

What's New in Your New Year?



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Have you ever felt an excitement about the start of a new year? I think this is partially because it provides us with a fresh start. People often have certain activities, or "rituals," they perform at the beginning of each year. For example, how many of you started the New Year by cleaning your office or desk?

And, of course, many people make New Year's resolutions. Some vow to exercise more, quit smoking, lose weight or finally get that new Corvette they have always wanted. You may have already planned how to obtain your annual continuing education credits, which PCI webinars and our e-Learning center can help with, especially now that AIA requires at least 12 HSW credits. You may have also resolved to get more free recognition for yourself and your company this year, such as submitting your projects for the PCI Design Awards. The submission site is now open. As for me, I'm going to work at keeping my desk a bit more organized, although the Corvette sounds pretty good too.

Whether you have rituals or make resolutions, one thing is certain: Each new year comes with new challenges and opportunities, and 2012 will be no exception. The new International Green Construction Code (IgCC) is scheduled for release this year. Already several states, such as Florida and Maryland have adopted the new code upon its publication. PCI will provide more information on the IgCC in the coming months, including articles in the next issue of *Ascent* and a webinar in the spring.

We will also see the release of LEED 2012, and you may notice more discussion about "functional resilience." You can learn more in the article titled "Functional Resilience: A New Way to View Sustainability" on page 12 in this issue of *Ascent*.

While new codes and concepts are coming to life in 2012, so will new resources from PCI. PCI will be rolling out a new website toward the end of the year. This exciting project will provide many new features, including a user-dashboard page. Once users register, they can access their dashboard which contains their personal information, preferences, and history. Users will be able to review their PCI continuing-education history, receive notices and industry alerts, and save any page on the website for easy future access. Users will also be able to customize their dashboard page with "widgets" or functional applications. These will include apps like the Color and Texture Selection Guide, an industry calendar, and a widget to show the most recent postings related to your declared interests.

PCI will also be expanding the *body of knowledge* of the precast concrete structures industry by publishing new manuals and research. Some of these include the third edition of the PCI Bridge Design Manual, the second edition of the Seismic Design Manual, and the much-anticipated life-cycle assessment study for precast concrete.

With new codes, resources, resolutions and maybe some rituals, 2012 is off and kicking. Hopefully, the New Year brings you new projects and opportunities, and will be a prosperous one for you!

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