



## Suffolk College Adds Precast Wellness Center

LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK

The new Health & Wellness Center at Suffolk County Community College provides an open, welcoming atmosphere in which to conduct physical education classes and encourage students to take part in recreational activities, including swimming and sports activities. The center, which also will be available to local residents, was clad with precast concrete insulated sandwich wall panels.

The 43,250-ft<sup>2</sup> facility (including a mezzanine for heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and mechanical equipment) includes an eight-lane swimming pool, basketball/volleyball courts, a weight-training room, and a rock-climbing wall, as well as two classrooms, faculty offices, and locker rooms with adjacent toilet/shower facilities. The facility was designed by iKon.5 in Princeton, N.J., with Seacrest Construction in Freeport, N.Y., serving as general contractor.

The precast concrete panels feature 4 in. of insulation sandwiched between two wythes of concrete. In all, 108 precast concrete panels, encompassing 24,000 ft<sup>2</sup>, were cast and erected by Coreslab Structures (CONN) Inc. in Thomaston, Conn.

To complement the building's surroundings in the Central Pine Barrens, the architects created a vertical appearance, with the tall panels separated by narrow windows. To emphasize the verticality, 2-in. vertical reveals along with fins that protrude from the face were cast into the panels. Interior panel faces feature a lightly sandblasted finish, matching that of the solid panels used on interior spaces.

Panel erection was completed in December 2017, with the center planned to open in the fall of 2018.



## Clemson Adds Precast Dormitory Complex

CLEMSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Clemson University is building a \$212-million residential village to help house new students as enrollment increases to 25,000 students (from 18,000). The Douthitt Hills Student Dormitories, scheduled for completion this summer, comprises seven residential buildings in two groupings along with a student hub. The seven dormitories feature all-precast concrete structural systems, consisting of insulated wall panels, columns, beams, slabs, and flooring systems.

The development is planned to make "a bold statement that tells students and visitors they've arrived at one of the nation's top schools," the university said. It is reportedly the largest undertaking in both size and cost in Clemson's history.

All eight buildings will be LEED silver certified and contain sustainable features such as directional, nonintrusive LED parking-area lighting that can be remotely programmed to shut off when not in use. The precast concrete components, provided by Metromont Corp., are aiding that effort through a variety of inherent energy-efficient attributes.

General contractor Holder Construction had seen work completed by the precast concrete producer on a student-housing project at the Savannah College of Art & Design and realized that the total-precast concrete system would aid the winning bid by providing competitive pricing and a fast schedule for completion.

Metromont worked closely with the two architectural firms on the project, The Boudreaux Group (east side) and Clark Nexsen (west side) to rework the layout to achieve an open feel. Horizontally stacked wall panels allowed the

precast concrete producer to incorporate more punchouts for windows and doorways without compromising the structural load-bearing ability.

The precast concrete framing system for each building took between 5 and 10 weeks to be completed, depending on the building's size. The first building's precast concrete envelope was completed in 2015, with the other six following through 2016. Finishes are being installed and all of the buildings will be open this summer.

## New PCI Design Handbook Edition Released

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The eighth edition of the *PCI Design Handbook: Precast and Prestressed Concrete* can now be purchased online at [www.pci.org/bookstore](http://www.pci.org/bookstore). The design information and recommendations contained in the new edition are based on the latest research and a consensus of engineers in practice, according to Tim Salmons, chair of the PCI Industry Handbook Committee.

The Handbook provides easy-to-follow design procedures, numerical examples, and new and updated design aids using the American Concrete Institute's (ACI's) *Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete (ACI 318-14) and Commentary (ACI 318R-14)*, ASCE 7-10 *Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures*, the *2015 International Building Code*, and other current industry standards.

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## Offices Renovated, Expanded With Precast Panels

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

The existing one-story building at 35 Cambridge Park Drive in Cambridge, Mass., is being renovated and expanded with the addition of four smaller stories on top of the existing one. Developed by The Davis Companies for Class-A office and laboratory space, the 140,000-ft<sup>2</sup> building has been gutted to its structural framing, with 47,139 ft<sup>2</sup> of additional space created on four stories above. The entire building is being clad with precast concrete panels in three finishes used in patterns randomly placed over the face.

Strescon Ltd. was brought in during the design phase to work with the architect, SGA in Boston, and the construction manager, John Moriarty & Associates Inc. in Winchester, Mass. They helped troubleshoot issues, including color selection, levels of sandblasting, ribbing texture, and panel optimization. Once the documents were released for bid, Strescon's bid was accepted.

The key challenge resulted from the staggered placement of windows and the mixture of three finishes on the narrow rectangular panels making up the larger panels. Strescon worked closely with the steel fabricator to determine connection details and create a casting schedule for the variety of panels needed with variations in finishes and window locations.

