PCI MIDWEST
A Chapter of Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute

PRECAST FOCUS

EXPLORE, DESIGN AND BUILD WITH PRECAST CONCRETE

Precast concrete construction is the top choice of owners, architects, engineers, and general contractors for designing and building high performance structures that are inherently versatile, efficient, and resilient. Whether you are thinking of using precast concrete for the very first time or you have used it numerous times in the past, you will be able to explore the possibilities, design your vision and build a masterpiece with precast, prestressed concrete.

If you are new to precast concrete, you will soon learn it is ideal for a variety of buildings such as: offices, schools, student housing, multifamily housing, retail, prisons, sports arenas and stadiums, data centers and more. Because precast concrete design can be flexible with many options, you will find that your local precast concrete producer and the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI) are two excellent resources that you can access to learn more about the attributes and benefits of precast concrete.

RESOURCES PCI OFFERS:

- PCI Ascent Magazine
- PCI Journal
- PCI Webinars
- PCI eLearning Center
- PCI Design Awards Program
- PCI Architectural Precast Concrete Manual
- PCI Designers Notebook
- PCI Design Handbook
- PCI Hollow-core Design Manual

For those designers who are already familiar with the use of precast concrete building systems, partnering with your local precast concrete producer as early as possible in your planning and design process through the design-assist method could offer significant advantages and benefits over traditional project delivery methods. By collaborating with your precast concrete producer you can learn how to integrate the pre-glazing of wall panel window openings in the plant; cast-in electrical wiring, conduits, outlet boxes and plumbing openings in exterior wall panels; or even how to use the extruded cores of hollow-core slabs for air distribution ducting thereby eliminating conventional ductwork.

Your precast concrete producer can show you how converting from conventional steel or cast-in-place concrete construction to a total precast concrete structural frame and façade offers adaptability and cost savings. Through the design-assist process you can explore the economies of scale that are achieved with precast concrete through repetition while also taking advantage of its inherent plasticity providing for unique custom shapes with endless colors, forms, and textures.

Every precast concrete building project is custom and has a variety of design parameters that need consideration. Taking advantage of the resources available from PCI and leveraging the extensive knowledge and creativity of your precast concrete producer early in the design process will result in the most efficient and economical precast concrete design possible.

For additional resources, visit the PCI website at PCI.org or PCI Midwest at PCIMIDWEST.org

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