

Façade Tectonics Conference to Be Held February 22

LOS ANGELES

The University of Southern California's School of Architecture will host the first of its façade tectonics conferences, devoted specifically to precast concrete, on February 22, 2013. This event is part of the university's Executive Education and Professional Development curriculum.

The half-day conference will coincide with the publication of the *Façade Tectonics Journal: Precast Concrete*. This bound, color publication will focus on new information that advances the state of the art in the area of precast concrete used for façades and building envelopes. Top researchers and select industry experts in the precast concrete field have contributed original papers to the *Façade Tectonics Journal* and the authors will present the results of their work at the conference.

An optional pre-conference architectural precast plant tour is scheduled for the morning of February 22. Clark Pacific will host the tour at its plant in Fontana, Calif.

Visit the following link for more information: <https://www.uscarchitecture.com/facades>.

There is no cost to attend this event. Four CES/AIA Learning Units will be provided.

For more information, contact Edward D. Losch, P.E., S.E., Architect, LEED AP, University of Southern California School of Architecture, at 323-592-3299 or Losch@USC.edu.

Submit your headline news for consideration in a future issue of *Ascent* to Whitney Stephens at wstephens@pci.org.

Congratulations to the Winners of PCI's High Performance Precast Tour at DBIA

NEW ORLEANS

Recently, PCI joined nine member companies in exhibiting at the **Design-Build Institute of America's** (DBIA) Design-Build Annual Conference and Expo and united everyone with a common message — Discover High Performance Precast. At the heart of the excitement was a High Performance Precast Tour contest encouraging all attendees to visit PCI member booths for a chance to win \$500.

Congratulations to the winners of our drawing, **Sandra Gitlin of STV** and **Anne Farrell of HGA**. Gitlin was the first place winner and awarded a \$500 Visa gift card. Farrell was the runner up and awarded a \$200 Visa gift card.

The following PCI member companies participated in the 2012 event: Bekaert, Bentley Systems, Carolina Stalite, Gate Precast, Oldcastle, Shockey Precast, Tekla, Thermomass, and Tindall.

PCI Design Awards Submission Site Opens January 21

CHICAGO

The **2013 PCI Design Awards** submission site will open on January 21. The PCI Design Awards program recognizes design excellence and construction quality using precast concrete. All winning projects will be showcased at the PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference and be included in a summary article that appears in *PCI Journal*, *Aspire* and *Ascent* magazines. Together, these publications reach over 65,000 industry stakeholders. Visit www.pci.org and click on the Design Awards icon for more details and to make a submission. Submissions are due by May 20. To view the 2012 winners, visit www.pci.org/2012designawards.

Stresscon Completes Erection of Precast Concrete for Bass Pro Shop CS

DENVER

Stresscon Corp. has finished erecting the precast concrete structure for the 119,640-square foot Bass Pro Shop in Colorado Springs, Colo. The exterior of the store features 113 pieces of 8 in. (200 mm) thick precast/prestressed concrete wall panels. These load-bearing wall panels serve as exterior cladding and provide the lateral resistance for the building. The building was completed in 54 days from the award of contract to completion of the precast concrete structure at the site. Erection of the precast concrete wall panels was accelerated and took just seven days to complete.

Stresscon Completes Architectural Precast Erection for RTD Parking Structure

DENVER

Stresscon Corp. in Colorado Springs, Colo., has completed erection of the architectural precast concrete for the Regional Transportation District West Rail Line at Wadsworth Boulevard. This is a four-level parking structure serving RTD passengers in Lakewood, Colo. The precast concrete spandrels and column covers enhance the appearance of the structure by providing two colors: tan and dark gray. As designed by Gensler Architects, the tan panels form a large multibay and multistory picture frame effect surrounding the gray elements. This color-defined frame effect is emphasized by a 3 in. (75 mm) projecting gray bullnose that is cast into the tan panels.

In addition to the frame and bullnose concept, many of the gray spandrels were cast on a horizontally ribbed formliner. The ribs, in combination with shadow lines created by the steps in the face of concrete, add a significant amount of architectural interest to the building.

There are 187 pieces of architectural precast concrete, all cast on a fiberglass form. Most of these pieces contain either the tan or the gray color in a given element. However, many of the tan elements contain the gray bullnose. Casting two colors in the same piece required a great deal of care to keep the colors properly separated. All of the elements are given an acid-etched finish that simulates the look of natural stone but at a significant savings in cost.

The spandrels are tall enough to provide for the code-required 42 in. (1.07 m) of personal fall protection, and at 8 in. (200 mm) thick, both the spandrels and column covers also resist accidental vehicular impact.

