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Name: **DAVID B.** Dates: **13-17**

Day:	Start:	Lunch:	End:	Jobsite:	Activity:	Hours:
Monday	7	1/2	3:30	Brentwood	Gen	8
Tuesday	7	1/2	3:30	"	"	8
Wednesday	7	1/2	4	"	"	8 1/2
Thursday	7	1/2	4	Crestview	"	8 1/2
Friday	7	1/2	4	"	"	8 1/2

Employee Signature: *David B.* Total Hours: **41 1/2**

WHEN YOU CAN HAVE THIS.

Employee Report

Burns, David Date Range: 8/13/2007 through 8/17/2007

Day	Date	Jobsite	Start	Stop	Cost Code	Hours	Total
Mon	8/13	Brentwood	7:08 AM	12:05 PM	Prep	4:57	
			12:41 PM	3:22 PM	Prep	2:41	7:38 hours
Tue	8/14	Brentwood	7:12 AM	12:07 PM	Formwork	4:55	
			12:43 PM	3:23 PM	Formwork	2:40	7:35 hours
Wed	8/15	Brentwood	7:12 AM	12:02 PM	Formwork	4:50	
			12:46 PM	3:49 PM	Formwork	3:03	7:53 hours
Thu	8/16	Crestview	7:17 AM	12:19 PM	Prep	5:02	
			12:50 PM	3:46 PM	Prep	2:56	7:58 hours
Fri	8/17	Crestview	7:13 AM	12:07 PM	Formwork	4:54	
			12:44 PM	3:39 PM	Formwork	2:55	7:49 hours
Total						38:53 hours	

Signature: *David B.* Burns, David

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Publisher's Letter



Dear Readers,

Leaving a customer grateful and satisfied with your work – that's to be expected. However, looking over your shoulder and knowing that you "nailed it" from a creative standpoint – that's the icing on the cake. I know this from experience. Discerning customers in the residential and commercial construction segments were my primary clientele for over 10 years before I started this magazine.

Unfortunately, there are projects that don't always run smoothly. Any number of obstacles, including weather changes, faulty materials and even tardy employees create distractions that dilute your attention to detail and ultimately compromise quality standards in ways only you are likely to detect. These situations are inevitable, and experienced pros know this all too well. Pros also know that these unfortunate scenarios are less frequent occurrences as they gain experience, knowledge and practice in the field of decorative concrete.

Deciding how to improve the upward slope of your own learning curve in decorative concrete is up to you. More often than not, however, I've noticed that those who are serious about refining their skills, increasing profitability and staying on the leading edge will turn up at various industry events each year. Because training is an integral part of the products and equipment you use each day, *Concrete Decor* is now preparing the industry's first Decorative Concrete Training Guide, which will be published this September. It's an issue and resource you don't want to miss.

In addition to telling you who offers training in the many facets of decorative concrete, *Concrete Decor's* online Training Calendar, which makes its debut Sept. 1, will give you up-to-date details on a vast array of training events happening around the country and elsewhere. Here, trainers can update the Training Calendar with their schedules so you always have information that's current. Furthermore, *Concrete Decor's* online Training Calendar will include important industry events, including the Concrete Countertop Institute Conference (Charlotte, N.C., Oct. 25-27), Decorative Concrete Cruise (Miami, Fla., Nov. 12-16) and World of Concrete 2008.

As for the pages of *Concrete Decor* that lie before you, take time to examine them closely. Just like with the very first issue of *Concrete Decor* in 2001, my hands itch each time a new issue comes out. I hope you also will find that the information provided here inspires you to explore your potential in this exciting field of decorative concrete.

Sincerely,

Bent Mikkelsen, Publisher

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Publisher: Bent O. Mikkelsen
Co-Publisher: Ernst H. Mikkelsen
Editor: Wendy Ardolino
Editor: John Strieder
Translation Editor: Eduardo Morales
Creative Director: Patrick Hunter
Web Design: Brian Hollett
Writers: Susan Brimo-Cox
Doug Carlton
Tamryn Doolan
Loretta Hall
Ashley Katz
Stacey Enesey Klemenc
Sue Marquette Poremba
Dave Searls
Rob Spiegel
Business Manager: Sheri Mikkelsen

Editorial: Professional Trade Publications Inc.
228 Grimes St.
Eugene, OR 97402
Tel: (541) 341-3390
Fax: (541) 341-6443
news@protradepub.com

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Midwest Sales: Regina Williamson
(619) 698-4732
Northeast Sales: Ben Miller
(541) 521-9172
Northwest Sales: (877) 935-8906
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(770) 967-3373
West Sales: Troy Ahmann
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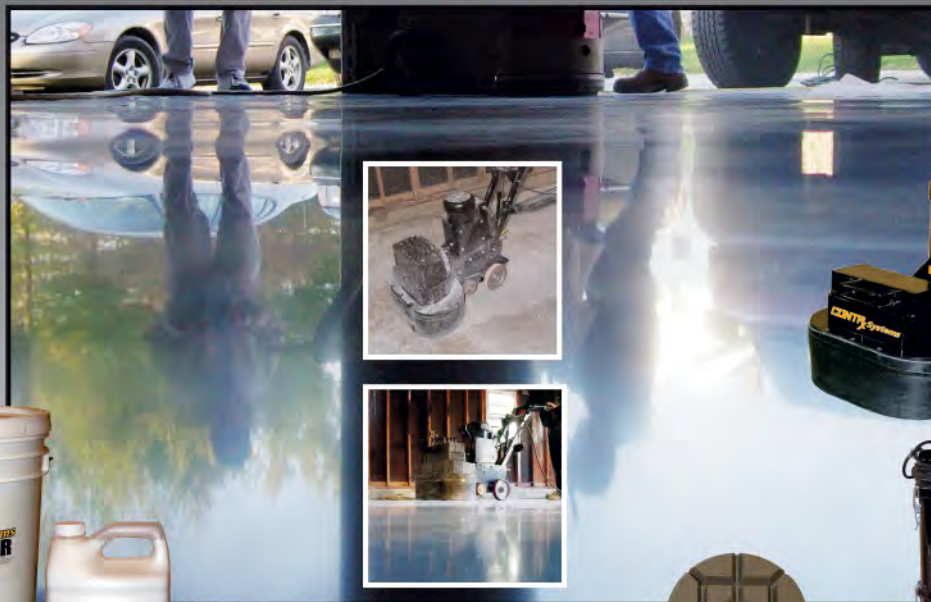
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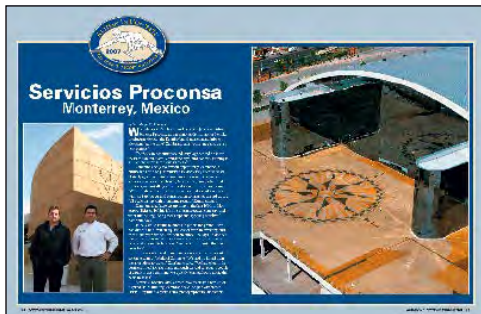
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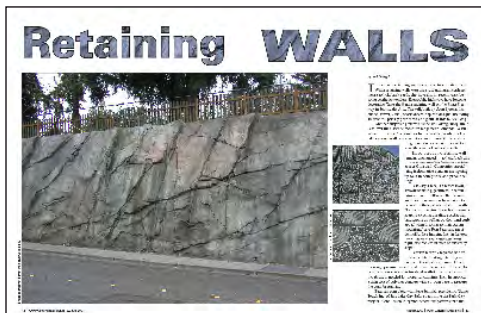
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There's more to color hardener than color. The material inspires a chemical reaction, and it works best when worked in with a float. Timing is essential, and so are the right tools.
by Loretta Hall

On the Cover: Bart Sacco, owner of Concrete Texturing Tool & Supply, casts an initial application of color hardener at a workshop he is leading at the Concrete Kingdom Decorative Training Center in Throop, Pa. He is using CH-500 Tile Red color hardener from Brickform.



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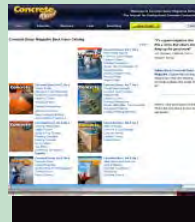
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In The Archives



Can't find it in this issue? Visit our online archives. There's a complete library of stories and how-tos covering all the hottest trends in decorative concrete, including more on topics featured in this issue, such as retaining walls and color-hardened concrete.

Training and Events



Training is a booming business in the decorative concrete field these days. Online, scroll through an array of opportunities offered around the United States. There may be a seminar taking place right in your neighborhood.

Buyer's Guide and Product Index



Use the online Decorative Concrete Buyer's Guide to find products that make ordinary concrete extraordinary. Search by the type of tool or product you are looking for, or by brand name to discover what a company makes and how to get it.

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EZChem European plant opens

EZChem USA announced the opening of EZChem Europe's new manufacturing facility, which allows EZChem customers in the United States to make products available in Europe and Africa without the problems involved with shipping.

Located in the south of France, the manufacturing facility makes all the decorative concrete stains, cleaners, and sealer products EZChem carries in the United States. It eliminates the international tariffs and expense of shipping to Europe for European customers. Patrick Leborgne, president of EZChem Europe, will be the managing partner responsible for the day-to-day operations at the plant.

Like EZChem USA, EZChem Europe offers a private labeling service. EZChem Europe also provides classes on proper use and application.

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MAPEI hosts Pan-American seminar

The MAPEI Technical Institute in Deerfield Beach, Fla., hosted distributors and contractors from Mexico, Puerto Rico, Honduras, Panama, Guatemala and Argentina for a two-day session in May that introduced them to the world of MAPEI's Concrete Restoration Systems.

Presentations were delivered by Tom Lundgren, one of MAPEI's CRS specialists, who is fluent in Spanish. Lundgren covered major issues affecting concrete, as well as repair procedures and the MAPEI products that can be used to resolve CRS challenges.

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□ www.mapei.com

Polishing institute launched

Brad, David and Daniel Padgett, the brothers who founded Concrete Polishing Technologies, have launched the International Polished Concrete Institute, created to educate architects, engineers and contractors about polished concrete.

By enrolling with IPCI for a

Corrections

In the May issue of *Concrete Decor*, in the article "Hands Across the Ocean," photos on pages 50 and 52 showed Lafarge training workshops in the United Kingdom and Holland. Lafarge, through its Artevia brand, holds regular training workshops in U.K. and Europe.

In the May issue of *Concrete Decor*, in the "Tooling" section, the curbmaking machines from Decorative Curbing Machines Inc. have model numbers 207 and 225.

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complimentary membership, architects gain access to polished concrete specifications that cover the entire polishing process, from slab flatwork and sheen level applications to decorative options. The IPCI member Web site allows architects to find qualified polishers, solicit bids for projects, receive details on bidder credentials, and view ASTM and other quality-testing data. Other benefits include a free quarterly subscription to the

IPCI Journal, a trade publication dedicated to industry trends, and the opportunity for AIA/CES training.

Flooring contractors that wish to become IPCI members must successfully complete a Craftsman Certification. Held monthly at IPCI headquarters, Craftsman Certification Training educates polishers on proper application techniques for either topical or mechanical polishing. Benefits for polishers include the same

access architects have to ASTM data and specifications, plus 200 marketing packets on polished concrete, access to bid sheets, and more.

The International Polished Concrete Institute is based in Norris, Tenn., and affiliated with CPT, the parent entity to Perfect Polish, a leading polished concrete services company.

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□ www.ipcionline.org

Fu-Tung Cheng to speak at countertop conference

The 2007 Concrete Countertop Industry Conference, to be held October 25-27, 2007, in Charlotte, N.C., will feature Fu-Tung Cheng as keynote speaker and design seminar presenter.

Fu-Tung Cheng, an expert on interior concrete applications and a pioneer in the decorative concrete industry, is the president and founder of Cheng Concrete Exchange. He is also the author of "Concrete Countertops" and "Concrete at Home" and is well known as a World of Concrete speaker. Cheng, who has been designing with concrete for over 25 years, began teaching workshops in 2003 in Berkeley, Calif., on the design and crafting of concrete countertops.

The Concrete Countertop Industry Conference, which debuted in 2006, is the only conference focused solely on concrete countertops. Organized by The Concrete Countertop Institute, it features in-depth seminars and countertop-specific exhibits with demonstrations. The 15 charter exhibitors at CCIC 2006 offered bagged mixes, specialty tools, admixtures and materials.

□ www.CCIC2007.com

Husqvarna acquires Soff-Cut

Husqvarna has acquired Soff-Cut International Inc., based in Corona, Calif.

Soff-Cut is a leading producer of concrete saws for early-entry concrete sawing. This patented technology enables concrete to be cut before it is fully set, which minimizes the risk of random cracking and simplifies the working process.

In 2006, Soff-Cut employed about 70.

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Pearlman snaps up Stone Tool Supply

Pearlman Industries Inc., a Harbour Group company and the parent of Pearl Abrasive Co. and Keystone Tools, has completed the acquisition of Stone Tool Supply Inc.

Stone Tool Supply, based in Atlanta, is a value-added distributor of a wide range of tools, equipment and accessories to the stone fabrication market. The

company serves customers throughout the Southeast from its retail location in Atlanta as well as with a fleet of mobile sales vehicles, a model similar to that of the Keystone Tools division of Pearlman. Robbie White, president of Stone Tool Supply, founded the company in 2001 and continues to lead it.

Pearlman Industries Inc. supplies diamond cutting products and abrasives to professionals in diverse end-markets,

including stone, tile, construction, welding and equipment rental. The company has two divisions: Pearl Abrasives, which develops unique branded abrasives and diamond products sold through distributors, and Keystone Tools, a distributor of stone-cutting and fabrication tools, blades and consumables to end-users, with a focus on the natural stone market. Its parent, Harbour Group, is a privately owned company based in St. Louis that has completed 149 acquisitions in 32 industries since its founding in 1976.

■ www.stonetoolsupply.com

■ www.harbourgroup.com

LEED certification requirement increase

Energy performance requirements within the LEED Green Building Rating System will increase by 14 percent as part of the climate change agenda of the U.S. Green Building Council.

USGBC membership overwhelmingly passed a vote for all LEED-certified projects to achieve at least two "Optimize Energy Performance" points, which will improve the energy performance of all LEED-certified green buildings by 14 percent for new construction and 7 percent for existing buildings. All newly registered commercial LEED projects are required to achieve the two points within LEED. To help projects achieve the new energy reduction requirements, a prescriptive compliance path is currently under development as an alternative to energy modeling.

■ www.usgbc.org

Bonsal picks up Pre-Blend

Bonsal American has acquired Pre-Blend Products Inc., a manufacturer of packaged construction products based in Fairless Hills, Pa.

Pre-Blend products include flooring underlayments, industrial grouts, stuccos, concrete patching and restoration products and liquid bonding agents. The product line is sold primarily to commercial distributors and contractors in the Northeast, Pacific Northwest and Southwest. These products will be added to Bonsal American's ProSpec brand, and Pre-Blend will continue to operate as a separate entity within Bonsal American.

ProSpec, a Sakrete brand, is owned

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□ www.prospec.com

□ www.preblend.com

Cemstone grows

Cemstone Products Co. has acquired Concrete Materials Inc. of Medford, Minn. CMI is a leading manufacturer of concrete masonry units in southern Minnesota, and under the terms of the agreement will continue to operate under its current name and management.

Celebrating its 80th anniversary in 2007, Cemstone and its affiliated companies — Concrete Materials Inc., Rochester and Mankato Brick, and Owatonna Concrete Products — are leading upper

Midwest suppliers of sustainable concrete and masonry technologies, products and services to the construction industry. Combined with the recent acquisition of Rochester and Mankato Brick, this acquisition enables masonry contractors in the region to obtain all of their concrete masonry products and services from a single source.

☎ (800) 236-7866

□ www.cemstone.com

Badgers build better concrete canoe

Engineering students from the University of Wisconsin-Madison won the 20th Annual National Concrete Canoe Competition in June. The three-day event was organized by the American Society of Civil Engineers and hosted in Seattle by the University of Washington.

