



# 2018 PLANT TOURS

## FORTERRA

### **Tour location: Elk River, Minn.**

Forterra has grown steadily to become a leading manufacturer of water-related drainage and transmission products in the United States and eastern Canada. Today, we are a market leader across all of our business divisions, which include:

- Drainage pipe and products
- Water pipe and products
- Structural precast concrete products
- Storm water management systems

Our extensive suite of end-to-end products covers “the first mile to the last mile” of the water infrastructure grid, ranging from large

diameter pipe that transports water to and from treatment centers and manages drainage along major transportation corridors, to smaller diameter pipe that delivers potable water to, and removes wastewater from, end users in residential and commercial settings.

Throughout our growth, however, we have remained focused on why we continue to expand, so we can better serve our customers. We employ a specialized technical sales force, including engineers and field service representatives, which enables us to deliver a high degree of customer service and create tailored solutions.

Based in Irving, Tex., Forterra’s manufacturing and distribution network is the most extensive in the industry, allowing us to serve most major U.S. and Canadian markets.

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## MOLIN CONCRETE PRODUCTS

### **Tour locations: Lino Lakes, Minn., and Ramsey, Minn.**

Molin Concrete Products has been serving the Midwest since 1897. What began as a limestone quarry along the banks of the Mississippi River is now a full-fledged designer, manufacturer, and installer of precast concrete with a PCI A1- and C1A-certified state-of-the-art automated wall panel production facility in Ramsey, and a PCI C3A-certified structural precast concrete production facility and headquarters in Lino Lakes.

John G. Molin, founder of the self-titled company, was born and raised in Madesjo, Sweden, as the son of Swedish farmers. At the age of 21, John came to the United States, settling in Saint Paul, Minn. A builder by trade, John worked several years in partnership with local general contractors before starting the John G. Molin Construction Services Company in 1897.

Shortly after the turn of the century, John purchased the rights to a limestone quarry, and Molin Concrete Products originated by delivering limestone by horse and wagon to building sites where crews formed stone foundations.

In 1905, Molin purchased additional property in Saint Paul and transitioned the company into providing ready-mixed concrete. Molin

Concrete Products began manufacturing some of the first precast concrete products, such as sidewalk tiles and blocks.

By 1920, John's five sons had entered the family business and continued to carry on the family business when he passed away in 1940. In the 1970s, the third generation of family ownership decided to develop an employee stock-ownership plan.

Beginning in 1991, the fourth generation of the Molin family members took over the leadership of the company. During this era, the company expanded and experienced unprecedented growth in the marketplace. By 2002, Molin Concrete Products was 100% employee-owned, with John's great-grandson, Tim Molin, as president.

Molin's 125,000-square-foot production facility in Lino Lakes produces wet-cast hollow-core; dry-cast extruded hollow-core planks; and precast, prestressed beams, columns, wall panels, and stadia. The new 33,000-square-foot automated wall panel production facility in Ramsey produces structural and architectural, insulated and solid wall panels, and veneer panels.

Today, Molin Concrete Products services clients throughout the Midwest, shipping precast concrete products to customers in Minnesota, the Dakotas, Iowa, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Missouri, and Kansas.

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## WELLS CONCRETE

### **Tour locations: Albany, Minn., and Rosemount, Minn.**

Wells Concrete Company in Wells, Minn., was established in 1951 by Frank Balcerzak, who had owned the Guaranteed Gravel and Sand Company in Mankato, Minn. Instead of focusing on producing bridge beams, he instead turned his attention to the new prestressed “double-tee” beam, and finally began Wells’ prestressing operation in 1957 with help from a Florida consulting firm specializing in prestressed concrete. Leo Nesius was the first hire, and would hold the position of Vice President and General Manager until Balcerzak’s passing in 1970, after which he would take over as President.

Wells Concrete designs, manufactures, and installs architectural and structural precast concrete solutions. With manufacturing plants in Wells, Albany, and Rosemount and in Grand Forks, N.D., Wells Concrete is able to provide innovative, efficient, and cost-effective solutions to our customers’ structural and architectural design-build challenges.

With the greatest production efficiency in total-precast structures, Wells Concrete provides a full suite of products, including columns, beams, double-tee roof and wall panels, insulated architectural wall panels, hollow-core plank, spandrel panels, stairs, and stadia.

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