Five Holcim (US) Plants Receive 2012 Energy Star

Five **Holcim (US) Inc.** plants have earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Energy Star.

The following five Holcim plants were named: Theodore in Theodore, Ala.; Ste. Genevieve in Bloomsdale, Mo.; Holly Hill in Holly Hill, S.C.; Portland in Florence, Colo.; and Devil's Slide in Morgan, Utah. This year's award is the second for the Portland plant, the third for both the Holly Hill and Ste. Genevieve plants, and the fifth consecutive year for the Devil's Slide plant.

The Energy Star is the national symbol for protecting the environment through superior energy performance.

Free Exhibits-Only Registration to the World of Concrete

LAS VEGAS

PCI is offering free exhibits-only registration for the **2013 World of Concrete**, taking place February 4–8 in Las Vegas. The World of Concrete is an annual international event dedicated to the commercial concrete and masonry construction industries. Use the code A34 when registering online for free registration compliments of PCI. Additionally, make sure to stop by our booth, #N337, while at the event.

Concrete Joint Sustainability Initiative Sponsors Resilient Buildings Workshop

WASHINGTON

Sponsored by the Concrete Joint Sustainability Initiative and hosted by the Department of Homeland Security, National Institute of Building Sciences, and the National Building Museum, the interactive Resilient Buildings Workshop featured presentations and discussions focused on creating and maintaining resilient, high performance buildings. Visit www.sustainableconcrete.org to view presentations from this October 2012 event.

FEMA Launches a Business Continuity Suite for Disaster Preparedness

WASHINGTON

The **Federal Emergency Management Agency** (FEMA) has launched an online suite of tools to help businesses assess their disaster preparedness and the resiliency of their facilities, and to improve their ability to return to operation more quickly following a natural or man-made disaster.

The suite is scalable for optimal use by organizations of any size and consists of business continuity plan (BCP) training, automated BCP and disaster recovery plan (DRP) generators, and a self-directed exercise for testing an implemented BCP. Businesses can utilize this solution to maintain normal operations and provide resilience during a disruption.

View the tools at www.ready.gov/business-continuity-planning-suite.

PCI Co-Sponsors International Concrete Sustainability Conference

SAN FRANCISCO

The **2013 International Concrete Sustainability Conference** will be held on May 6-8 in San Francisco at the Sofitel San Francisco Bay hotel. The 8th annual conference will provide learning and networking opportunities on the latest advances, technical knowledge, continuing research, tools and solutions for sustainable concrete manufacturing and construction. PCI is a co-sponsor of the conference. For more information on the event, visit <http://www.concretesustainabilityconference.org/>.

PCI and ICC Issue Updated Fire Resistance Manual

CHICAGO

PCI/ICC's ***Design for Fire Resistance of Precast/Prestressed Concrete, Third Edition*** (MNL 124-11) is available as an ePub at www.pci.org/epubs. This manual has been used by designers for almost 30 years, and much of it has been reproduced or referenced in the model building codes and the International Building Code. Since the second printing in 1989, much has been experienced and learned, resulting in the need for updating the manual to its current status. Several parts have been rewritten to clarify the text and some new material has been added, but nothing has been changed that would affect the character of the manual. This manual is the first PCI publication to be cobranded with the International Code Council (ICC). In addition, it has been issued an evaluation report (ESR-1997) through the ICC Evaluation Service. This manual can be used as an alternative method to what is specified in IBC section 703.3.

Cohrs Elected Chairman of the Portland Cement Association

WASHINGTON

The **Portland Cement Association** (PCA) Board of Directors elected Cary O. Cohrs as chairman during the association's fall board meeting in Washington, D.C. Cohrs succeeds Aris Papadopoulos of Titan America. John Stull, president and CEO of Lafarge North America Inc., was elected vice chairman.

Finrock Starts Construction of University of Central Florida Housing Project

APOPKA

Finrock has completed the design and begun the construction of a \$60 million design-build student housing project at the University of Central Florida (UCF) in Orlando. The 600-bed project is comprised of 30 two-story townhouse units with living rooms open to the second level, 90 four-bedroom and 60 two-bedroom flats, and parking for 775 cars. The buildings are seven stories tall stepping down to five stories bordering the streets. The community will offer a parking garage, swimming pool, rooftop sun deck, club room, fitness center, and 40,000 square feet of program space. Students will have direct access to all living unit levels from the parking garage. Once open, the project will be one of the closest student housing options available for UCF students that is not located on campus. The total precast concrete building will be open in August 2013.

