance from producers drives us all to be more innovative and helps us elevate the quality of our products to the customers we serve.

If you are interested in getting involved in the architectural certification conversation, please reach out to Scott Robinson, head of the PCI Architectural Certification Subcommittee, or send me a note. I'm always interested in hearing your feedback and making sure the decisions we make today will continue to meet the needs of our members in the future. [D](#)



Mason Hardaway Lampton

2018 PCI Chairman

President

Standard Concrete Products Inc.

Columbus, Ga.