Winning for the fifth year in a row, the Wisconsin students' technical skills, ingenuity and dedication propelled them to victory in their canoe, the Descendent. The 19.11-foot, 179-pound, natural gray canoe led the field of 22 teams from engineering schools from around the country. As the winner, the team will be invited to participate in the 30th Annual Dutch Concrete Canoe Challenge in the Netherlands in September.

The University of Florida paddled into second place with the blue, orange and gray, 135-pound, 19.105-foot-long Gladigator; and the University of Nevada, Reno, finished a close third with the white and blue, 177-pound, 19.11-foot-long Cerulean. For their top finishes, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Florida and University of Nevada, Reno, earned \$5,000, \$2,500 and \$1,500 in scholarship money, respectively.

The races, both endurance and sprint combined, counted for 25 percent of the teams' overall score. The remaining 75 percent was based on a technical design paper, a formal oral presentation in which the team had to detail their canoe's features and defend their choices to judges, and the final racing canoe and project display, which was scored on aesthetics and visual presentation.

□ www.asce.org/concretecanoe

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Holcim opens sustainable construction competition

Entries in the second Holcim Awards competition to promote sustainable construction worldwide may be submitted until Feb. 29, 2008, at the Holcim Awards Web site. The prize money for the five regional competitions and the global awards totals USD \$2 million.

The Awards are an initiative of the Swiss-based Holcim Foundation to en-

courage and inspire a built environment that goes beyond convention to address the challenges of sustainability. The global competition showcases sustainable responses to technological, environmental, socioeconomic and cultural issues affecting contemporary building and construction. The Awards are open to anyone involved with projects in the area of sustainable construction, including architects, planners, engineers, or project

owners. All building projects are eligible for the competition if construction had not started before June 1 of this year.

In addition to construction projects at an advanced stage of design, the Awards competition seeks visions and ideas at a conceptual level. This special category is open for professionals younger than 35 years of age.

■ www.holcimawards.org

Sales manager represents Diamond in Northeast

Keith Ripley has been promoted to



Keith Ripley

Northeastern regional sales manager by Diamond Products.

Ripley will be responsible for Diamond Products sales in the Midwest, Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern United States.

He will continue his role as company national training manager. Ripley had most recently been working as a sales representative covering Ohio, West Virginia, western Pennsylvania and western New York.

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Grace names vice president of concrete unit

Grace Construction Products



Michael Ragan

appointed Michael D. Ragan vice president and business director for the Americas Concrete and Cement business unit.

Ragan will directly manage sales, product manage-

ment and technical services functions and will have profit and loss responsibility for the North and South American Cement and Concrete business units. He joined the Grace Construction Products division in 1982 and was promoted to vice president of sales in 2000.

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Environmentally friendly Fomo

Polyurethane foam sealant and adhesive manufacturer Fomo Products Inc. recently launched a corporate-wide green initiative at the opening of its new Spray Foam Production Center in Akron, Ohio.

Rather than building a new facility for its Spray Foam Production Center, Fomo bought and recycled an old retail store in the Rolling Acres area of Akron. Activity at the Center will focus on recycling foam tanks by refilling them and sending them off for use at large construction projects and OEM plants.

Fomo is also making other significant changes to create a corporate culture that is more dedicated to environmental sustainability. The company has developed a Green Team of employees from different divisions of the company to lead initiatives. The company's headquarters in Norton, Ohio, are being assessed and improved for energy efficiency, more green life will be brought indoors, and aggressive recycling programs have been launched.

Fomo's polyurethane foam insula-

tion products, Handi Foam and Handi Seal, are already being used in the design and construction of energy-efficient buildings. Some of the polyol components found in Fomo's products come from recycled plastic bottles, and Fomo is exploring new formulations to deliver products that are even more eco-friendly.

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Graco selects president, chair

The board of directors of Graco Inc. has named Patrick J. McHale as the company's president and CEO, as well as making him a new member of the board.

McHale has been a vice president and officer of Graco since 1999 and was most recently vice president and general manager of Graco's Lubrication Equipment Division. In his 17 years with Graco, McHale has held a number of positions, including vice president of manufacturing/distribution operations, vice president of contractor equipment, and several operations positions.

The board of directors also elected Lee R. Mitau chairman of the board.

Mitau is executive vice president and general counsel of U.S. Bancorp. He has been a member of Graco's board of directors since 1990 and is chairman of the board's governance committee. Mitau also served as Graco's chairman from 2002 to 2006.

□ www.graco.com

Super-Krete hires marketing coordinator

Nicole Carmier has been named marketing coordinator for Super-Krete International Inc.

Carmier received a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing from San Diego State University and has provided marketing support to a variety of industries, including mortgage banking. 📁

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Decorative Contractors and LEED Standards: *Why You Should Take Notice*

by Ashley Katz

Green building has been making a lot of headlines lately — it seems as if you can't turn on the TV, read a magazine or attend a conference without hearing about it. You have probably heard the buzz about LEED and wondered how this building rating system applies to you. Green building is the next step for the decorative contractor industry, and LEED will help you and your business take that step.

The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System is a voluntary building certification program developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, a nonprofit comprised of members from many sectors of the building industry. The LEED System established a common benchmark for what constitutes a “green” building. It evaluates a building in five categories: Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy & Atmosphere, Materials & Resources and Indoor Environmental Quality. Within these credit areas, points are available, and the number of points a project earns determines the level of certification the building will be awarded. The four progressive levels of certification are Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum.

Concrete is a versatile material, can be incorporated into many aspects of the building design and construction, and will help contribute LEED points to a project that is looking for LEED certification. Decorative contractors can play an important role in a LEED project because of their mastery of concrete.

Materials and resources are one of



the aspects of the building that LEED evaluates, and materials which contain sustainable or recycled materials, or that are manufactured within regional facilities, can earn points towards LEED certification.

Hauling materials from distributors, factories and other facilities onto the job site is a drain on natural resources and a contributor to poor air quality and pollution. Using concrete and other materials that are extracted and manufactured within 500 miles of the project site reduces the environmental impacts resulting from transportation and also helps support a local economy.

LEED encourages the reuse of materials and products within a project and promotes the use of materials that are made of recycled content in order to reduce the demand for virgin materials and reduce waste. By using concrete that contains certain sustainable materials, a decorative contractor can help a project earn points towards LEED certification. For example, asphalt concrete should be comprised of recycled content, and

rubberized asphalt should be made of crumb rubber from scrap tires. The asphalt should also contain pre-consumer or post-consumer asphalt roofing shingles.

Portland concrete pavement should include recycled materials, such as coal fly ash, ground granulated blast furnace slag, rice hull ash, silica fume, or other pozzolanic industrial byproducts, and contain reclaimed concrete material aggregate.

Water management is another important aspect of LEED, and projects can earn points by incorporating strategies that manage storm water.

One strategy is to use porous concrete. Also, storm-water volumes can be collected from hardscape surfaces, including the roof, and be used in the landscape irrigation system. The purpose of storm-water management is to limit the disruption and pollution of natural water flows by managing runoff.

Using concrete can reduce the use of materials with potentially harmful contaminants and can also cut down on the need for finish materials, which often contain hazardous pollutants.

As the popularity of green building continues to grow, decorative contractors with knowledge and experience with green building design and construction will be highly sought after by building owners and facility managers who wish to achieve LEED certification.

To learn more about the U.S. Green Building Council and LEED, please visit www.usgbc.org.

Ashley Katz is communications coordinator for the U.S. Green Building Council.



Photo by Doug Carlton

Commercial Projects: The New Horizon for Decorative Concrete

"Let me get this right. You are simply going to walk up to the most successful casino and resort builder in our time and ask why he chose decorative concrete?" asked my wife.

"Yes," I said.

With a confused face she asked the same question but slightly reworded. "Steve Wynn, the Las Vegas mogul? You are going to say, 'My name is Doug Carlton and I write for Concrete Decor and let me ask you about decorative concrete?'"

"Yes, something like that," I said smiling. "My name is Doug and you,

Mr. Wynn, could definitely afford to use any type of hardscape or floor coverings but you chose decorative concrete. Why?"

The last thing I heard her say as she exited the room and headed down the hotel hall was, "Good luck with that."

What she didn't realize was that I had thought long and hard well before checking into the Wynn Las Vegas. In fact, I had, by hook or crook, made contact with someone on the "inside" and knew my best chance of having any conversation with Mr. Wynn was by a well-planned and timed "chance"

meeting. I knew Mr. Wynn usually took a midmorning walk with his guide dog in this area of the casino. It must have been on my fourth hour of waiting that my contact whispered what I didn't want to hear.

"Doug, you didn't hear this from me but Mr. Wynn is currently boarding his plane for Chicago. Sorry."

No big deal because I, like you, already knew the answer to the question. I just wanted to hear him say it, I guess. He used decorative concrete for the same reason thousands of contractors use decorative concrete on commercial projects across the country and around the world: because it is the most attractive, durable, affordable and easiest product to maintain that is available.

This article is about the explosion in commercial decorative work and how it may benefit your company. I'm not saying that the residential side of business is dead, but it certainly has stalled, not just because of the decline of new construction but because of the lack of availability for folks to access their home equity. Most lenders have nailed the doors shut since the record appreciation roller-coaster wheels fell off. There are still plenty of home improvement projects around, although nowhere close to what it was. But this is about the new market and where you, as a decorative installer, fit in. Let's look at why it is booming, how it is different, and what it takes to excel in it.

Why the new market is booming

I have given this booming commercial market a lot of thought for a number of reasons. This article will offer more than the obvious explanation that all the new housing tracts that popped up across the country need grocery stores, restaurants and coffee houses. This is about the reason for the huge increase of decorative concrete being used within this enormous market.

Land prices have increased at record levels. So have construction costs. Developers realize they can no longer build inexpensive commercial projects. The more they pay for land and improvements, the more they must charge to lease out the buildings. It simply will not pencil out to pay huge prices for

the land but build simple or inexpensive structures. These new or remodeled buildings must be attractive, eye-catching and desirable to justify large lease rates. From the driveways to the landscape, from the floor to the ceiling, these buildings need to leave impressions. I suspect Mr. Wynn used decorative concrete on his \$2 billion-plus resort for this reason — it's attractive, durable, and easy to maintain.

How is the commercial side different?

Anyone who has ever read one of my articles knows that I am not a price guy. I feel if you build your business on the best price, your wife better have a good job. I will argue value to the bitter end and rarely budge. But commercial work can be the complete opposite of my value ways. Five or 10 cents a



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foot can add up to big numbers. These projects are usually budgeted, organized and on the fast track. Grand openings are well planned and excuses in the field will land you and your crew outside looking in. Progress payments and draws can be long and few between. All of these things should work in your favor and here is why. The above challenges are a natural way of limiting the playing field. Most competing contractors will charge accordingly to make it worth their while. Most architects will not sign off on subpar work, so the quality bar helps keep competitors in check.

The size of these projects usually justifies the square foot price reduction. I know this was hard for me to get used to, and I found myself doubting my estimating. You may ask yourself how you can charge 2 dollars per square foot less and profit more. The reason is because your crew should be able to install twice as much daily as on a normal residential job that has limited access. Big open areas are a decorative contractor's dream. Many flooring contractors have tapped into the value of working evenings af-

ter other crews have gone home. This new-age commercial market leaves emotion and feng shui at the curbside. This is about business and who can get the decorative job done and then protected for the next trade. It's full of possibilities and profit but the money still follows the talent. I am convinced more decorative contractors will prosper in this commercial market over the next few years than ever before.

Your place in the market

I'm always hesitant to talk financial rewards in my column out of concern for contractors cutting quality for profitability. The commercial side of decorative concrete is no different than high-end homes as far as quality. The only difference is efficiency and volume. Having said that, let's talk about how we can prepare your company for the future of decorative concrete.

Let's assume you have the skill and workforce to enter at least small-scale commercial projects. The first step is to make contact with the general contractors building these projects. When con-

tacting commercial builders, ask yourself what your company can do for them. Contractors and developers at this level want to use capable and hassle-free subs. Simply make contact and ask if you can bid the next project that involves decorative concrete. They need to realize this is your specialty and not something you do on the side. Don't fax estimates, but present them in person and know who the decision maker is. Justify your price and quality. Believe it or not, most general contractors have to ask a painter to stain floors or a traditional concrete mason to stamp because they have no one on their decorative team. This is a recipe for disaster on commercial projects.

I have no doubt that you will be awarded projects. But first we need to be sure you have cash flow, are insured, and can keep up with the fast-track schedule.

Most of us don't have a closet full of cash earmarked for large decorative projects. These projects will work off progress payments and retentions, so you will need to be liquid enough to carry your company for 30 to 60 days. If this is a problem, I recommend visiting your banker for a line of credit. Start out small and ask for an increase as time proves your company credit-worthy.

Do yourself a favor and ask straight up about insurance requirements for subcontractors. You don't want your check held up because of insufficient insurance coverage. Some contractors may ask if you are bondable. I recommend talking with your insurance agent to see if it's worth the hassle. You will probably be asked to sign a contract with a liquidated damages clause. This may be a daily charge for the project not being finished on time. My suggestion is to be very clear how long your work will take and stick with the schedule. These projects move quickly so be prepared to work around other crews. The project manager needs to know up front about protecting your work.

Keep up. The pace of commercial projects will require extra organization from you and your crew. The increase in daily volume will require more from all materials and manpower. I try to be two days ahead of my crew with materials and layout to eliminate the loss of

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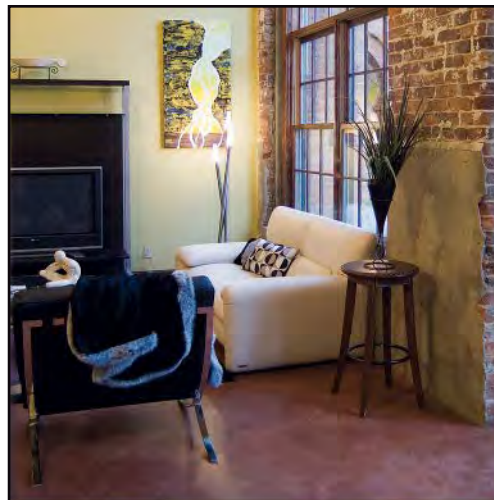
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momentum. Efficiency will be the difference between a good job and a great one. Break the project down to bite-size pieces by letting your crew know what the goal for work completed is each day.

This is not the time to test a new sealer or product, so stick to what works. Save your testing for small jobs or samples. Don't be afraid to ask for price breaks for large orders from suppliers. I usually bid my projects at full price and enjoy the savings from price breaks for rainy days. These can add up to thousands of dollars at the year's end so don't underestimate price breaks.

Few economists will argue that the commercial side of construction is high even if residential is low. This has created a golden opportunity for those of us willing to test the decorative waters. Let me know how it goes. 📧

Doug Carlton is president of Carlton Concrete Inc., located in Visalia, Calif. His firm has completed more than 2 million square feet of decorative concrete. He can be reached at carltondoug@sbcglobal.net.



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ASTM Looks Out for Workers' Health

Writing a standard for ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) is not a project that can be taken lightly.

ASTM International is one of the largest voluntary standards development organizations in the world — a trusted source for technical standards for materials, products, systems and services. Standards developed at ASTM are the work of more than 30,000 ASTM members. These technical experts represent producers, users, consumers, government and academia from more than 100 countries. Participation in ASTM International is open to all with a material interest, anywhere in the world. Anyone can attend any committee meeting, free of charge. However, to have a voting voice, you must join the committee.

When an ASTM standard for products and processes is published, it means the people responsible for writing the standards have gone over every aspect of the proposed standard. Every syllable has been carefully selected and back-up testing has been submitted. Then everyone on the committee votes on it. This creates a “safety zone,” so to speak, for a company that wants to use a particular product or process.

