PCI MIDWEST
A Chapter of Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute

PRECAST FOCUS

THIN BRICK

Fired Clay Brick is one of the world's oldest and most durable building material utilized in the construction industry. It has been known, for thousands of years, as a premium building material. Due to requests in the architectural community and construction industry, thin brick was developed and has evolved as an alternative to full bed depth masonry. Thin brick continues to offer rich designs and the timeless presence of a fired clay product.

Thin brick is produced from different manufacturing processes but all thin brick should be engineered to flawlessly integrate into a precast panel known as embedded clay thin brick. Embedded thin brick must meet certain specifications and standards developed by the Precast Concrete Institute (PCI). Some examples of the PCI thin brick specification are dimensional tolerances, water absorption standards, pull out bond standards, freeze thaw resistance and warpage requirements. Please reference the PCI Specification for Embedded Clay Thin brick for all the required standards. If a thin brick does not meet or exceed these standards, then failures in the precast system could occur.

Form liners, or the grid in which the thin brick is placed while in the precast bed, serve as a vital component for the overall aesthetics of the precast panel. The thin brick must properly fit into the plastic, rubber or foam liner in order to comply with PCI specifications. In addition, many thin brick manufacturers wax the face of the thin brick for easy cleaning after the panels have been poured and lifted out of the bed.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THIN BRICK

Thin brick offers architectural characteristics and natural beauty that cannot be replicated. Some of these characteristics include:

1. **NUMEROUS SIZES:** Modular (2 ¼ x 7 5/8), Roman (1 5/8 x 11 5/8), Norman (2 ¼ x 11 5/8), Meridian (2 ¼ or 3 5/8 x 15 5/8), King size (2 5/8 x 9 5/8), Utility (3 5/8 x 11 5/8), Triple (7 5/8 x 7 5/8) and Closure (3 5/8 x 7 5/8). In addition, corners, edge caps and special shapes are offered.
2. **RICH, NATURAL COLORS** which cannot be created or replicated with colorants and paints.
3. **UNIQUE AND GENUINE TEXTURES:** Velour, Smooth, Scooped, Sanded, Scored and many others.
4. **NUMEROUS BONDING PATTERNS:** Stack Bond, Running Bonds, Common Bond, English or Flemish Bonds.

The use of embedded clay thin brick offers architects the flexibility to combine the pleasing visual appearance of traditional clay products with the design, versatility and economy of precast concrete. Clay thin brick is a unique raw material that has inspired the architectural and design community for many years!

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