The panels cover three façades, with curtain wall on the fourth. Each panel features patterns of long, narrow rectangular panels with one of three finishes: light and heavy levels of sandblasting to reveal different amounts of aggregate offset by a third finish featuring tight rows of reveals. The combination creates patterns of textures and colors, with no two areas, including column covers between windows, using the same sequence.

The panels were erected in a vertical format, dictated by the inherited structural grid of the existing building. Accomplished with a tower crane, the erection moved smoothly and was completed in February 2018. The building is planned for occupancy in 2019.

## Spancrete Taps Brown as Newnan GM

NEWNAN, GEORGIA

Randall Brown has joined Spancrete as the general manager of its precast, prestressed concrete plant in Newnan, Ga. He will provide general oversight, including implementing operational systems, driving performance improvement, and optimizing overall business management.

Brown has more than 30 years of concrete and construction experience throughout the South and holds a bachelor of science in civil engineering technology from Southern Polytechnic State University in Marietta, Ga.



## Spancrete Expands Preconstruction Services

WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN

Kelly Weis has been hired as director of preconstruction and construction at Spancrete's corporate headquarters. He will collaborate with stakeholders during the preconstruction process and manage estimating, bidding, and coordinating project schedules and general construction-installation requirements.

Spancrete's preconstruction service team consists of 20 professionals with varying backgrounds in the construction industry, covering finance, design, and operations. Weis has led more than 1000 retail and construction projects throughout the United States in the past 13 years and holds a bachelor of arts in business administration from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

## PCI Foundation Adds CSU to Roster

FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

The PCI Foundation has accepted an education-program proposal from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo. The program will be directed by CSU assistant professor Mohammed S. Hashem M. Mehany, who will work with Rocky Mountain Prestress and Encon United in Denver, Colo., to create a group study course on precast/prestressed concrete for construction management and engineering students.

The course will be part of the "boot camp" program the school provides that lets students work closely with industry groups. The five-week class will meet once a week and allow students to earn one credit. It will expose students to state-of-the-art software and processes taught by industry experts currently using them in the field.

## King Named PCI Marketing Manager

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Becky King, who joined PCI in October 2016 as marketing assistant, was promoted last fall to marketing coordinator. She has been promoted again to serve as PCI's marketing manager. In her new role, she will continue managing a variety of marketing and marketing communication projects, including the PCI Design Awards program. She will be working to improve social and digital communications programs, as well as helping with marketing planning and providing support and training to PCI chapter executives for their marketing activities.



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## Mixed-Use Project Features Precast Parking

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lumiere, an 86-unit, nine-floor condominium tower now under construction, rests on a base of ground-floor retail and seven levels of parking constructed with a precast concrete structural framing system. The 650-car parking structure was completed in late 2017 and opened for business as construction of upper levels continued, with 100 spaces reserved for condominium owners.

The parking structure was designed by Churches Engineering in Washington, Pa., with Carl Walker Construction serving as general manager. As the project developed, the condominium total was increased from 77 units to 86 units on nine stories rather than six, an indication of how demand was growing in the city, according to local reports. Construction on the condominium levels began early this year.

The precast concrete components were fabricated and erected by Sidley Precast Group. Retail spaces, encompassing 25,000 ft<sup>2</sup> on the first floor, are being finished, with Brazilian steakhouse Fogo de Chao the first to sign on.

## Clark Pacific Opens New California Plant

ADELANTO, CALIFORNIA

Clark Pacific's new fabrication facility in Adelanto, Calif., expands the company's Southern California capacity from 45 acres to more than 135 acres and will serve the region's growing demand for prefabricated building systems. The plant, which will fabricate architectural, structural, and modular systems, complements Clark Pacific's existing plant in Fontana, Calif.

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## Four Precast Divisions Upgrade Airport Building

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

The emergency generator runway light-control facility at Buffalo's International Airport has been upgraded and clad with custom precast concrete wall panels. The upgrade included the installation of an FAA Approach Lighting System for one of the airport's gates, provided by CNS Communications LLC in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Four divisions of Oldcastle Precast participated in the project, comprising plants in Newnan, Ga. (project lead) and Easton, Pa. (wall panels), the Building Systems Division in Selkirk, N.Y. (roof panels), and construction management handled by the firm's Modular Group.

The 32- by 44-ft generator building was constructed by erecting the 6-in.-thick insulated wall panels and topping them with 8-in.-thick precast concrete hollow-core. Oldcastle also outfitted the building with interior wall, floor, and ceiling finishes as well as doors and openings; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning environmental systems; exhaust/intake air systems; lighting; and alarms.

## Gate Adds Three to Kissimmee Staff

KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA

Gate Precast Co. has named Venkatesh Seshappa as its new engineering manager in Kissimmee, Fla., while David Baker and Phil Dorsch have returned as design-assist sales and management representative and project manager, respectively.

Seshappa offers more than 30 years of design experience, most recently as director of engineering, research, and development for 12 years at Thermomass in Boone, Iowa. Baker will work with design teams, while Dorsch will work with contractors to ensure cost-effective best practices are used.



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