



# The cover story

Starting with this issue, we're expanding on the theme by means of a cover story. The cover story will connect the dots: research, design, construction, and performance. In some cases, the cover story will highlight one of the peer-reviewed papers by showing how research has been applied in the field. In other cases, the cover story will emphasize the design, construction, or performance of precast concrete and point back to the developments that helped make it possible or show what we can learn from practical experience so that we do things better in the future.

We can't promise to include all of the stages in the process from beginning to end in every issue, but we'll include as many aspects as we can. We hope that the cover story will make the academic papers more approachable and emphasize the importance of practical applications. We also hope to encourage—and maybe even inspire—academics to consider the end use of their research as they plan their experimental work.

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This is our seismic issue, and the contents reflect the international nature of the topic. Our cover story summarizes the findings of PCI's New Zealand reconnaissance team on the performance of precast concrete structures in the February 22, 2011, Christchurch earthquake. We also have a preliminary report on the performance of precast concrete structures in the March 11, 2011, Tohoku earthquake from PCI's Japan reconnaissance team and a report on precast concrete structures in the earthquake that took place on February 27, 2010, off the Chilean coast from PCI's Chile reconnaissance team. All three of these reports pertain to structures built in accordance with modern building codes that were properly enforced. The lessons learned by these and other teams of structural engineers will help to make our own building codes that much better.

Theme-related peer-reviewed papers include a paper from Romania on precast concrete systems for residential buildings and one from Italy on cyclic behavior of grouted-sleeve connections between columns and foundations. From closer to home (for North American readers), we have a paper on the design of self-supporting lateral-frame-resistant enclosures and another on simulated seismic loading of unbonded post-tensioning strand anchorages.

This issue also contains a note of appreciation to those who provided peer reviews of manuscripts being considered for publication in these pages. Whether the reviews resulted in acceptance, rejection, or major revision of the manuscripts, this publication is much better because of them. Thank you all! ■