What an education I received when I joined Committee D33, “Protective Coating and Lining Work for Power Generation Facilities.” This Committee is responsible for Standard D4260, “Standard Practice for Liquid and Gelled Acid Etching of Concrete.” At the time in 2001, this Standard only addressed liquid acid. D4260 did not address gelled acids. Even the title of the standard was outdated. I joined D33 to have a voice and to get the standard rewritten.

I was told to get the wheel turning but not to expect the Standard to be rewritten in my lifetime. Well, that was not correct. Once they realized D4260 needed to be rewritten, it only took one year to actually turn the rewrite into a published standard.

When I joined Committee D33 to have them look at Standard D4260, I

learned that there were several other standards that would also be involved. It is rare that a standard is a stand-alone one. So cross-referencing of the standards is verified.

I have a very high regard for the members of ASTM committees. They affect all industries, and it is understood and proven every time that a standard does not go out until it is written to everyone's satisfaction.

While anyone from any industry can join any committee, it is most beneficial if they come with background knowledge specific to the standards they are responsible for. Therefore, almost all committee members come from the industry addressed by the standard. They all have full-time jobs, and are not compensated for their time on the committee, unless perhaps they are on the clock for their employer. There were approximately 50 members of D33. Within that committee there were approximately 15 subcommittees. Each one required a chairperson. There is always significant work done before and after the committee meets.

This work takes commitment from its members. Bruce Dullum of Carboline is a perfect example. This gentleman mentored me through the rewrite of D4260, and often I received after-hours e-mails from him that included correspondence from other members, also after hours. At this point I knew very little about the ASTM process, and the main focus of this committee was power generation facilities, which I knew even less about. Several of the committee members made sure I understood what was being voted on.


So, how does this play into the contractor's life? Once a bid is awarded, you have to be in compliance with the specifications.

Most specs are almost boilerplate — an architect identifies a product line that works and he or she sticks with it, sometimes to the detriment of the project. For example, a certain coating that works better in high-moisture environments may be specified for a project in Arizona. You as

a contractor should question the use of that product for this project. If it's specified, you may feel your hands are tied. Not necessarily, however. Often the architect is open to discussing why this product is specified and may not even realize another product is available. Don't be afraid to contact them to discuss options. The general contractor is often an even better call. They value educating subs and will often make every effort to make sure the standards are available to them.

There is a statement in D4260 that states, “Proper cross ventilation and chemical respirators shall be provided.” To be in compliance means to follow the standard in all aspects, not just the application process. This safety statement seems to be obvious. Nevertheless, a contractor who reads it might say, “Well, of course I need to provide ventilation, but this proves that all aspects, including safety, are taken into consideration and included in the standard.”

I have spoken with several contractors that are frustrated by architects. It seems architects don't always understand products, and they will unknowingly specify inappropriate ones to get the blueprints approved. On the good side, contractors report that architects are usually open to discuss this. Frequently, architects will put a phrase such as “or other similar product” into their specs, which allows the contractor to make some intelligent changes. All the contractors that I've spoken with regarding this subject say the general contractors are usually the first person they call regarding standards that are unfamiliar to them.

Both the architect and the general contractor will have access to the ASTM standards needed for each project. However, visiting ASTM.org will give you access to all the standards ever written. Click on the “Standards” link and start browsing. 

Tamryn Doolan is president and CEO of Surface Gel Tek, based in Mesa, Ariz.



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Oct 15-16	Acid Staining Applications
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Oct 29-Nov 1	Countertop & Vertical Walls
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Water in the Desert: The Waterfalls at Wynn Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Nev.



Photo courtesy of Wynn Las Vegas

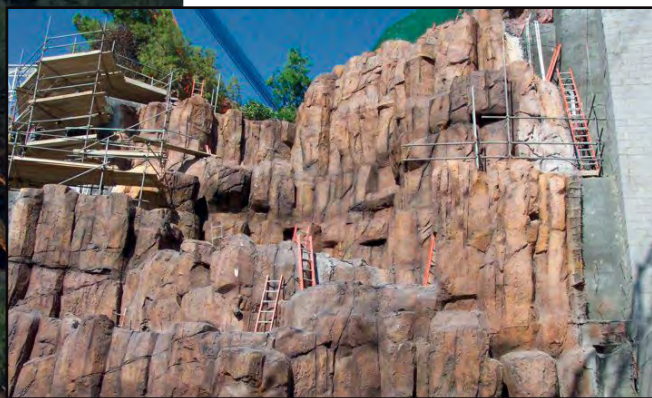


Photo courtesy of Fred Lokken

When Wynn Las Vegas opened its doors in April 2005, the \$2.7 billion resort was the most expensive hotel and casino in the world. No expense was spared building the 52-story megaresort, erected on land where the legendary Desert Inn once stood. The Wynn boasts 2,716 guest rooms, a 110,000-square-foot casino, entertainment venues, restaurants, a shopping esplanade, and an 18-hole golf course designed by Tom Fazio.

Complementing all the glitter and glam are concrete creations that make heads turn. A 144-foot-tall mountain peaks above the resort's sprawling 192 acres. Seven waterfalls and five lakes

holding 2 million gallons of water have also helped transform this desert land into a modern-day oasis.

Installing a mountain

The mountain was built by Rock & Waterscape International using a relatively new system of Mechanically Stabilized Earth retaining walls, explains Fred Lokken, the project's general superintendent.

"The whole mountain is made of stacked-up nylon baskets filled with small chunks of rock 1 1/2 to 5 inches in diameter," explains Lokken, who had been with Rock & Waterscape for 22

years before accepting a position with his current employer, RDC Recreation Development Co.

Building the mountain, the falls and the lakes took a full year with a crew of 25 men. "The job called for 50 people," Lokken remembers. "But I did it with 25 who knew what they were doing. I can't say enough about all my guys. You can't do this quality of work without great people."

Facts about the falls

The waterfall that attracts the most visitors — one of two visible from The Strip and a popular place to pose for photos — is the 52-foot-high cascading Sugar and Ice Falls, says Dave Russell, front features systems manager for Wynn Las Vegas. As the water comes down, it's separated into two streams by planters with trees. It then rejoins in a basin, drops again and ends up in a lake.

Next to Sugar and Ice Falls is the 62-foot straight-dropping Angel Falls. More than a dozen underwater white lights tucked into niches illuminate the falls from behind and at the base for dramatic effect. "Each of the falls is equipped with underwater lights that light up the stones at night," Russell says.

Behind these two highly visible falls lies Retail Falls, a smallish creation only 13 feet tall that can be seen from inside

the Wynn home store in the Retail Esplanade, as well as from the Sugar and Ice patio.

The largest cascading falls, with four drops, is near the resort's nightclub. Tryst Falls, which towers at 97 feet, can also be viewed from the Okada Restaurant and Okada Lake.

Inside the Japanese restaurant is Okada Falls. The 35-foot-high waterfall empties into a pond full of colorful koi. Visitors may dine on a patio next to the falls to enjoy it close up or view it from the nightclub below.

Next, there's the Lake of Dreams Waterfall that descends into the expansive theatrical lake. Standing 45 feet tall and 90 feet wide, the rock creation behind this waterfall is made of individual pieces of limestone block imported from Turkey. The white stones, which Lokken estimates are about 1 1/2 inches wide and a foot long, create a wall "like a big screen," he says. "They're stacked together to make a sheer face for the waterfall. When the water runs down, it creates a rippling effect like white water."

The stacked rock make an interesting backdrop for a waterfall during the day, Russell says, and at night it becomes a projection surface for multimedia shows that run every half hour from 8:30 p.m. until 2 a.m.

In addition to these six waterfalls, there's a seventh waterfall near the 18th hole at the golf course, which gives a whole new meaning to the term "watering hole." These falls are 37 feet tall and

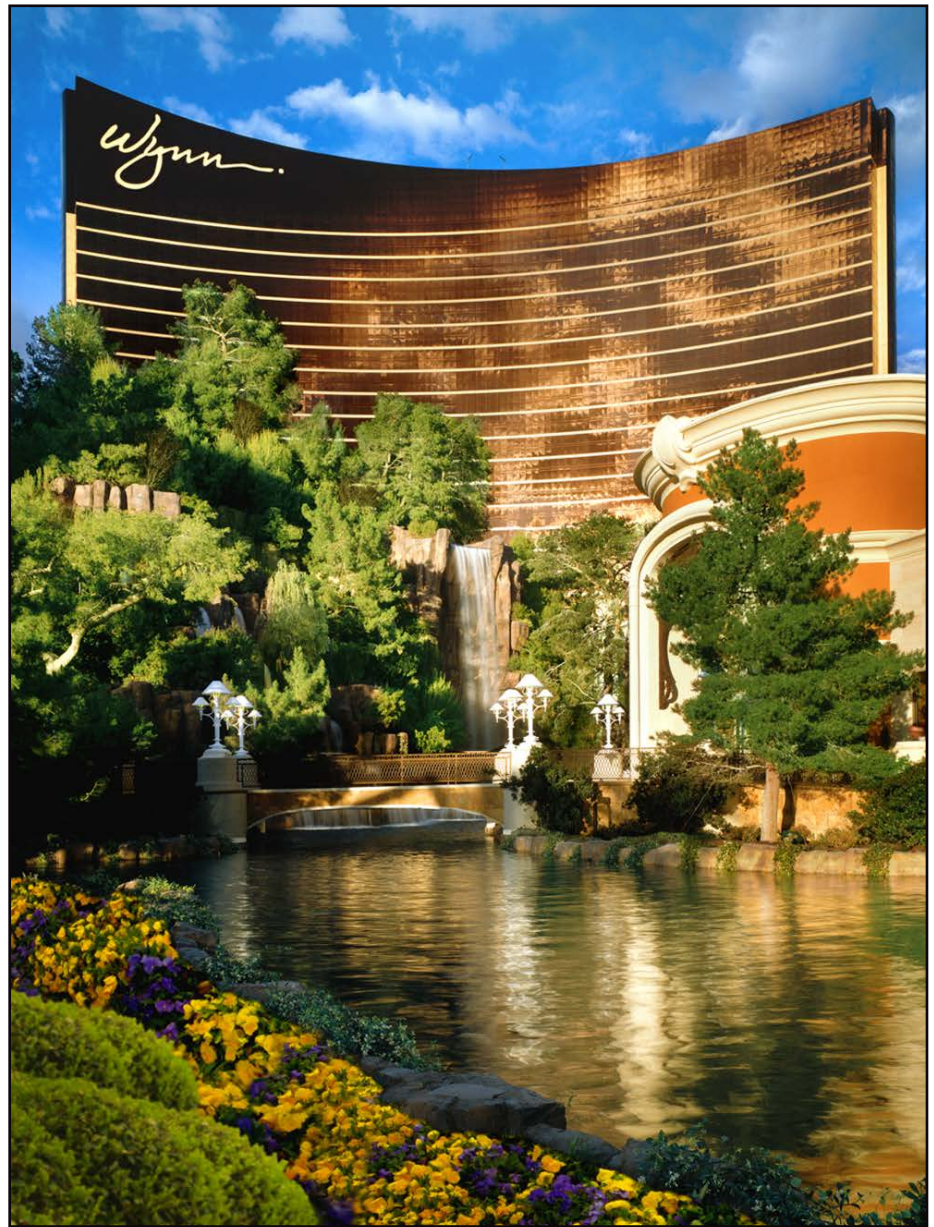


Photo courtesy of Wynn Las Vegas



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Photo courtesy of Wynn Las Vegas

approximately 50 feet wide.

Carved in stone

Lokken, a Wisconsin native who moved to Las Vegas from Florida in 1988, is no stranger to rock work on the Strip. He's had his hand in everything from The Mirage's volcano and Treasure Island's skull carving to the jungle and coral reef at Mandalay Bay and the lion habitat at MGM Grand. The stonework at Bellagio was done on his watch, as were the statues and buildings of New York, New York Hotel and Casino. The list goes on and on. "I've got my name all over the most famous strip in the world," he says with obvious pride.

In addition to Las Vegas, he's worked on projects in places from Orlando and Nashville to Hawaii and Guam.

"Steve Wynn's vision to build a volcano in the middle of the desert kicked everything off," Lokken says of the extensive rock work done in Las Vegas in recent years. "And if the end result doesn't match his vision, you rip it up and do it all over again."

Such was the case of Sugar and Ice Falls, he recalls. "I had to build off a model which supersedes any drawing. When the crew was pouring the slab I didn't see the proper opening and told my men that it didn't look right. They argued it was close enough, but I told them if it didn't look like the model we had to change it. We had to move quite a few walls to get that one right. At least we made the changes before the falls were completed, and we didn't have to do it all over again."

Angel Falls, which Lokken describes as "ungodly high with a straight drop," was pretty difficult to create, especially considering all the shotcrete that went into that waterfall. "That was a monstrous job," he says. "I can't say enough good things about the shotcrete crew having to drag those heavy hoses around."

Lokken explains that the entire MSE wall is a minimum of 8 inches thick. "Most walls on the mountain are 14 to 18 inches thick so it's like real rock. There's a lot of concrete on that baby," he says. You won't find a hollow rock at Wynn. They're all filled with shotcrete.

Under Lokken's supervision, the crew first covered the whole mountain (made out of those baskets of rock) with 8 inches of concrete. Then they epoxied in the rebar, added and shaped chicken wire and shot the structure with another 2 to 2 1/2 inches to fill in the void behind the metal. Next, they applied a structure coat of another 4 to 6 inches, encasing all the steel with concrete. Finally, they shot another 3 to 6 inches for texture, giving them plenty of concrete to carve so the structures could have substantially deep cracks.

The falls were constructed in a like manner.

"The waterfalls really take the desert out of Vegas," says Scott Lokken, Fred's son, who was in charge of painting the waterfalls during construction and is now engineering paint shop manager for Wynn Las Vegas. "It's added a whole new dimension to this town. With the lush pine trees and the roar of the huge cascading waterfalls, you lose the idea you are in Las Vegas. Wynn takes you away from it all." 🗡️

Photo courtesy of Fred Lokken



Photo courtesy of Fred Lokken

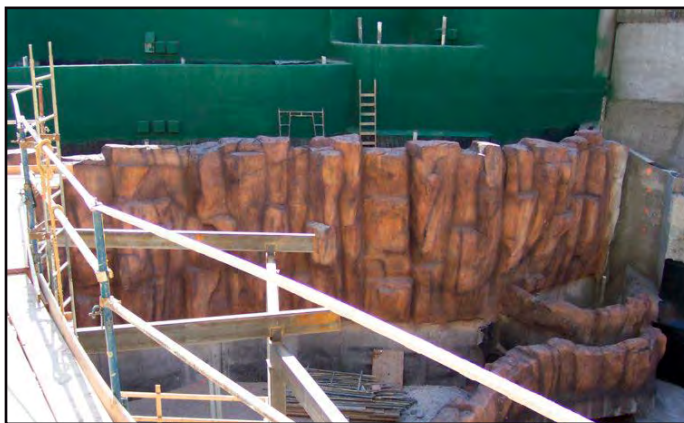


Photo courtesy of Fred Lokken





Keeping up appearances

Do you ever wonder how facilities maintain those huge man-made waterfalls?

At Wynn Las Vegas, most of the water is chemically treated to have the same alkalinity as a swimming pool, says Wynn front features systems manager David Russell.

No chlorine, however, is used in Okada Falls because of the fish. Instead, hotel staff pressure-wash the falls once a month with city water.

The Lake of Dreams Waterfall is rinsed with a 10 percent muriatic acid solution every three months to help maintain the pH of the lake and to remove the light yellow tinge that limestone acquires if untreated.

The rest of the falls are repainted once a year to keep them looking good.

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Servicios Proconsa Monterrey, Mexico



by Sue Marquette Poremba

When Mauricio Zambrano and Federico Jasso established Servicios Proconsa as the national distributor for Kemiko products in Mexico, the Kemiko brand name meant little to Mexicans. "At the time," Zambrano says, "concrete stains were a new concept."

