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focus

winter 18

The Career Academy



For those in the construction industry, the topic of labor shortage - and particularly skilled labor shortage - is a familiar conversation as the industry seeks viable solutions. In recent years Lincoln Public Schools and Southeast Community College in Lincoln, NE sought a means of promoting various career pathways including those of skilled construction trades. It was from this joint venture that The Career

Academy (TCA) moved from concept to reality.

The Career Academy is housed in a two-story, 114,000 sf facility located on Southeast Community College's Lincoln, NE campus. Designed to provide high school juniors and seniors with an opportunity to engage in industry real world experiences and technical skill-based careers, TCA offers a hands-on

learning environment that looks to model the respective industry, boasting functional classroom spaces, a public commons area and open shop areas. Expert instructors at TCA teach the students while over 150 professionals in business and industry provide real world connections. These 150+ professionals serve on pathway

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support teams that advise, mentor, judge, provide field trips, and sometimes even offer internships for students at TCA.

When the new TCA facility was being planned, the goal of being able to open in time for a fall start to the school year resulted in a compressed construction time frame which led to the decision of the design and

construction team of BVH Architecture and Hampton Enterprises, respectively, “to employ a precast structural system for the project,” according to Dan Spiry, Principal with BVH Architecture. The Construction Manager at Risk’s assessment of building systems yielded approximately a two months savings in the construction schedule with the selection of structural precast.

TCA is comprised of multiple precast products including insulated sandwich

and solid wall panels and spandrels, beams, columns, various depth double tees and hollowcore along with field laid brick veneer and copper cladding. Utilized for both floor and roof framing at the classrooms and commons area as well as the shop, double tee construction allowed for open, flexible spaces.

In addition to construction time savings and the opportunity for open expanse, the precast structural system also offered several other benefits that the design team capitalized on including its inherent fire-resistance which eliminated the need for additional fire-proofing or firewall separation between buildings. Precast’s inherent durability was ideal for the high-wear industrial programs. Precast’s mass reduced the need for additional acoustical sound isolation measures.



Project Name: **The Career Academy**
 Owner: **Lincoln Public Schools and Southeast Community College**
 Architect: **BVH Architects**
 Engineer: **R.O. Youker, Inc.**
 Contractor: **Hampton Enterprises**
 Location: **Lincoln, NE**



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St. John's Lutheran Cemetery: Chapel & Mausoleum



Interior features include exposed heavy timber trusses, porcelain tile floors, and painted gypsum board walls and ceiling to create a bright yet tasteful environment. The building envelope is sprayed with closed cell insulation, utilizes a geothermal heating and cooling system, and is lit with LED lighting and fixtures throughout.

Other precast materials required for the chapel and mausoleum included a removable solid slab for a floor crypt and two thin walled boxes for wall couch crypts. In all, 5,200 square feet of precast wall panels and hollowcore plank were used to complete this project.

A grand opening was held in the spring of 2017.

- Project cost: \$2,000,000
- Precast Production Start Date: June 2016
- Precast Erection Completion Date: July 2016
- Project Completion Date: Spring 2017.

Architect: **Mekus Tanager**
General Contractor: **KyBurz Carlson Construction**
Precaster: **Gage Brothers**
Engineer of Record: **Albertson Engineering**
Photo Credit: **Gage Brothers**

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A private client hired the architect to design a new chapel and mausoleum building for St. John's Lutheran Cemetery in Columbia, South Dakota. The owner wanted a sustainable chapel with the look of a prairie church—a building that his father, a former town mayor who took care of the cemetery decades ago, would be proud of.

The use of precast made it possible to achieve these high-performance goals—the chapel resembles an old white church that was built by early settlers; however, it is a state-of-the-art structure that honors the past and will last decades into the future.

The new chapel and mausoleum building are designed to minimize

maintenance and last as long as possible. To that end, exterior walls are precast concrete panels simulating wood clapboard lap siding, with metal stud framing on the interior. The roofing is made of lead and was installed by skilled artisans from Europe. In fact, the lead roof is just the third of its kind in the United States.

The front canopy utilized precast elements to simulate a wood structure with columns and white precast truss features. The structure required load-bearing architectural finished wall panels to carry roof loading and in a portion of the structure, the walls also supported a hollow core plank mezzanine.

Learn & Earn Box Lunches

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