



Eighty precast concrete components, including architectural panels and planter wall curbs, helped the two-story, 25,000-square-foot addition to Gillette Stadium match the existing structure and complete construction faster.

Gillette Stadium Expands

FOXBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

To expand administrative space at Gillette Stadium, home to the NFL New England Patriots, owners are creating a two-story, 25,000-square-foot addition to the east side of the stadium. In an effort to match the existing façade and fast-track the project, designers chose precast concrete architectural wall panels and other decorative elements for the façade.

The addition will consolidate football operations into one unified area, bringing them together from a variety of current locations. The fast-track design schedule was easily met by precast concrete's ability to cast components while the site was prepared and steel structural framing was erected.

"The precast panels were being cast as the footings were being poured, so they were ready when the site was ready," says Gerald K. Grassby, sales associate at Strescon Limited, the Burlington, Mass.-based precaster. Strescon's key challenge came in finding a close aesthetic match to the existing precast concrete panels on the stadium, which were fabricated by another supplier when the stadium was originally built. A variety of mock-ups and prototypes were created to find the ideal match. Planter wall curbs also were fabricated in the same finish to complement the addition.

Two sizes of panels were cast, consisting of 36 14-inch base panels, encompassing 1,517 square feet, for use on larger areas, and 11 8-inch base panels, covering 1,851 square feet, for use around curtain wall. The panels were erected in early May 2014, with occupancy expected in July. J.K. Scanlan Co. LLC in East Falmouth, Mass., served as general contractor.

Oldcastle Precast Casts Unique Elements

LITTLETON, COLORADO

Oldcastle Precast has produced unique precast concrete elements for three recent projects with novel applications.

Specially designed precast concrete rings were cast to create artificial reef structures for OysterBreak, which uses strategically placed artificial reef structures to encourage oysters' inherent nature to cluster and fill in gaps.

The system uses stacks of precast concrete rings similar in size, shape, and weight to space rings used on manhole risers only with anchor lugs and wave openings. Each ring was wet-cast using an OysterKrete mix design, a harsh mixture that results in a hardened concrete similar to pervious concrete.

Placed in rows two to three deep, the structures serve as protection against shoreline erosion, allowing tidal water to move through while disrupting wave action.

Oldcastle's Auburn, Maine, plant produces multiple sizes of L-Wall agricultural panels, the largest being 10'10" high by 5 feet wide, to create a manure-storage facility for R.E. Hemond Farms in Minot, Maine. The design and location of the facility qualified for reimbursement by the Federal Natural Resources Conservation Service program. The L-Walls also are used for recycling bins and security walls.

Lightweight precast concrete dive platforms were cast for the University of Southern California's Transformed Aquatics Center in Los Angeles. Oldcastle's Perris, Calif., plant produced the pieces that created the towers. The Uytengsu Aquatics Center's new design features a new stadium entry, diving and dry-land training areas, new locker rooms, offices, meeting rooms, and other amenities.



The first phases of the \$500-million University Station project features 550,000 square feet of retail space and a 350-luxury residential development. The residences will wrap about a central precast concrete parking structure.

University Station Features 'Texas Wrap' Design

WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS

Developers of the new 2 million-square-foot University Station multi-use project near the Route 128 MBTA commuter rail line have begun construction on the first phases, which will include an apartment complex with a total-precast concrete parking structure at its core.

When completed, the \$500-million project will include 750,000 square feet of retail space, a 350,000-square-foot Class A office building, 650 residential units, up to 160 hotel units, and an assisted-living and memory-care facility with 100 units, according to the *Boston Business Journal*.

The first phase, to open in the spring of 2015, will feature 550,000 square feet of retail space. That will be followed by the Gables at University Station, a 350-unit luxury residential development planned to open that summer, *BBJ* reported. Later phases will add the offices, hotel and additional residences and retail.

The residences are being designed by Wallace Garcia Wilson of Houston using the "Texas wrap" format the developer used on other projects. In this design, a parking structure is constructed at the center and residential spaces are wrapped around that core, leaving some façades of the parking structure open. The precaster on the project is Blakeslee Prestress, which has worked with the general contractor on a total-precast concrete parking structure in the past.

The 457 components comprise double tees, girders, columns, shear walls, lite walls, spandrels, wall panels, stairs and slabs. The erection took about six weeks, after which construction on the apartments began. The Hanover Co. in Boston, Mass., is serving as general contractor on the project.

On the two sides where the parking walls are exposed, designers specified an architectural finish of a gray concrete with a light sandblast. Some panels on the west façade had thin brick inset into them to provide depth and contrast. Panels were designed so that only one finish was required on each piece, simplifying the casting process.