The Mexican construction industry lags behind the industry in the United States, Zambrano says, and concrete staining is still an innovative technique in Mexico.

Zambrano and Jasso saw an opportunity. Zambrano, a business major, had just returned to Monterrey after five years of studying and working abroad in telecommunications and automotive service franchising. Meanwhile, Jasso, a chemical engineer, was installing a chemical stain in his parents' house. "When he showed me the results, we started a market survey with local architects and construction companies that led us to a full-scale startup with promising results," Zambrano says.

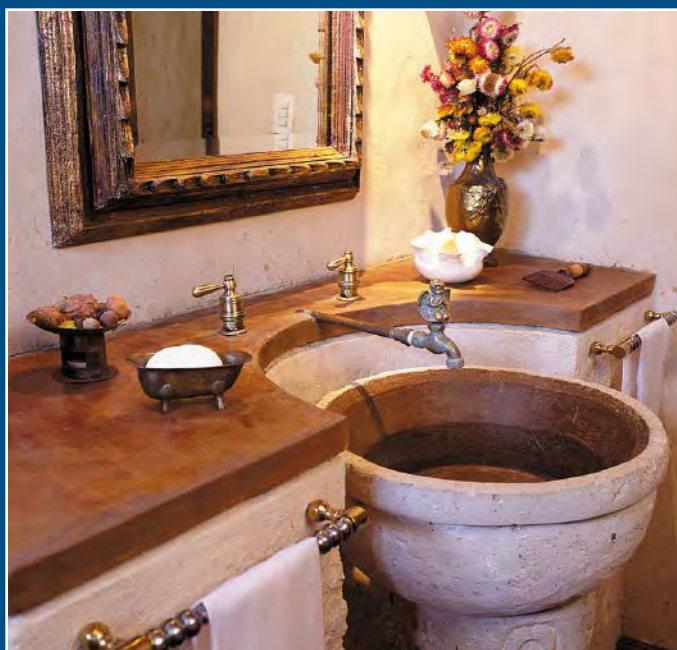
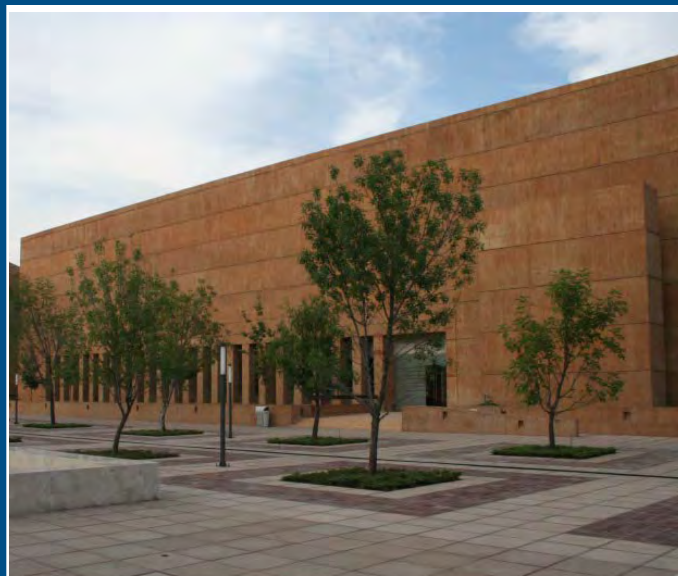
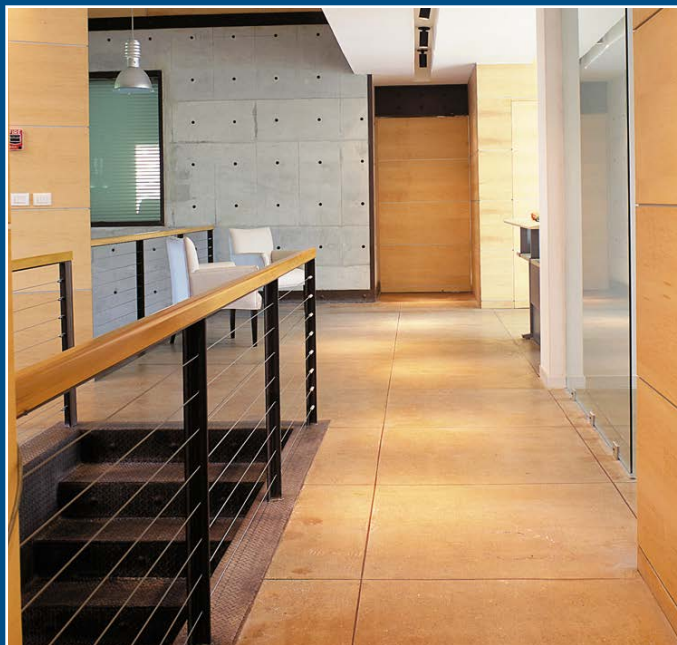
Zambrano and Jasso set up shop in the late 1990s in Monterrey. "Federico left his job in a pharmaceutical company, and we started selling, doing mock-ups and applying ourselves," Zambrano says.

It took awhile for the business to get off the ground. "We had almost a half-million square foot of stain in inventory, and in that first year, we couldn't sell an ounce," he says. He decided if he couldn't sell the stain for customers to apply themselves, he would refocus his business. "We decided to install the stain ourselves."

This was easier said than done. Zambrano learned about concrete stains at World of Concrete. "We had no formal training, nor videos to watch," Zambrano says. "We had to learn the business in real job sites, and although we did screw up a couple of details in the beginning, we quickly learned how to avoid the basic mistakes."

Servicios Proconsa also learned how to create a market for its products. Marketing, Zambrano says, begins with presentation. They hired a professional photographer to take sample





pictures. "The contractor with the best pictures wins," he says. "Otherwise, it is difficult to have architects and builders know what one is capable of doing."

Another marketing tool was affiliating his company with Kemiko. "We visited trade shows in the U.S. and tried several brands. We liked Kemiko, especially the fact that it has been in business since 1930. It helps to have a product that has been around for a while."

Eventually, Zambrano and Jasso trained an applicator, and currently there are 20 people working in Servicios Pro-consa. Today, the business includes distribution and installation divisions, plus

a consulting division that covers training and customer support. Zambrano manages distribution and many commercial issues, including marketing, while Jasso runs installing and consulting.

To control quality, the company developed a Certified Installer training program. More than 400 people have completed the training, out of which 75 are active certified installers and 30 are sub-distributors in cities throughout Mexico.

The connection to Kemiko does make some difference, in Zambrano's opinion. However, he says, "The most important thing is how we approach the job."

The company specializes in staining, but it uses a three-tiered approach. First is selling the project. "We focus on designing architects and decorators that can get the product specified," Zambrano says.

Second is the installation. "We do anything that has to do with stains," he says. "We'll do any size job, and we will be professional, clean, and on time. You never know who your customer will refer your job to." And finally, there is marketing, including a Web site and exhibits in trade shows.

One of Zambrano's favorite projects was a 132,000-square-foot concert arena. Half the arena is indoors, while the other





half is outdoors. Their team stained an 8,000-square-foot compass with intricate markings. “We had to incorporate the construction joints into the design. It had all different kinds of shapes, which had to be incorporated when pouring the concrete. Plus we had to finish it in a very tight time frame.”

Another memorable project for Zambrano was staining 124,000 square feet of exterior walls at a museum. “The building is 50 feet high, and we couldn’t spray on the stain. We had to stand on scaffolding to apply the stain with 6-inch brushes. Once you started an area, you couldn’t stop until it was done. If you

stopped halfway, you would be able to see the marks forever.”

Now that Servicios Proconsa has introduced Mexico to the beauty of concrete stains, much of its work comes through word of mouth or repeat business. For example, the company was recently hired to do two identical outlet malls. They told the owners they could do any design in perfect scale, and the customer’s design team handed them a representation of the four seasons for a floor of 121,000 square feet. “It was like putting together a big jigsaw puzzle,” Zambrano says. “We built a 90,000-square-foot paper template to score the design, and we then had to

mask and stain every figure individually twice in order to obtain the color change from shape to shape.”

Servicios Proconsa is also developing quotes for staining projects with commercial centers, supermarkets, colleges and museums.

“We learned our business the hard way,” Zambrano says. But for Servicios Proconsa, the hard way was the right way. “We find it exciting to know that every morning we wake up in a place that has millions of square feet of grey and sad concrete just waiting to be stained.”

□ www.kemiko.com.mx



The Importance of Bonding Primers



by Dave Searls

Bonding primers serve two purposes when applied to concrete before topcoating, according to Victor Pachade, national sales manager for Smart Surface Technology, manufacturer of Color-maker products. “They seal the concrete surface and develop a bond line for a coating or topping to bond to the substrate.”

Concrete isn’t usually a good substrate for holding coatings because of its high porosity and alkalinity. “Without it (bonding primer), there’s nothing for the coating to grab onto,” says Pachade. If the concrete substrate is not primed, “You’ll see pinholes because the concrete is breathing.”

You will have even more problems if you’re topcoating over old concrete. The substrate might well be dry and crumbly, causing the surface to flake and take the new coat with it.

The solution is a layer of bonding primer that provides benefits during both the liquid phase and the solid phase of the application. In addition to sealing a porous substrate and adhering to the topping, primers increase the wettability of the topcoat, making it easier to spread.

“This increases the working time,” says Bob Harris of the Decorative Concrete Institute in Temple, Ga.

At the same time, it decreases the risk of a fish-eye effect brought on by partial adherence of the topcoat, says Pachade. “Without it, your topcoat will come up in three months.”

Where, when and how

To Harris, it’s easy to determine when to use a bonding primer: when the manufacturer specifies

Decorative concrete work done at a 22,000-square-foot Heinen’s Supermarket in the Cleveland area. Bonding primers were used to help concrete adhere to ceramic tile.



A Supermarket Gets Primed for Business

If you think that converting 22,000 square feet of flooring from heavily pitted ceramic tile to sleek, glossy, stylish concrete isn't hard enough, try completing your mission in a "live" supermarket. Take on the added challenge of racing the clock in the middle of the night to get one section completed before the daily load of feet and shopping-cart wheels travels over its still-unfinished and barely dry surface.

Such was the task three years ago facing Cleveland's Smart Surface Technology, working in association with The Concretist, out of California, on a 22,000-square-foot Heinen's Supermarket in suburban Cleveland.

"It took 15 days, in part because we'd have to spend two hours cleaning from the day's traffic at the beginning of each night's shift," says Smart Surface Technology national sales manager Victor Pachade. "We had to give the store back by 7 a.m. because it opened at 8:30."

The supermarket needed every square inch of retail space as soon as it opened for business. It took 12 men

working 15 nights, but they got it done. Here's some step-by-step instructions that tell you how:

1. Sand with a floor sander and 60-mesh sanding screen, then thoroughly wash. Apply an acrylic bonding primer. When dry, fill the cracks with a patching compound and prime again over the patched areas.
2. Prime yet again. Once dry, apply a polymer-modified concrete topping, 1/8-inch thick, integrally colored with Colorfast blends of iron oxide pigments.
3. Apply patterns and designs using a combination of acid stains and dyes. (At the supermarket, this part was performed by decorative concrete employees of The Concretist.)
4. Apply four coats of a water-based acrylic sealer, then four coats of a urethane cross-linked with acrylics in a wax emulsion.
5. Finally, stand back, admire your work, then get out of the way of the day's first squeaky-wheeled shopping cart.

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it. It's also necessary to use a bonding agent when the surface will be subjected to extreme temperature conditions or in conjunction with a self-leveling or semi-self-leveling surface, he says.

Also, use a bonding primer whenever topcoating concrete, says Pachade.


You'll find bonding primers in acrylic, epoxy and polyurethane composition. Often, acrylic primers are used before applying a urethane topcoat. "Urethanes don't like the alkalinity of the concrete, so they repel it," says Pachade.

It's also wise to go with an acrylic primer when applying it to an exterior surface. "Most epoxies tend to yellow outdoors, and urethanes can be very slippery," says Pachade.

Regardless of which primer you're using, be sure to thoroughly wash your surface before applying.

If your primer is re-emulsifiable, it must be completely dry to the touch before applying your topcoat. If it's not re-emulsifiable, the topcoat is usually applied while your primer is still wet.

It generally takes two coats to do the job, and you'll get 200 square feet to 300 square feet of coverage per gallon. "You can use a sprayer with an acrylic primer, but roll or brush with a urethane or epoxy," says Pachade.

One final piece of advice from Harris: All bonding primers are not the same. "Be sure to take that into consideration as you prepare your estimate, because the drying time will vary." 



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Retaining



Photo courtesy of Turnstone Construction Inc.

WALLS

by Rob Spiegel

The concrete retaining wall has evolved from drab to fab. While retaining walls were once just utilitarian surfaces meant to hold back earth, they have also in recent years become aesthetic wonders. Even public highways have become decorative. Take the 8-mile retaining wall on the Pima Freeway in Scottsdale, Ariz. The wall, built by Scott System Inc. out of Denver, Colo., boasts desert-inspired designs, including 40-foot-tall prickly pear cactus and giant lizards 67 feet long.

Another surprising example is the wall along Snoqualmie Pass over the Cascade Mountain range near Edmonds, Wash., where Turnstone Construction Inc. of Seattle, Wash., took a falling-down wall of stacked stone and turned it into a stunning mountain of concrete carved to look like a wall of natural granite.

The purpose of the retaining wall remains unchanged — to hold back dirt — but appearance has become a critical aspect of the wall. Companies specializing in decorative concrete are spicing up walls in both public and private settings.

Park City, Utah, is a resort town, known for skiing, picturesque mountains and multimillion-dollar homes, and these homeowners have taken to decorating their private retaining walls. “As one can imagine, these homeowners spare no expense creating spectacular landscaping as well as outdoor and curb appeal when it comes to their accommodations,” says Ron Petersen, president of Surface Imaging Inc. in Layton, Utah. “Many of the homes are built right into thickets of trees on unsteady slope.”

Petersen recently repaired and re-finished a deteriorating retaining wall on one of these pricey homes. After a

thorough pressure washing of the wall to remove dirt and debris, Petersen made structural and aesthetic repairs to restore the strength needed for proper functioning. Then he applied a thin coat of polymer concrete with a brown base to prepare the wall for staining.

Petersen consulted with Steve Schmid, president of Stone Touch Inc. of Salt Lake City, before beginning the Park City project. Stone Touch integrated decorative patterns into the



Photos courtesy of Scott System Inc.



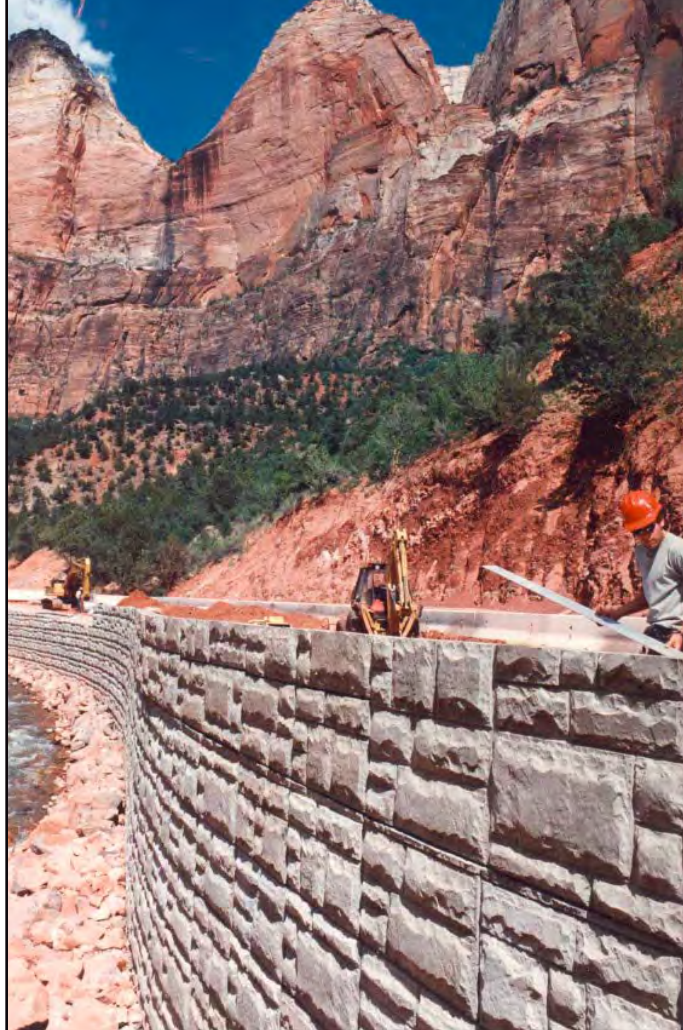


Photo courtesy of Stone Touch Inc.

wall and applied an acid stain, then a sealer. “Many homeowners are not aware of all the new products and techniques that are available to resuscitate a failing or unsightly retaining wall,” Peterson notes. Local contractors often refer homeowners to Surface Imaging so they can get more than simple, undecorated retaining walls.

