

Seawall Uses Precast Concrete Z Superstructure

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Oldcastle Precast in Auburn, Wash., was selected by the joint-venture team of Mortenson-Manson, GC/CM, to supply precast concrete Z-shaped superstructure segments and 20-foot-tall seawall face panels for the city's new \$371-million Elliott Bay Seawall Reconstruction Project at the waterfront in downtown Seattle.

The project, operated by the city's Department of Transportation, will replace the 100-year-old seawall built between 1916 and 1936. A retaining wall between the Bay and the waterfront, it suffers from significant timber decay and deterioration from continued exposure to storm wave and tides. The new structure consists of a cast-in-place concrete support slab with custom precast concrete face panels, Z-superstructure segments, and precast concrete sidewalk panels.

The precaster worked closely with the GC/CM and structural engineer Magnusson Klemencic Associates to customize the design and engineering of the fascia panels and superstructure segments. The Z-superstructure components act as the concrete backbone for the seawall's cantilevered sidewalk.

The 400 superstructure segments measure 8 feet wide and 9 feet tall and extend 13 feet, while the 400 fascial panels are 8 feet wide by 20 feet tall with a thickness of 15 inches. A variety of architectural finishes were applied to the components.

The use of the precast concrete components improved constructability, accelerated the construction schedule, and overcame the unique demands of the project. Funded mostly by a 30-year, \$290-million bond measure, the project is scheduled for completion in mid-2016.



Precast Concrete Featured in Public Square Remake

CLEVELAND, OHIO

The renovation of Cleveland's Public Square, a National Historic Site, will feature precast concrete as a key element of its new landscaping design. The 10-acre Square in the downtown area serves as an integral part of the city's center.

Prominent landscape architectural firm James Corner Field Operations designed the renovation to include an "event lawn" on the north side with a splash zone and café on the south side, along with a walkway built from precast concrete components. Wausau Tile in Wausau, Wis., is fabricating the precast concrete components.

Precast concrete was chosen for the project due to its quality, timing, and economic benefits, according to the architectural firm. In addition, precast concrete's versatile aesthetic properties allowed the architects to create the artistic appearance they desired.

In all, 1,195 precast concrete pieces will be cast, encompassing 2.3 million pounds. An estimated 70 truckloads of products will be transported, starting last June and ending in January 2016. Completing the project on time was critical, as city officials wanted it finished prior to hosting the Republican National Convention this summer.

Oldcastle Shows Precast Is Elementary

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

The Oldcastle Precast team of Plant Manager Peter Gay, Designer Scott Hersey, Project Manager Tina Fischer, Estimator Ken Turnbull, and Sales Manager Chuck Prussack spoke to children at the Regal Elementary School Career Fair in Spokane, Wash. The goal was to inspire and educate kindergarten through sixth-grade students about careers in engineering, drafting, production, construction, and precast concrete product development.

The precaster adopted the school as a community project, delivering weekly food bags to help hungry schoolchildren on the weekend. In return, the principal invited the firm to attend its Career Fair. Employees created wooden models of items that they build and showed the students how the pieces fit together like puzzles.

Four models were built: a simple-span bridge, a multiple-span bridge, a posttensioned bridge, and a three-story building model. "The model concept helped the children visualize what Oldcastle Precast makes and how the precast concrete components are put together at a jobsite," says Prussack. The engineering department created drawings showing how the pieces fit together and produced a computer presentation explaining how a posttensioned, segmented bridge works.

"During our presentation, as the children were building the models, we explained what our jobs entailed and what part each of us played in the precast process," says Prussack. After asking about career aspirations, the team wove in some of their own career opportunities to meet those goals. Safety was stressed by having the children wear hard hats and safety vests as they built their models.

"The children loved working on the building and bridge models. There were broad smiles all around," Gay says. "I am looking forward to next year."



Oldcastle Precast made wooden models of the types of structures that it builds to use with students at the Regal Elementary School Career Fair in Spokane, Wash. Photo: Oldcastle Precast.

Gate Names Plant Managers in Kentucky, Texas

KENTUCKY AND TEXAS



Steve Schweitzer



Jim Stini

Gate Precast Co. has named Steve Schweitzer vice president and operations manager of its Winchester, Ky., plant and Jim Stini operations manager at its Pearland, Texas, hollow-core concrete plant. Schweitzer's experience in the precast concrete industry spans 36 years, including most recently in the commercial sales and estimating departments at Prestress Services Industries. Schweitzer will be responsible for all operational and administrative issues at the Kentucky facility.

Stini has worked for Gate since 1996, most recently as estimating and sales manager. Stini will handle operational duties in the Pearland office. Over the past 25 years, he has estimated and managed hundreds of projects, covering all market sectors.

Lorenz rejoins PCI staff

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS



Emily Lorenz

Emily Lorenz has rejoined PCI as a part-time employee. She will serve as editor-in-chief of *PCI Journal*; associate editor of *Aspire*, the concrete bridge magazine; and manager of PCI's sustainability activities. Lorenz previously served in these capacities at PCI from 2005 to 2010. In the interim, Lorenz was an engineer at CTL Group in Skokie, Ill., and managed a successful sustainability consulting firm.

Thermomass names Nessel president

BOONE, IOWA

Thermomass has appointed Brad Nessel president. Nessel has been with Thermomass since 2005. He takes over from Tom Stecker, president since 2004, who stepped down but will assist Thermomass on development opportunities. As president, Nessel will report to Eoin Lehane, president of Meadow Burke.

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