Students from local high schools participating in the ACE (Architecture-Construction-Engineering) Mentoring program learn how precast concrete is cast and finished during a tour of the Blakeslee Prestress plant in April.

Blakeslee Hosts ACE High-School Program

BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

This spring, Blakeslee Prestress Inc. hosted local high-school students who participate in a school program that exposes them to various professions and activities within the construction industry.

The nationwide ACE (Architecture-Construction-Engineering) Mentor program, founded in 1994, coordinates programs for high-school students interested in construction fields. It teams them with mentors who are professionals in those industries to provide presentations and tours. The New Haven Chapter consists of students from 17 area high schools who are taking courses in engineering or drafting or have summer construction experience.

The visit was coordinated through Blakeslee's Al Ignoto, senior project coordinator, and ACE's Sara Pettit with Pickard Chilton Architects. Blakeslee's Jim Fitzgerald, quality control manager, led a tour of the facility and yard. The students saw precast concrete components being cast, stripped, and finished. They also were given a demonstration of the company's Tekla 3-D modeling software during their half-day visit.

"The students were really engaged learning about Blakeslee's projects, processes, and technology, and the tour really blew them away," Pettit said later.

Stresscon Project Earns ACI Award

GOLDEN, COLORADO

The U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) Energy Systems Integration Facility (ESIF) has earned an Award of Excellence for Precast Concrete. The project was submitted to the 46th ACI Awards Program to highlight the use of high-performance precast insulated wall panel systems to accommodate high energy efficiency requirements.

The ACI Awards Program recognizes creative, innovative, aesthetic, and imaginative uses of precast concrete. Stresscon provided 876 precast concrete pieces, including the high-performance, thermally efficient precast concrete wall panels.

The high-performance insulated wall panel systems consisted of a 14-inch-thick Thermomass panel system consisting of a 3-inch exterior wythe of gray concrete, 3 inches of polyisocyanurate insulation, and an 8-inch interior structural concrete wythe. With edge-to-edge insulation, the wall panels achieve an R-value of 20.55, helping achieve 40% greater performance efficiency than the ASHRAE 90.1 building standards.

M. Lee Marsh Named BergerABAM President and CEO

FEDERAL WAY, WASHINGTON

BergerABAM has named Dr. M. Lee Marsh as president and chief executive officer. He succeeds Arnfinn Rusten, who has retired. Since joining the firm in 1994, Dr. Marsh has spearheaded many of the firm’s seismic design and assessment projects.

During his tenure as senior project manager and principal, his work has included design, assessment, project management, and business development for bridges, transit guideways, marine structures, buildings, and specialized projects, such as cranes for nuclear power plants. In addition to his operational and project duties, Dr. Marsh has served on the firm’s Board of Directors since 2006.

Lafarge Sponsors ‘Designing for Disaster’ Exhibition

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Lafarge North America has become the lead sponsor of the exhibition, “*Designing for Disaster*” at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. The program discusses disaster mitigation as an evolving science and highlights tools and strategies for building safer, stronger and more disaster-resilient communities that are functional, pragmatic, and beautiful.

The multimedia exhibition will explore new solutions for, and historical responses to, a range of natural hazards as they impact a variety of residential, commercial, and institutional facilities.

The exhibition opened May 11 and will remain on view through August 2, 2015. To complement the exhibition, the National Building Museum and its partners have planned a slate of public programming.

Elliott New Spancrete Rep for Southeast

WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN



– Daniel Elliott

Spancrete has named Daniel Elliott regional sales representative to assist in the sales growth for its Southeast territory. Elliott has more than a decade of precast, prestressed concrete experience. He also has an associate degree in drafting from Southern Crescent Technical College in Griffin, Ga. He will work from Spancrete’s Newnan, Ga., office.

PCI to Hold a Special Afternoon of Continuing Education For Architects at the PCI Convention on September 9!

NATIONAL HARBOR, MARYLAND

This FREE session will be held on the afternoon of Tuesday, September 9. Visit www.pci.org/archsday for more info. Celebrate 60 years of success at the 60th Anniversary PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference, September 6-9 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Md. If you register before August 1, 2014, you will receive the Early Bird rates. Visit www.pci.org register, view education courses, see the exhibitors, and more!

Duncan Joins Gate Precast

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA



– Jerry Duncan

Jerry Duncan, a 23-year veteran in precast concrete construction, has joined Gate Precast’s Southwest division. Duncan will cover markets in Dallas, Fort Worth, and North Texas. He will work with designers and contractors in the earliest conceptual stages of design through completion.

Submit your headline news for consideration in a future issue of *Ascent* to Stephanie Corrigan at scorrigan@pci.org.