The earth itself can become a potential hazard for those living in this stylish ambiance surrounded by rugged terrain. While the retaining walls have become ornamental beauties, the functional quality of the product is not being compromised. The walls — though prettied up on the outside — are lasting longer thanks to routine maintenance and improved bricks that have come on the market lately.

One of the techniques used for creating decorative surfaces is sprayed concrete. “We use compressed air to shoot mortar or concrete through a hose and nozzle onto a surface,” explains John Fulford, owner of Turnstone. “The concrete is sprayed in a vertical manner onto an armature and, like magic, it sticks to the surface and stacks right up. No need to pour.”

For the granite wall job, Fulford’s team sprayed the retaining wall with shotcrete to buttress it. Then they carved it to look like the road was cut out of granite rock. Underneath the decorative granite-like surface is reinforced steel and high-strength concrete. The color comes from acrylic stain. “We used antigraffiti sealer, trowels, brushes and different hooks to create the decorative look,” says Fulford. “The mayor of Edmonds (Wash.) was so pleased with the result, he came out and gave the wall his blessing.”

The structural material underneath the decorative retaining wall can include steel, timber, brick, concrete blocks and even reinforced soil. The surface itself is concrete carved or stained into beauty. Sometimes it’s created on the spot. Other

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Photo courtesy of Turnstone Construction Inc.

times, manufactured decorative surfaces are applied to the finished retaining wall.

Scott System offers complete design services, including construction, consultation, job site assistance and graphics or sculpting. “We offer concrete contractors a method to create textures and patterns,” says Dana Johnston, marketing director at Scott System. “We created a number of standard and custom patterns for the Scottsdale wall.”

Simstone Inc. of Shakopee, Minn., provides colors and stamps for decorative concrete that look like natural rock. “We use a dry mixture to make segmental retaining wall units,” says sales director Ray Clark. “We integrate color during the manufacturing process. The decorative blocks are made in a machine that produces a high-vibration frequency to form the zero-slump concrete mix into strong blocks with a natural stone look.”

Simstone also trains contractors who do a lot of flat concrete work but want to learn how to use molded blocks to install decorative walls. “Some contractors are moving into the decorative wall business because their regular business is drying up,” says Clark. “Interest in decorative retaining walls is growing, since consumers are seeking new fashions in concrete work.”

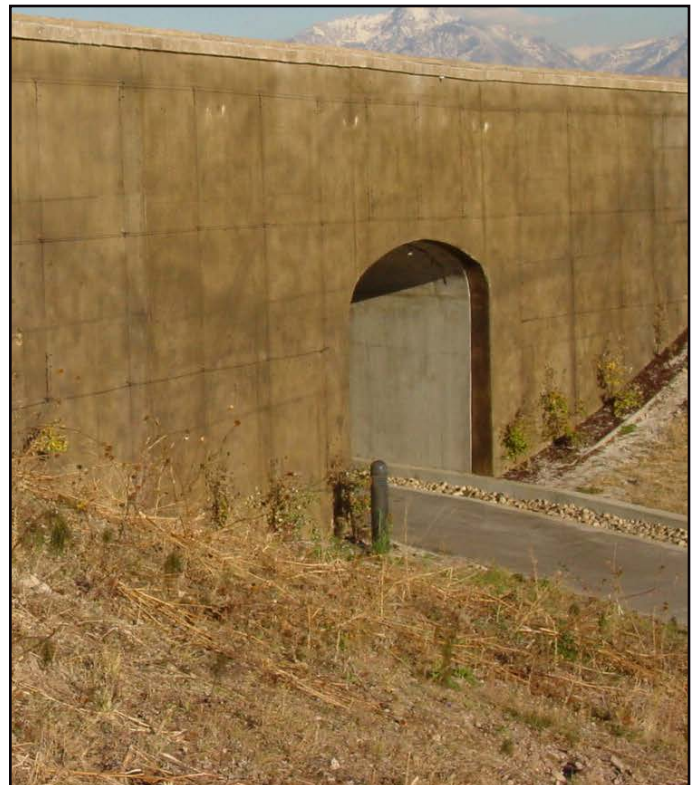


Photo courtesy of Stone Touch Inc.

Floating Color-Hardened Concrete

by Loretta Hall

Floating dust-on color hardener into concrete is above and beyond floating an integrally colored slab, says Tom Ralston, president of Tom Ralston Concrete in Santa Cruz, Calif.

In this case, floating has to accomplish more than smoothing and flattening the surface, he says. It has to work the color hardener into the surface thoroughly so the moisture in the concrete can activate the hardener.

John Stefanowicz, owner of Applied Color Concrete in Wimberley, Texas, agrees. “The difference between working with color-hardened concrete and integrally colored concrete is substantial,” he says. “There’s more technique involved.”

There’s also more time involved — first, to broadcast the color hardener and, second, to float the hardener into the surface. “When you use the color hardener, you have to float a lot more to work the color in,” says Isaac Jonker, president of Nobel Concrete in Jenison, Mich. “You use a bull float or fresno, back and forth, until it goes into the concrete completely.”

Timing is important for successful application of color hardener. “If concrete has a lot of bleed water on it and you broadcast a heavy application of hardener to suck that moisture up, you can suffer some delamination or blotchiness of color,” cautions Bart Sacco, president of Concrete Texturing Tool & Supply in Throop, Penn. “Normally, the concrete gets struck off, bull-floated, and edged. If there’s any length of delay, where the concrete is skinning up, then you’d run your bull float over it again to knock that skinning off, and then apply the color hardener.”

The American Concrete Institute recommends a sequence specifically tailored for applying colored dry-shake hardeners and metallic dry-shake hardeners. The sequence is outlined in Section 8.6.2 of ACI Publication 302.1R-04, Guide for Concrete Floor and Slab Construction. “Color hardeners differ from hardeners that employ larger-sized hard aggregate and are used on industrial floors,” explains ACI senior managing director Ward

Malisch. According to the document, “This difference ... dictates that the material normally be embedded in the concrete later in the setting process than is common for uncolored mineral-aggregate dry-shake hardeners.”

“Some color hardeners are finer in consistency, some are grainier. Some work in real nice, and some don’t,” says Sacco. “After broadcasting 60 to 70 percent of the manufacturer’s recommended amount of color hardener in fine, even layers, watch the surface of the material. Give it somewhere around 60 to 90 seconds. It will go from being a dry powder to a moist powder. Then float it and work it into the surface of the concrete. As soon as you get that worked in, apply the remaining amount of material in the second application and float it in, with no delay between steps. That’s usually the part of the process that gets a little hairy — from the time the concrete’s on the ground till the hardener’s worked in.”

“Sometimes, you have to add weight on the bull float to actually press this powder into the surface,” Stefanowicz says. “Most bull floats are either cupped to contain weight or there are pins you could put weights on. You want to have the weights strategically located, a third of the way in and a third of the way out.” He usually adds 6 pounds to 18 pounds, depending on how fast the concrete is setting. “The more wind and the more sun, the more weight,” he says. “Wind is the biggest foe on a project. As the wind blasts across the surface of the concrete, it’s literally pulling moisture out of the concrete. That’s when you put as much as 20 pounds on, and that’s really hard on the guys running the bull float.”

“The type of float used for integral color typically depends on air entrainment and slump,” says Clark Branum, director of technical services for Brickform, which makes color hardener. “Air-entrained concrete should be floated with a magnesium bull float unless the slump exceeds 5 inches. Wood floats work best for hardener applications because they profile the surface,



Photo courtesy of Bart Sacco



allowing the hardener to get better penetration. The wood float also aerates the surface, promoting bleed water and helping wet out the material. After the first coat of hardener is in place a magnesium float may be used.”

However, advice about what type of float works best varies among experienced installers. “It’s going to be a choice of personal preference. Some guys use wooden floats, some use magnesium floats, and some use resin floats.” Sacco says. “Also, different men in different parts of the country use different tools, depending on the different mix designs.” He explains that he uses a magnesium float because the Pennsylvania climate requires “a very strong mix of concrete and a decent amount of air entrainment, which makes the concrete very gummy.”

Mike Riggs, president of Progressive Concrete Works Inc. in Phoenix, reports using magnesium floats, even though he believes wood floats are a little more effective at working the hardener into the surface. “A wood float will have a tendency to leave the concrete surface more open, so it will dry a little bit quicker,” he explains. In triple-digit heat, that can be a problem.

Stefanowicz also uses magnesium bull floats in Texas. “The concrete doesn’t stick to it as much, and it tends to open up the concrete as it’s running across, allowing moisture to come up,” he says. “Then at the very end, you can use a steel bull float, or fresno, for fine-tuning.”

Hand floats can be used to create decorative effects. Sacco says that after the hardener has been worked into the surface, a hand float can be used to create border patterns such as half-moons, figure eights, or swirls.

In addition to performance qualities such as resistance to abrasion and moisture, color hardeners offer unique decorative possibilities. “One of the major advantages of dry-shake color hardener, over an integral color, is you’re going to have a broader pallet of colors to work from,” Riggs says. “You can get a more



intense dark color. And you can get almost a white color that you can’t achieve with an integral color concrete unless you use a white portland cement.” The way the color hardener is worked into the surface can enhance its decorative effect. “Depending on what kind of effect you want to create, you’re going to apply the color hardener either lighter or heavier,” he says. “Then you can use the float to make those areas bleed out a little bit more, so they kind of fade out.”

Often, color hardener is used sparingly, as an accent, rather than completely covering the surface. “You can achieve much more mottling with dust-on colors, especially if you use more than one color,” says Ralston. “You can actually produce an oil-painting effect in which the concrete then becomes a concrete canvas.”



The slab has been colored and stamped, but a rainstorm delayed the rest of the job.







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Hardeners/Densifier

Sometimes terminology can be confusing. Take the case of chemical hardeners and densifiers. As Peter Zeh, laboratory manager at Prosoco, points out, the words have somewhat unusual meanings within the realm of concrete. “Hardener” implies increasing strength and “densifier” implies reducing porosity. Mark Vogel, director of international sales at W.R. Meadows, has a similar view, that a concrete hardener makes the surface of concrete harder and more abrasion-resistant, while a densifier increases the mass per volume. Despite the nuances of the terminology, most people in the industry I spoke with about chemical hardeners and densifiers are of similar mind that chemical hardeners and densifiers are virtually the same thing and the terms are used interchangeably.

One should use caution when us-

ing the term “densifier,” however, as the term is trademarked by Applied Concrete Technology Inc., based in Grayslake, Ill. David Johnson, president of the company, says the term has been trademarked since 1991, and that his company’s product is different from others on the market, but more on that later.

There are various classes of hardener/densifier products. Geologist Timothy Murphy at Mineralogy Inc. groups them into three categories: admixtures, dry or shake-on hardeners applied when the concrete is still green, and liquid chemical hardeners/densifiers applied after the concrete is cured. This third category, the one Phil Smith, vice president and technical director of L&M Construction Chemicals calls “post-hardening admixtures,” is the one under discussion here.

Liquid chemical hardeners/densifiers

can be further segregated into four types, all silicates, but with different histories. Jeff Koebrick, president of Convergent Concrete, explains that magnesium fluoro-silicates are the oldest, having been around for about a century. Sodium silicates were initially developed in Germany in the 1930s. Potassium silicates followed. And the most recent development is the lithium silicates in the late 1990s.

The chemistry of how chemical hardeners/densifiers work is interesting. As you may know, as cement hydrates, it produces calcium silicate hydrate (C-S-H). Basically, as concrete hardens, water reacts with cement to form calcium hydroxide and silica, which react to form C-S-H — the material that bonds the cement with the aggregate in concrete. But the hydration process produces more calcium hydroxide than is used up in this chemical reaction, resulting in excess calcium hydroxide, also called “free lime.” Over the long term, excess free lime is troublesome because it is a primary cause of micro-pitting.

Liquid chemical hardeners/densifiers provide a remedy by introducing additional silicate, which reacts with the excess calcium hydroxide to form more C-S-H. Additional C-S-H means denser, harder concrete. Because the concrete is already dry, this additional chemical reaction initiated by liquid chemical hardeners/densifiers takes place in the capillaries left by water that migrated out of the concrete during the curing process. This filling of the capillaries provides an

additional degree of impermeability, but the concrete retains its ability to breathe, allowing water vapor to transpire.

The penetration depth of liquid chemical hardeners/densifiers is where the discussion of chemical hardeners/densifiers can become heated. Smith and others maintain that these products only work in the near-surface wear zone:

4 mm to 5 mm or 1/8 inch to 1/4 inch deep. Johnson says this is because the physical, pencil-like molecular shape of the silicates cannot work their way further down the capillaries. He asserts his densifier, which he describes as having a modified, spherical-shape molecule, can penetrate much deeper. But not everyone agrees.

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Photo courtesy of SealSource

Add to this the concept that there are different species of silicates. Smith says that within each group of silicates are different species of silicates that vary in their reactive properties based on how various products are manufactured. A less reactive product is not necessarily worse than one that is more highly reactive, but, as Smith observes, "You wouldn't want to take a Labrador retriever to herd sheep." In other words, you need to select the product to fit your desired results.

"The biggest problem with these types of products (hardeners/densifiers) is there are no ASTM standards," Vogel explains. "While a number of manufacturers are working with ASTM to develop these standards, we are probably years away from seeing them used in the industry."

Other issues revolve around solubility and solids content of these products. Magnesium fluorosilicates, sodium silicates and potassium silicates form soluble bonds. Lithium silicate forms an insoluble bond. Some products have low solids; others have high solids. One is not neces-

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sarily better or worse than the other. For example, Sharon Harry, creative director at the International Polished Concrete Institute, explains that in some cases a low-solids product might penetrate a tightly troweled new construction project better and avoid too much product being wasted. On the other hand, an existing floor might need a high-solids product to fill larger voids.

Sometimes the choice of a hardener/densifier is based on economy. Other times the choice is based on the needs of the project. As Koebrick explains, a variety of characteristics differentiate the many liquid chemical hardeners/densifiers on the market, including: abrasion resistance, application rates, chemical resistance, cure time, depth of penetration, ease of application, environmental clean-up, luster/shine, soluble vs. nonsoluble, and versatility as a protective treatment.

Vogel and others recommend that contractors trying to make a decision about liquid chemical hardeners/densifiers ask for and demand independent, third-party laboratory testing to insure accurate results.



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What just about everyone agrees on, nonetheless, is that liquid chemical hardeners/densifiers offer wonderful benefits, primarily increased abrasion resistance and a more polishable surface.

Harry says new construction benefits from the increased resistance and a certain amount of water repellency. "These hardeners/densifiers can be built up on the surface and buffed to create a reflective sheen."

Existing concrete can be helped by liquid chemical hardeners/densifiers, too. Koebrick emphasizes the additives will not "glue together a weak, crumbling or delaminating concrete surface." But existing floors can gain an extended life with these products. Smith reports there is a lot of interest in refurbishing existing floors using diamond grinders, and liquid chemical hardeners/densifiers are very helpful. Harry explains that diamond


grinding "opens the floor by grinding off the worn and stained surface, allowing better penetration, and then you continue to polish using finer diamonds to create a smooth, dense surface."

Other benefits observed by industry experts include some enhanced protection against staining and freeze-thaw cycle damage, and reduction and mitigation of alkali-silica reaction at the topical surface.

Liquid chemical hardeners/densifiers work well with a variety of decorative concrete techniques, including acid staining, but Zeh recommends that the contractor watch out for incompatibility if a product touts water repellency; after all, you want the acid stain to penetrate the surface. As for the visual effect of these products, he explains, hardeners/densifiers should not alter the look of the concrete very much. "They alter the behavior of the concrete surface."

Zeh and others caution that, as with many things, too much of a good thing is not always better. This axiom applies to liquid chemical hardeners/densifiers.

Murphy points out that it is not well understood that hardeners/densifiers can be overapplied. "Void space within concrete is typically poorly interconnected, which serves to limit the penetration depth of surface-applied hardener/densifier products. For concrete slabs destined to be covered with impermeable flooring products (such as VCT and epoxy systems), the overapplication or super-saturation of the concrete surface with hardener/densifier products results in the accumulation of metasilicate residues that may contribute to osmosis and flooring system failures."

Liquid chemical hardeners/densifiers work great if they are used appropriately, and they offer a variety of benefits, including increased durability and longevity of concrete. While they are not new, as more people learn more about liquid chemical hardeners/densifiers and understand how they work, the question may change from "When should you use them?" to "Why would you not?" 

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The Blastrac BDC-1216 industrial-grade dust collector is a compact, low-profile dry vacuum that can be used with a wide range of hand tools, small walk-behind scarifiers, concrete grinders and shot blasters.

The BDC-1216 reduces airborne dust, providing a cleaner work environment. The dust collector weighs 88 pounds and has a dustpan capacity of 10.5 gallons and a combined power of 1.6 kilowatts. The filter material and its construction are specifically designed to handle concrete dust, preventing premature filter saturation that is often experienced with cartridge-style dust collection systems. A spring-loaded plunger mechanism allows the user to clear the bulk of the dust from the filter without exposure to the dust. A silencer reduces motor noise, and the resin-reinforced, pressure-molded plastic body will not rust or dent.

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Blastrac 7-inch Grinder-Vac

Connectable to a variety of Blastrac dust collection units, the Blastrac 7-inch Grinder-Vac is a shrouded concrete grinder system that promotes a virtually dust-free work environment.

The 7-inch grinding system is used for concrete cleaning, grinding and thin-coating removal when fitted with a variety of 7-inch diameter diamond cup wheels and 7-inch diameter Zec Abrasive Disks. It uses a heavy-duty high-RPM grinder motor to provide superior performance and durability. Its tough, flexible polyurethane dust shroud is good for hundreds of hours of use.

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CDCLarue Pulse-Bac vacuums

Press materials from CDCLarue Industries Inc. claim that its Pulse-Bac vacuums are becoming the industry leader in portable dust collection and general cleanup for light and heavy construction related trades.

The patented Pulse-Bac self-cleaning filtration system internally flushes the filters clear while it cleans, using only ambient air and vacuum. No blowers, no shakers and no elbow grease are needed. What's more, the vacuums are now equipped with patent-pending PTFE-coated spun-bond polyester twists on filters, so they can eliminate dust particles as small as 0.1 micron. These filters are 100 times more durable than paper-based and sock filters. They can easily be removed, washed with a high-pressure water hose, dried and reused.

In a test conducted by an outside third party, Pulse-Bac vacuums were the only vacuums able to maintain static pres-



sure lift from start to finish. They achieved the lowest PEL rating (OSHA Permissible Exposure Limit) among all vacuums tested.

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When the folks at Concrete Polishing Solutions designed Cat 5 Dust Extraction equipment for the grinding, polishing, and surface preparation industries, they took as inspiration their years of experience as contractors.

The Cat 5 series of industrial dust collectors are ruggedly built for operator friendliness, superb dust capture, high productivity and low cost-to-operate. The heavy-duty steel frame is designed to withstand the beating of a job site, while durable casters allow for easy movement up ramps or over uneven floors. These units' compact size help them fit through doorways, while the reverse motor starter and continuous bagging system make them easy to operate.

The four-way valve backwashes filters with bursts of forceful air, cleaning the filters without ever stopping the machine and with no airborne dust. The DOP-certified HEPA filter and two pleated primary filters with nonstick Teflon coating contain three times more useable surface area than imported products.

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CS Unitec CS 1500 wet/dry vacuum

The industry's first vacuum to use plastic poly filter bags, the CS 1500 wet/dry vacuum from CS Unitec Inc., is ideal for concrete and masonry dust and debris cleanup.

The heavy-duty plastic poly filter bag holds up to 10 gallons, and allows for simple, safe disposal. The CS 1500's patented air-guide feature maintains equal vacuum pressure inside and outside the bag to make it possible to use the plastic poly filter bags.

The vacuum comes with 13 gallons of canister volume. For general debris cleanup with a vacuum wand, it can be used with or without a paper filter bag. A porous slurry filter bag helps capture heavy concrete slurry from drilling or sawing wet concrete. A water detection sensor with automatic switch-off monitors the filling level in the tank.

To maintain maximum airflow and suction power, the CS 1500's electromagnetic pulse filter cleaning system automatically shakes dust from the dual-filter system. Two parallel-mounted polyester filters capture 99.93 percent of all particles 0.3 microns and larger. HEPA filters capture even more.

☎ (800) 700-5919

🌐 www.csunitec.com

DeWalt D25300DH dust extraction system

DeWalt's D25300DH dust extraction system with HEPA filtration is ideal for professional concrete contractors and other professional end users who need to drill holes in a clean environment.

The D25300DH can be used in conjunction with DeWalt three-mode L-shape hammers. DeWalt designed the dust extraction system to be powered by its own motor, so it does not affect the drilling performance of the hammer when it is in use. Additionally, the unit offers a two-second shut-off delay that keeps dust extraction going for two seconds after the tool is turned off to ensure more collection. The D25300DH is equipped with a patented adaptor that allows access for the unit in tight corners and around studs.

A HEPA replacement filter, D25301DH, provides HEPA filtration for the new D25300DH.

🌐 www.dewalt.com

Dustcontrol DC3800 series HEPA vacuum systems

The fifth-generation the DC3800 series HEPA vacuum systems from Dustcontrol features a new motor configuration that increases performance from the previous model by roughly 15 percent, improving static pressure and airflow, while reducing sound levels by 5 percent. The latest DC3800 series models also come with an indicator light telling the operator to reverse-pulse the filter.

The DC3800 series is used primarily in the floor-grinding market. The DC3800c Twin features an additional cyclonic preseparator canister to improve productivity. The preseparator increases storage volume and reduces filter loading. The increased performance of the DC3800c will result in even greater dust-capture efficiency. The DC3800c series also works well for multiple operators using grinders or cutters, as it can capture dust from two 7-inch grinders simultaneously.



Dustcontrol AB is a Swedish company.

■ www.dustcontrol.com

GranQuartz Eurovac II portable vacuum

GranQuartz Stone & Concrete Systems recently introduced the Eurovac II Portable Vacuum, designed specifically for concrete grinding applications.

The Eurovac II contains a 3000-watt, 3.9-horsepower pump and produces 250 cfm. The power comes from the use of three on-board motors controlled by two switches. This proprietary system is used to reduce the start-up current that would be required if all three motors started at the same time. The Eurovac II also incorporates a cyclonic entry system, with a cartridge filter containing 198 square feet of filter media. The unit can be fitted with a HEPA filter. Further, the unit is industrial grade.

☎ (866) 639-0960

■ www.granquartz.com

Ruwac DS2 Powerhouse Series vacuums

The DS2 Powerhouse Series vacuums from Ruwac are suited for continuous dust extraction. Ideal for any industry dealing with fine, dry problematic materials like powder and dust, the Powerhouse Series features a maintenance-free filtration system.


Powerhouse vacuums can extract fine materials such as concrete, plaster, and soot without loss of performance. The maintenance-free filtration system features an improved dirt release function. Equipped with an oversized, pleated Micro-Clean filter, the Powerhouse Series is 99.9 percent efficient at 0.5 microns, removing fine dust from work environments. The vacuums range from 265 cfm to 506 cfm, and each includes an extra-large drop-down dustpan. They are also HEPA-ready.

☎ (413) 532-4030

■ www.ruwac.com

Ruwac Little Red WNS 2220 vacuum

The Little Red WNS 2220 vacuum is powerful enough for multiple operators but portable enough to get onto different locations and intricate jobs. Now, a redesigned filtration system for the dual-motor Little Red allows more dust to be dropped from the filter and prolongs filter life.

Little Red picks up concrete chips and fine powders, and it can be adapted for use with vacuum assist tools, preseparation systems, point-of-source extraction or general maintenance. The easily maneuverable vacuum is capable of moving 200 cubic feet of air per minute. Little Red's oversized, long-lasting MicroClean filter is 99.9 percent efficient at 0.5 microns, allowing large quantities of fine material to be collected without loss of suction, and it is HEPA-ready for absolute filtration. Loose debris is dropped out of the filter with a newly redesigned, maintenance-free filtration system. 

☎ (413) 532-4030

■ www.ruwac.com



Product Profil



Quick Draw Design & Layout Tool



Photos courtesy of Gerald Taylor



You'd think that owning Images In Concrete LLC, a decorative concrete contracting firm, would be enough to keep Gerald Taylor busy, but no. He's a tool guy, too.

Taylor has invented the Quick Draw Design & Layout Tool, which helps decorative concrete contractors sketch designs on a wall or slab before they start to work in earnest. It enables freehand drawing and layout without fatigue and safety issues.

What's more, besides being a drawing tool, it can be used as a kind of compass beam. It allows contractors to score accurate circles from 1 foot to 14 feet in diameter.

Taylor came up with Quick Draw for the same reason most contractors innovate: to help himself. "The compass beam part was a tool I needed for layout of surfaces so I could freehand-draw in these areas," he says.

Artists can use Quick Draw to create


large and highly detailed designs comfortably from a standing position. For detailed drawing, the chalk-holder piece of the assembly, called simply Quick Draw, can be removed and used alone. Extensions can be added as needed for marking capacity of 4 inches to 8 feet. If chalk designs are lightly sprayed with hairspray to hold the line, they can be scored with an angle grinder using a crack chaser or diamond blade.

When contractors use Quick Draw for roughing out designs and borders, clients can visualize the work before any permanent marks are made on the concrete. Problem areas can be tagged prior to acid stain work.

The Quick Draw system breaks down for travel and storage. To use it, just screw it together. The drawing tool stores and dispenses up to eight pieces of chalk with the push of a button, but the system works equally well with a pencil or another type of marker.

"I make each Quick Draw myself," Taylor says. "They look like ordinary fittings but I machine each one. Very time consuming."

Quick Draw is sold in three ways. Customers may purchase Quick Draw, the 4-foot auto-dispensing chalk drawing tool, on its own. They may buy the Design & Layout Tool with its extensions. Or they can opt for Quick Draw Design Plus that comes with a Grinder Caddy from Pearl Abrasive Co. Quick Draw comes without an angle grinder or vacuum, but contractors may attach their own.

Pearl Abrasive is currently evaluating the industry's demand for the Quick Draw tool as they consider taking over the manufacturing of it, Taylor says. 

Watch Concretedecor.net for an upcoming podcast about the Quick Draw Design & Layout Tool.

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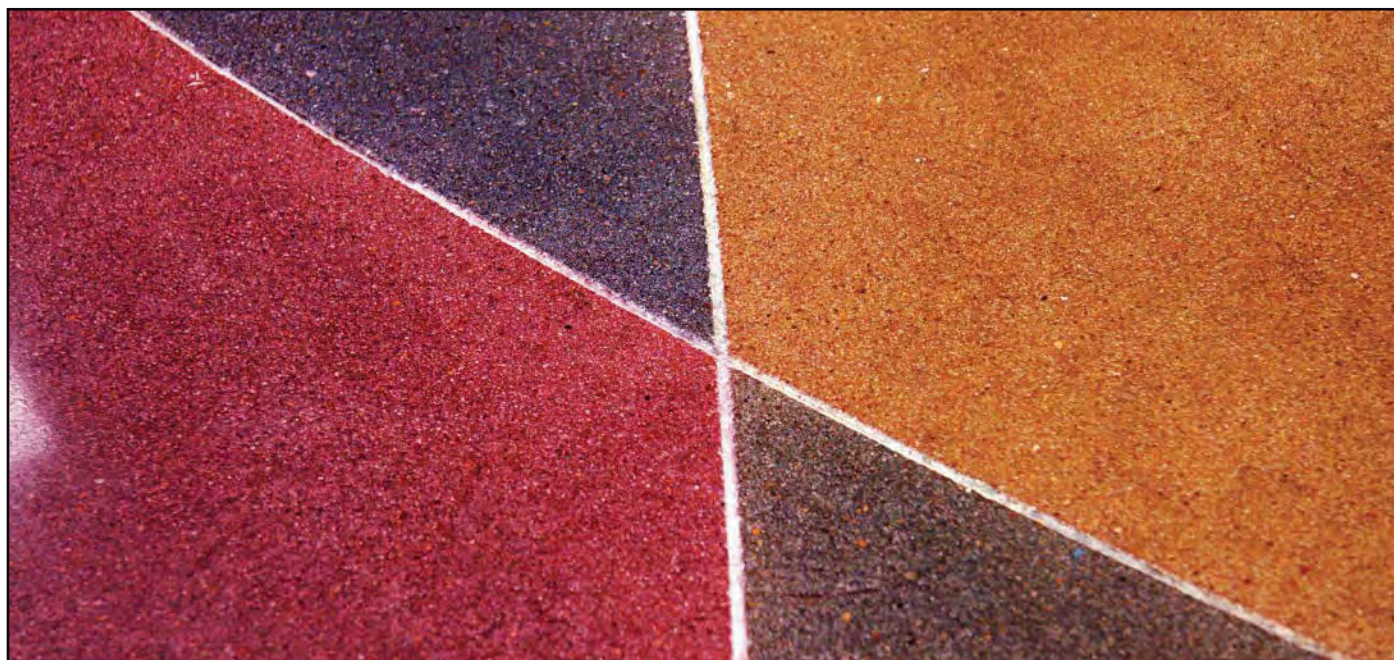
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■ ■ ■ Product News



Dye for polished floors

L&M Construction Chemicals Inc. of Omaha has introduced Vivid Dye Concrete Coloring System, a fast-drying, easy-to-apply system that compliments its FGS/PermaShine Polished Concrete Floor System.

The water-based, post-hardening Vivid Dye formula can be applied in areas with minimum ventilation, around potential spark or flame-producing environments, and within close proximity to perishable food stocks. The low-VOC content of Vivid Dye offers potential for gaining points toward certification under the LEED Green Building Rating System. The dye is also available in a VOC-exempt solvent (acetone) formulation. The acetone present during the application of Vivid Dye products evaporates within minutes of spraying and does not contribute to urban smog conditions. Vivid Dye is shipped as a dry powder.

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■ www.lmcc.com

■ www.fgs-permashine.com



Custom-cut metal inlays for decorative concrete

Deco Metal Art has officially opened its doors for business in Wilmington, N.C., and is currently accepting orders from across the continental United States.

The company makes custom-cut metal inlays for decorative concrete artisans who want to add stainless steel or brass inlays such as logos, monograms or border art to their work. Using a high-resolution, computerized CNC plasma cutter, the company can cut customer's designs to extremely precise dimensions in either stainless steel or brass. All inlays include headed metal studs welded to the underside for secure attachment to concrete.

☎ (910) 463-1279

■ www.decometalart.com

A coating that glows in the dark

LumiCrete light-emitting coatings for concrete surfaces are developed by Edgetec International Pty. Ltd. to emit unpowered light in areas where conventional light sources are nonexistent or not present due to power failure.

LumiCrete stores light energy throughout the daylight hours and then gradually releases that energy as visible light throughout the night. It has numerous safety applications for areas where there is little or no lighting and there is a suitable surface for the product to be applied. The nonhazardous water-borne product can be transported by all carriers without risk.

LumiCrete concrete coating resists surface cracking when cured. It can be applied to new and existing concrete surfaces without any loss of light-emitting properties. The coating is available as a spray-on coating and as individual shapes.

LumiCrete can be used on: fronts of steps to define a rise; fence corners to define a gate opening; archways, walls, floors and dark passageways; paths, garden steps and driveway edging to define edges; concrete statues, paving stones and patio areas; letter boxes, gate ornaments, drinking fountains and bird baths; painted-on house numbers; continuous concrete garden edging to emit light throughout the yard; and around edges or walls and floors of swimming pools.

☎ (866) 334-3678

□ www.kwikerb.com

When the pressure's on

Designed for high-pressure applications, the new Graco XTR-5 Gun handles extreme pressures of up to 5,000 psi and sprays a range of materials.

The new XTR is flexible and rugged enough to spray single-component, plural-component and industrial high-solids coatings, and yet it's one of the most lightweight guns on the market. Weighing only 14 ounces, the XTR-5 joins the XTR-7 Gun, which offers a maximum fluid pressure of 7,250 psi. Both XTR guns feature the EasyGlide swivel for easier hose and gun movement under high pressures, and an Easy Out gun filter for reduced tip plugging. A variety



of handle and trigger options maximize operator comfort. XTR guns require fewer tools for maintenance.

□ www.graco.com

Avanse is commercialized

Rohm and Haas has announced the commercialization of its most advanced waterborne acrylic latex polymer, Avanse MV-100, developed for coating structural steel and concrete surfaces.

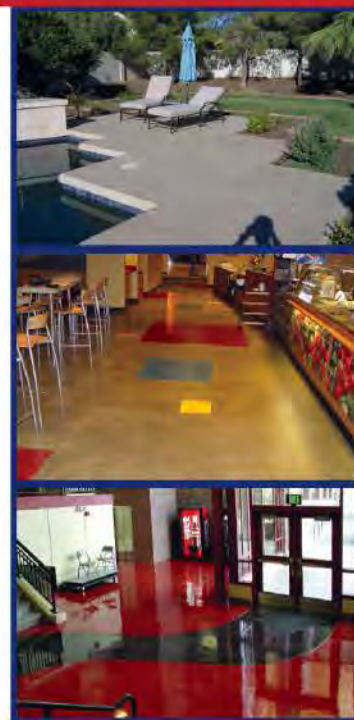
Avanse resin is a unique polymer, an extremely low-VOC emulsion that meets all federal and state VOC regulations in formulated coatings. Avanse offers a true environmentally advanced technology in a high-performing resin that allows low-VOC coatings to be used in applications where previously only solvent-borne coatings were suitable. Avanse MV-100 is ideal for primers, topcoats and direct-to-metal finishes. It is formulated to withstand the harsh environments associated with industrial coating applications.

□ www.rohmhaas.com

Economical pressure washers

The JCW Series of cold-water pressure washers from Mi-T-M Corp. are compact, economical entries in the belt-drive pressure washer category.

The nine models in the series feature a range of 6.5-horsepower to 13-horsepower displacement Honda OHV or Subaru OHC engines with low-oil protection. They turn out 2,400 to 4,000 psi. Other features include a belt-drive triplex piston pump with ceramic plungers, a thermal relief valve, adjustable pressure, four quick-connect nozzles,



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🌐 www.mitm.com



Diamond drill shines

The new "Mini" diamond drill, END 712 P, from CS Unitec is used for drilling dowel, anchor and through holes in tile, natural stone and concrete. It has variable speeds of up to 8,000 rpm for easy starting and fast drilling. It drills without shock or hammering and eliminates cracks and blow-out. The END 712 P is ideal for gravestones, counter-tops, plumbing and other masonry applications.

Water-cooled diamond bits drill holes of 5/32 inches to 3/4 inches and last for 50 holes to 100 holes in most

applications. Other features include a built-in water swivel, a "click-and-go" keyless chuck, a depth gauge, a 6.3-amp motor and a built-in GFCI to protect the operator against electric shock. Optional centering aids allow precise drilling and include a connection for a vacuum cleaner.

The END 712 PC kit includes the standard equipment plus a centering aid, three diamond bits, a 3-foot slurry hose and a bit sharpening block. CS Unitec also offers a water-recycling vacuum, wet/dry vacuum and portable water tank as accessories for use with the END 712 P.

☎ (800) 700-5919

🌐 www.csunitec.com



Mini Grenades help with repairs

Cortec Corp.'s Migrating Corrosion Inhibitors Mini Grenades allow easy mixing of proper dosage rates for repair mortars and grouts.

MCI Mini Grenades consist of Cortec's proven MCI 2006 NS measured and packaged in water-soluble poly-vinyl alcohol bags. The PVA bag dissolves easily when placed in contact with water during mixing, allowing the inhibitors to disperse evenly. When incorporated into repair mortars and grouts, Mini Grenades protect the metal they contact and release inhibitors that migrate into adjacent areas. One MCI Mini Grenade protects 0.4 cubic feet to 0.6 cubic feet.

☎ (800) 426-7832

🌐 www.CortecMCI.com

Sealer shields against water

Muralo Paints has introduced Masonry Shield, a water-borne clear concrete sealer developed to protect and seal masonry surfaces with a sheen that brings out the richness of colors.

Masonry Shield won't blush or turn milky white when water sits on it, and it won't soften when covered with water for days at a time. The low-odor coating strengthens mortar and sand joints, prevents dusting, and protects against spalling and cracking. The sealer penetrates into concrete, leaving no film, so it won't be picked up by hot tires.

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🌐 www.muralo.com



Floors and coves get Crowned

Crown Polymers has added Crown-Hybrid to its extensive line of advanced floor coatings. Thanks to excellent concrete hiding properties, CrownHybrid will produce a superior result with only one broadcast and a single topcoat application. Furthermore, it offers an array of color and design options. CrownHybrid with Crown Topcoat is OSHA- and ADA-compliant with regard to slip resistance.

Also, the second generation of Crown's SpeedCove precast cove-base system has been dramatically improved. It's lighter, easier to handle and less expensive to ship. Improved SpeedCove resists breakage in transit or while on the job site. In addition, enhanced flexibility makes following wall contours simple. Available in 4-inch, 6-inch and 8-inch heights, the SpeedCove product line includes inside and outside corners. Once in place, SpeedCove forms a monolithic bond with polymer floor products.

☎ (888) 732-1270

🌐 www.crownpolymers.com

Perles line expands

Coming to Perles USA's concrete products line in fall 2007 and spring 2008: flexible-shaft vibration pokers, high-frequency pokers and a power screed.

Each flexible-shaft vibration poker will be powered by a 2,000-watt motor. Poker heads will be 28 millimeters, 35 millimeters and 42 millimeters in diameter, with shaft lengths of 3 meters, 4 meters and 5 meters, and the machines will be able to generate a range of 1,000 to 3,000 vibrations per minute. Gas-powered pokers will come in six, head-size diameters and generate 12,000 vibrations per minute. The SCR-GX25 gas-powered vibrating screed will feature 7,000 cycles per minute and widths of 2 meters, 2.5 meters and 3 meters.

☎ (877) 897-6220

🌐 www.perlesusa.com

🌐 www.perles.com



I can seal CLEARly now

Chem Link has introduced new CLEAR Polyether Sealant.

This transparent sealant can be used in virtually any high-visibility sealing application. Like other Chem Link sealants, it is 100 percent solids and solvent-free, containing zero VOCs. It is not subject to "suntanning," it's nonflammable, it will never shrink or "stink," and it maintains its flexibility in heat or cold.

☎ (800) 826-1681

🌐 www.chemlinkinc.com

Superpencil to the rescue

The C.H. Hanson Co. has introduced the next generation of carpenter pencils, Superpencil.

Superpencil's rectangular shape allows users to mark either sharp or wide lines and stops the pencil from rolling, even on steep inclines. Where Superpencil deviates from the norm is that 100 percent of its surface is a writing surface, with no wood enclosure, and it writes seven times farther than common lead. It's also stronger than a carpenter pencil.

Superpencil is made with a nontoxic graphite composition that marks wood, paper, concrete, and many other materials with lines that are water-resistant and smudge-resistant. The extremely durable graphite never needs sharpening.

☎ (800) 827-3398

🌐 www.chhanson.com



Two brackets and a key

Reward has debuted two corner brackets. The Double H Corner bracket is a 90-degree corner made with the Reward iForm ICF, a thicker, 2.5-inch polystyrene form. Essentially, the Double H is the iForm 90-degree corner with additional reinforcement. The Tritex form is a 45-degree corner form that works with the rest of the 11.25-inch forms in the Tritex line. Tritex forms are about 1.75 inches thick, thinner than the Reward forms.

The full-height, double-H bridging corner bracket enhances block performance by providing strength during concrete pours and the most flexibility in the ICF industry. The product provides additional furring for the attachment of external and internal finishes. In addition, the unique double-H construction allows the block to be cut in half horizontally, keeping strong corner reinforcement in each half.

The company introduced the new Tritex corner form after integrating the

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Tritex line into the Reward Wall Systems family of ICFs. The new corner completes the series of Tritex ICF products available in the 11.25-inch width and will give customers an additional corner option.

Reward also recently introduced the tieKey, the only patented ICF masonry anchor in the industry. Designed and offered exclusively by Reward, the tieKey anchor is a cast-in-place, adjustable masonry tie anchor that is embedded into the concrete wall formed by the insulating concrete form. This product is designed to provide the strength and security required when installing brick or stone veneer finishes.

■ www.rewardwalls.com

Grout and admixture from Sika

Sika Corp. has introduced SikaFix HH LV, a polyurethane chemical grout, and SikaMix PV-100, a liquid admixture for pervious concrete.

SikaFix HH LV is a low-viscosity hydrophobic grout that is expected to replace SikaFix HH. Designed for sealing leaks through concrete cracks and joints, Sikafix HH LV is UL listed for drinking water system components and offers high-quality performance. Hydrophobic urethane grouts can seal cracks that are above and below grade, offer low shrinkage and will not dilute in water.

SikaMix PV-100 is a chloride-free and noncorrosive liquid admixture for use in pervious concrete applications. When using this admixture, the contractor is able to place larger volumes

of pervious concrete than with other methods. PV-100 permits discharging pervious concrete out of a ready-mix truck for fast and easy placement. It allows for faster and less labor-intensive compaction. In addition, SikaMix PV-100 improves the water absorption of the cementitious paste.

☎ (201) 933-8800

■ www.sikaconstruction.com

Powers unveils gas-fired fastener

The new C4-LT Trak-It Tool from Powers Fasteners Inc. is the industry's first gas-fired tool with enough power to fasten two-by-fours into concrete.

The C4-LT tool uses a refined Trak-It gas cartridge and chamber for firing 2 1/2-inch pins through the two-by-fours and into the concrete base mate-



rial. The new tool also has the reliability, speed, convenience and other features of the Powers Trak-It gas-firing system. It is lighter and more balanced than competitive units, and it features Powers' exclusive easy-to-remove latched opening on the nose piece that enables contractors to remove misfires without needing to disassemble the handle. Its 42-pin magazine capacity reduces the amount of time spent loading on the job. Also, the C4-LT tool uses a pezieo to fire the tool without creating a spark, which preserves the life of its two fast-charging nickel hydride cordless batteries.

☎ (914) 235-6300

■ www.powers.com



Multihammer by Porsche

Metabo has announced that its new P'7911 multihammer, developed in conjunction with the Porsche Design Group, is now available in North America.

The Porsche Design P'7911 combines all the essential functions of a drill with the power of a pneumatic hammer. It drills into concrete, stone, wood and steel, with one switch for convenient alternating between any of the tool's five functions. The tool's unique housing, made of genuine carbon fiber and aluminum, provides great rigidity and strength. With the handle mounted on top of the housing, the P'7911 is easy to operate in the "on-top" handle position and when drilling above shoulder height. In addition, the hammer lies directly under the operator's hand, ensuring a stable center of gravity. The multihammer's balance reduces pivoting at the drill tip. Moreover, the tool's flat base surface enables the hammer to stand up so that it is always ready for use.

The new 705-watt, 6-amp multihammer offers 133 inch-pounds of torque, 2.0 joules per blow and, using hammer bits, has a drilling capacity of 3/4 inches in concrete. Also, it is equipped with Metabo's quick-change chuck system, electronic speed stabilization and a high-performance pneumatic impact mechanism.

☎ (800) 638-2264

■ www.metabousa.com

Sakrete's high-strength grout

Sakrete has developed a Non-Shrink Construction Grout to add to their list of "just-add-water" products. The grout is non-metallic structural hydraulic cement, specially formulated for high-strength grouting.

Non-Shrink Construction Grout is used for grouting concrete that has been poured, precast, tilted-up and prestressed, among other things. The grout has three different consistencies



to ensure easy usage in any project, and it is pumpable for easy placement. The noncorrosive grout will not attack reinforcements used in applications. It meets the federal specifications ASTM C 1107 and CRD-C 621, while being superplasticized for improved strength.

☎ (800) 738-1621

🌐 www.sakrete.com

StoGuard news

Sto Corp. has officially partnered with EarthCraft House, a leading green building program that serves as a blueprint for healthy, comfortable homes. Because EarthCraft House is charged with building better homes, Sto Corp. saw a fit with StoGuard, the spray-on house wrap for waterproofing exterior wall protection.

Sto recently introduced two enhanced components to the system. StoGuard Fabric is a nonwoven cloth reinforcement that is part of the StoGuard assembly and is used with either Sto Gold Coat or Sto EmeraldCoat to treat sheathing joints, inside and outside corners and rough openings. StoGuard RediCorner is a preformed fabric piece used in the corners of rough openings for quicker installation.

Sto Corp. has also debuted StoGuard Tape, a self-adhering waterproof air barrier material for multiple substrates that is designed to be used on above-grade concrete and CMU wall surfaces as a waterproofing and air barrier for minor cracks. StoGuard Tape is composed of spunbond polyester fabric laminated to rubberized asphalt adhesive that strengthens the material while providing a surface to which most coatings will bond. In addition, the rubberized asphalt adhesive provides a waterproof membrane that sticks to most clean, dry, smooth surfaces.

☎ (800) 221-2397

🌐 www.sto.com

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Media News:

On DVD

Bob Harris, owner of Decorative Concrete Institute, has released the second educational DVD in his series. It's a two-disc set, "A Guide to Stained Concrete and More with Bob Harris."

This 316-minute instructional DVD is intended to provide those involved in decorative concrete installation with an instructional, step-by-step guide to staining concrete. It covers multiple steps of the stained concrete process, including surface prep, problem solving, site conditions, design, layout and faux finishing techniques. Detailed information includes tips and techniques that apply to grouting, sampling, stains, dyes, sealers, coatings, floor finishes, floor wax, metallic epoxies, and making spectacular art pieces.

To purchase the DVD, contact DCI or visit Concretedecor.net. The presentation is also available for viewing online at Itsaconcreteworld.com.

☎ (877) 324-8080

🌐 www.decorativeconcreteinstitute.com

🌐 www.itsaconcreteworld.com

In Print

"Failed Stone: Problems and Solutions With Concrete and Masonry," written by **Patrick Loughran**, is aimed principally at architects and engineers and their clients. However, it may intrigue concrete contractors and artisans as well. Published by Birkhauser and distributed in the United States by Springer, it's packed with illustrations and information that explore different kinds of concrete and the way each can develop defects.

A write-up on Springer's Web site offers some detail: "Concrete and stone seem made to last forever. But the fact is they develop problems. It is not always as dramatic as the collapse of a section of the roof of the Paris Charles de Gaulle airport in 2004. Gradual changes also occur that may compromise the appearance and structural soundness of buildings constructed with these materials. These changes can be created by efflorescence, thermal stress, weathering, leakage and corrosion.

"This book explains how to avoid typical kinds of failure. With this in mind, it systematically analyzes cases of damage in contemporary international architecture. It also offers strategies for minimizing the risk of damage. Examples include such high-visibility structures as Finlandia Hall in Helsinki, Parco della Musica in Rome and Vontz Center for Molecular Studies in Cincinnati. In eight chapters, typical kinds of damage are explained and illustrated with examples."

🌐 www.springer.com

"Liquid Stone: New Architecture In Concrete" was published by Princeton Architectural Press with the help and support of the Lafarge Group as part of its Creative Materials initiative. Co-author Jean-Louis Cohen is an architect and professor of architectural history at the University of Paris and the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University. His co-writer, G. Martin Moeller, Jr., is senior vice president at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C.

"In a series of essays by top architects, engineers, and scholars, 'Liquid Stone' explores the nature of concrete, its past and future, from technical, artistic, and historical perspectives," says a blurb on the Princeton Architectural Press Web site. "Over 30 buildings by leading international architects including Jean Nouvel, Herzog & de Meuron, Zaha Hadid, Steven Holl, Norman Foster, and Santiago Calatrava are presented through detailed descriptions, photographs, and technical drawings.

"The book concludes with 'The Future of Concrete,' a chapter on newly emerging materials. Here self-consolidated, ultra-high-performance, and translucent concrete are illustrated, introducing the next generation in concrete technology and suggesting new directions for both architecture and engineering."

🌐 www.papress.com

On the Web

The Web site of the **American Concrete Institute** now offers the Concrete Knowledge Center, a resource for users to quickly find practice-oriented information useful in the design, construction, and repair of concrete and concrete structures.

Troubleshooting topics are presented in a question-and-answer format with an instantly accessible bibliography. ACI members are allowed to download full-text articles as well as reference lists for papers, articles, or books.

🌐 www.concrete.org

Curb-King, manufacturer of curbing machines, has launched Curbdirectory.com to help consumers in the United States find landscape curbing contractors in their area. This free service helps consumers and contractors communicate in an efficient, timely manner.

Landscape curbing is a concrete border used between lawns and flower gardens. The durable product makes lawn and garden care easier by eliminating edging, and it is billed as superior to plastic and metal edging material. Concrete curbs may be colored, stamped or both.

🌐 www.curbdirectory.com

ProFoundit.com has debuted its Web-based database of more than 30,000 products from more than 6,000 manufacturers. The database helps architects, engineers and builders locate tools and materials in seconds.

Developed using the most current CSI Index, ProFoundit.com is a user-friendly resource. Users are able to find a product and click directly to the manufacturer's Web site, obtaining real-time information on product availability, delivery and price. Registered users can save information on the site and reference it by project name. The comprehensive database lists products from companies large and small, and companies may list as many products as they wish at no additional charge. The search feature can be accessed through a drop-down menu by CSI category, manufacturer's name, product name or category or even a description of the product.

🌐 www.profoundit.com

More Diamonds

Diamond Products' fast-growing line of concrete polishing equipment and tools has been expanded to include a more powerful version of the DS301 hand-held polisher units, the DS301HD, and the Edge Pro Counter Top Edging Machine.

Other new product items include an expanded selection of wet grinding discs as well as polishing pads for concrete, marble and granite. Router bits are available to work with the Edge Pro edging machine.

☎ (800) 321-5336

□ www.diamondproducts.com

It's a blast

The new Blastrac 1-9DEZ is a highly portable, lightweight shot-blasting system used to prepare concrete surfaces prior to the application of paint or coatings.

Ideal for smaller jobs or tight areas, the 1-9DEZ uses 120-volt power to strip, clean and profile in one step. There is no rinsing or drying time, unlike with



chemical acid etching, and the profile provides a better surface for coating adhesion. With a 9-inch blast pattern and a manual travel speed, the 1-9DEZ can prepare up to 275 square feet per hour.

☎ (800) 256-3440

□ www.blastrac.com


Gloves stand up to cuts

Ansell introduces Vantage series of cut protection gloves with integrated cut protection technology and revolutionary engineered yarns for superior cut protection, comfort and wear. The lightweight gloves offer abrasion resistance, grip and dexterity without the bulk associated with heavier aramid-fiber hand protection products.

Vantage gloves provide ANSI Level 4 cut protection and are versatile enough to be used in a variety of applications where employees handle sharp parts and materials. They have a degree of flexibility that is uncommon for this level of cut protection, helping to reduce hand fatigue and increase productivity. 🖱


☎ (800) 800-0444

□ www.ansellpro.com




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Construction Specifications Institut

ACO teaches ABCs

ACO Polymer Products Inc. has become one of the first registered providers in the Construction Specifications Institute's new CSI Construction Education Network program.

The polymer concrete trench drain company is offering a continuing education program titled "The ABC's of Trench Drainage" that presents the advantages of using trench drains in architectural or civil projects. The program is the only course available dedicated strictly to surface drainage.

The face-to-face program lasts an hour and is led by Ray Wofford, ACO's special projects executive and head of Continuing Education Programs. He covers topics including design principles, vehicle loading, visual impact and safety for all users. Upon completion, attendees will understand the importance of loadings, hydraulics, common mistakes and how to avoid them, and other criteria that may need to be considered such as ADA requirements and heel-safe grates.

This program qualifies for HSW credit and meets the MCE requirements of licensing, certification and accreditation agencies.

☎ (440) 285-7000

🌐 www.acousa.com

🌐 www.cen.csinet.org

New format promotes environmental performance

The Construction Specifications Institute and BuildingGreen Inc., an independent company that provides information designed to help improve the environmental performance of buildings, have agreed to work together on the implementation of GreenFormat.

GreenFormat, developed by CSI, is a standard format for reporting the properties of products that have an impact on sustainable design and construction. CSI is developing a database-driven Web site based around GreenFormat categories and

questions to store and provide access to the format for submission by manufacturers and use by practitioners. The database and Web site will be built on the same platform as CSI's Masterformat.com site. BuildingGreen will provide technical support to the ongoing refinement of the GreenFormat questionnaire for products submitted to GreenFormat and to BuildingGreen's GreenSpec Directory, as well as help CSI with the continued development of additional questions and information categories.

Since all submissions to GreenFormat are self-reported and manufacturers are responsible for certifying they have answered the questions correctly and in good faith, and because it is in the best interest of GreenFormat that there be no obvious errors in any listings, BuildingGreen has agreed to review submissions for completeness and perform periodic quality control reviews on the data.

☎ (800) 689-2900

🌐 www.csinet.org

International Concrete Repair Institute

BASF specialist wins fellowship

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the concrete industry, Patrick "Doc" Watson, senior technical product specialist at BASF Construction Chemicals - Building Systems, has been awarded a fellowship from the International Concrete Repair Institute.



Patrick "Doc" Watson

As a leading advocate for the advancement of the industry, Watson is a member of ICRI's Vision2020 project to outline the direction of the industry over

the next 20 years.

The ICRI award recognizes individuals who have advanced the industry through the production or use of concrete materials, products and structures in the areas of education, research, development, design, construction or management. To receive the fellowship designation, members of the organization must be nominated by a current fellow. To be eligible, nominees must have been a member of the institute for 10 years, including three of the last five years, and made significant contributions to the institute and the industry.

🌐 www.icri.org

U.S. Green Building Council

USGBC makes \$1 million commitment to research

The U.S. Green Building Council plans to commit \$1 million to green building research. These funds will be targeted at increasing research in areas such as energy and water security, global climate change prevention, indoor environmental quality, and passive survivability in the face of natural and man-made disasters.

USGBC's commitment comes on the heels of a recently published report, "Green Building Research Funding: An Assessment of Current Activity in the United States." The report



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found that research related to high-performance green building practices and technologies is woefully underfunded by all sectors. Using this work as its basis, the USGBC Research Committee will publish a national green-building research agenda this fall that identifies key research areas for advancing building performance and market transformation.

The new research dollars are intended to be matching commitments. Further details about the structure of the fund and application for grant dollars are being developed and will be announced later this summer.

■ www.usgbc.org

Stencil Artisans League Inc.

Stenciling and decorative arts convention held in SFO

Stencil Artisans League Inc. (S.A.L.I.), a nonprofit decorative arts organization, hosted the 22nd Annual Stenciling, Decorative Arts and Faux Finishing Convention and Exposition in San Francisco last July.

The six-day education and exposition trade show for muralists, faux finishers, paint contractors and other artists brought manufacturers, decorative arts schools, lecturers, product demonstrations and hands-on demonstrations to one location. A comprehensive array of classes taught by more than 50 renowned decorative artists and businesspeople targeted beginner, intermediate and advanced decorative painters. Classes for all levels were offered. Along with industry and manufacturer demonstrations, a hands-on "Play With Products" event allowed attendees to make samples using a variety of professional paints and plasters.

■ www.SALI.org

International Association of Concrete Drillers

IACDS elects officers, considers specs



Patrick O'Brien

The International Association of Concrete Drillers and Sawers re-elected Concrete Sawing & Drilling Association executive director Patrick O'Brien as president at its annual meeting, held April 2007 in Murnau, Germany. Elected as vice presidents were Peter White of the United Kingdom and Norikazu Shibuya of Japan.

Representatives and guests from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States were all in attendance. The newest member from Spain was welcomed at this meeting: The Asociación Española de Demolición Técnica Corte y Perforación (AEDT), formed earlier in 2007 with assistance from several IACDS members. IACDS is also helping sawing and drilling contractors in Russia form their own association. Membership in the International Association of Concrete Drillers and Sawers now includes nine associations from Australia, Austria, Germany, Japan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States.

Other actions at the meeting included delegates finalizing a Basic Parameters for Machines specification. The specification covers power packs, wall/floor saws, wire saws, drill rigs and


electric/hydraulic drill motors.

■ www.iacds.org

Concrete Sawing & Drilling Association

Specifier's Resource Guide goes digital

Architects, engineers, general contractors and government officials now have 24-hour online access to the Specifier's Resource Guide from the Concrete Sawing & Drilling Association. Originally offered as a printed manual, the guide is now offered free of charge online at the CSDA Web site.

The Specifier's Resource Guide contains a brief summary description of each cutting discipline along with typical applications and specifications. An extensive list of reprints for each type of cutting are available in the form of job stories that appeared in Concrete Openings, the official magazine of the Concrete Sawing and Drilling Association. The guide is organized by cutting techniques such as core drilling, flat sawing, wall sawing, wire sawing and additional cutting methods. These job stories can help specifiers better understand the wide range of cutting capabilities that exist and provide ideas on how they can use diamond cutting tools in future projects. The Specifier's Corner also presents standards, specifications, tolerances and best practices developed by CSDA, providing specifiers with documents they can use when preparing project specifications. 

■ www.csda.org





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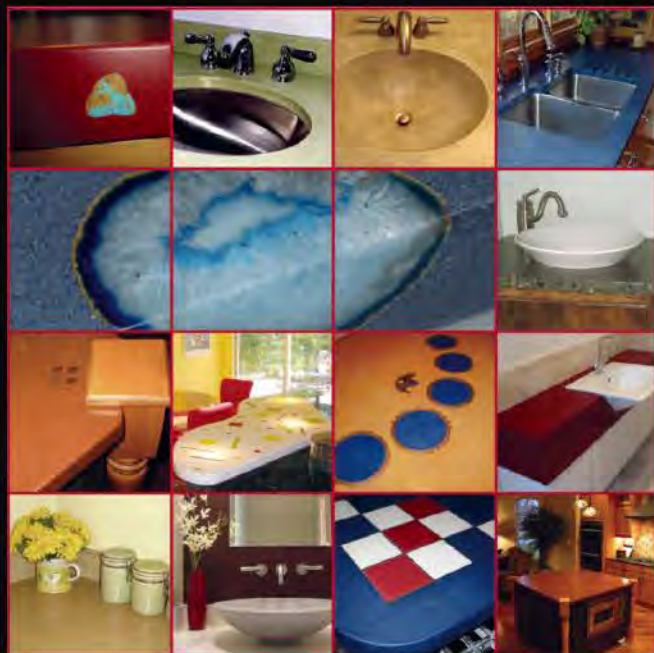
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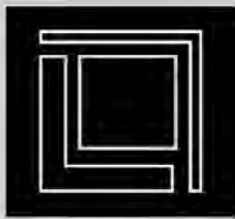
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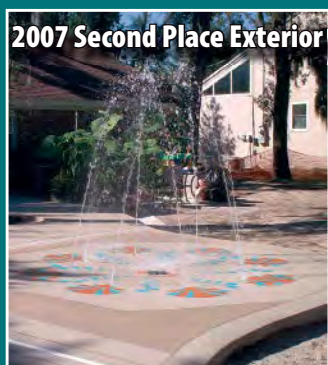
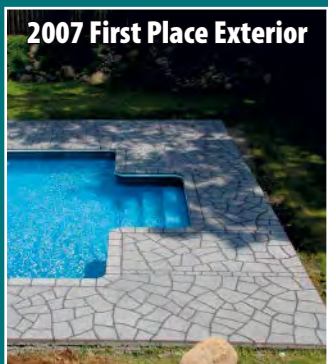
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- Ó Photos of the project. You must send before and after photos in order to be eligible.

*Photos must be in high-resolution format. We accept photos of at least 300 dpi in JPEG or TIFF formats. To send larger files, please contact Wendy at the number below for information on how to upload photos to our FTP site.

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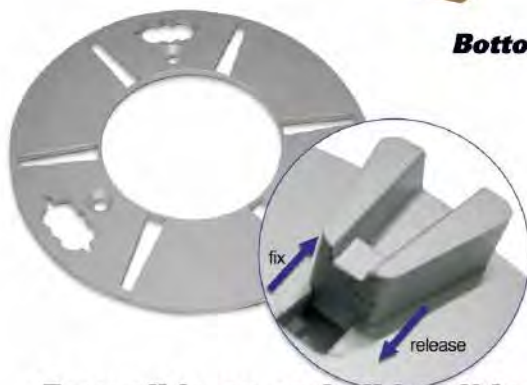
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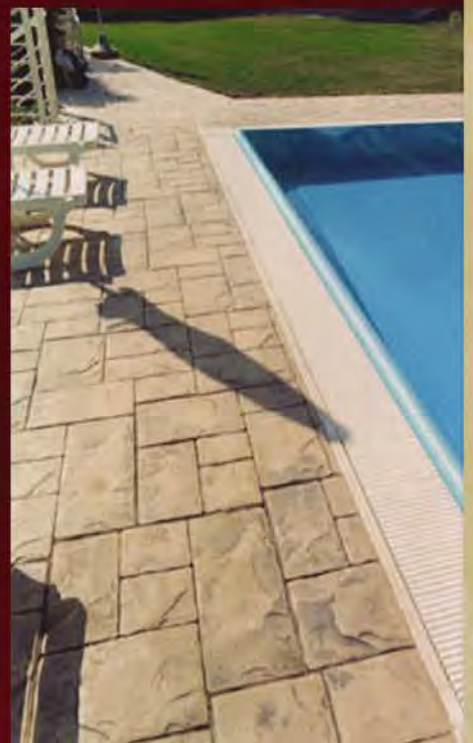
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