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Art that Floors School

Contractors Share  
Their Go-To Tools

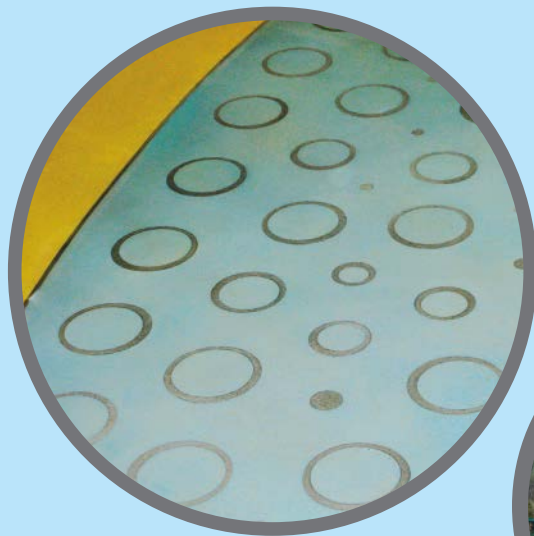
Vol. 16 No. 4 May/June 2016

## The White Choice

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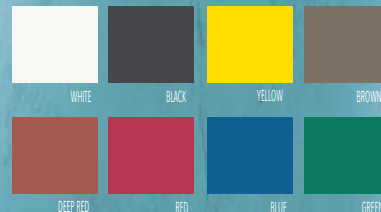
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# From the Publisher's Desk

Dear Readers,

We recently held our annual planning meeting in San Diego for the upcoming Concrete Decor Show Sept. 25-29. Planning meetings allow us, our sponsors and instructors to evaluate locations for our hands-on training workshops, which provide opportunities for decorative concrete veterans and newcomers to learn while simultaneously improving a facility. We're excited to announce this year's nonprofit recipient is the Bannister Family House, which provides a home-like setting for people with family members in critical or long-term care at the University of California San Diego Health. It's only minutes away from the show.



There's copious "red tape" involved in working with a nonprofit, but fortunately we have many community partners eager to help. In addition to the many improvements we'll make at the UCSD medical center, the media coverage will be positive and that's the kind of attention that makes our industry grow. That being said, make sure you bring sunglasses and sunscreen to our first nonprofit makeover with tropical sun and ocean breezes.

New this year, a golf tournament hosted by Concrete Cares will kick off the show at a course just across the street from the Town and Country Resort & Convention Center. I'm not a big golfer but I'm warming up for this event. Anybody interested in creating a foursome for team *Concrete Decor* should drop me a note. I'd personally like to see this event make more money for the Concrete Cares organization than anything Mike Murray has done before. One of my best friends is fighting this ugly disease and there's a chance he might beat it! I want others to have a fighting chance as well.

Having the show at a posh San Diego resort is just what our industry needs. We work hard so we should play hard and this place is perfect for that. The annual Brawl in the Fall will showcase an artisan competition where more than \$10,000 in cash and prizes are at stake and the all-new Concrete Decor RoadShow's team of artisans is planning some special events as well.

Be sure to book your rooms early as we expect this to be the biggest Concrete Decor Show ever. While there's a ton of fun things to do in San Diego, providing opportunities to network with your peers and build your business and technical skills are among our primary goals.

I'm often asked the question, "How big is this industry?" See for yourself in San Diego this fall. Register now and be on the alert — our 2016 event schedule is almost ready to be released. Hope to see you in the fall!

Sincerely,

Bent Mikkelsen  
Publisher

**On the cover:** Thirty-six slim concrete columns support a 6-inch knife-edge canopy framing three sides of a paved courtyard at La Quinta Montes Molina — a historic early-20th century mansion in Mexico that now serves as a museum and venue for social events.

Photo by Onnis Luque



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OF DECORATIVE  
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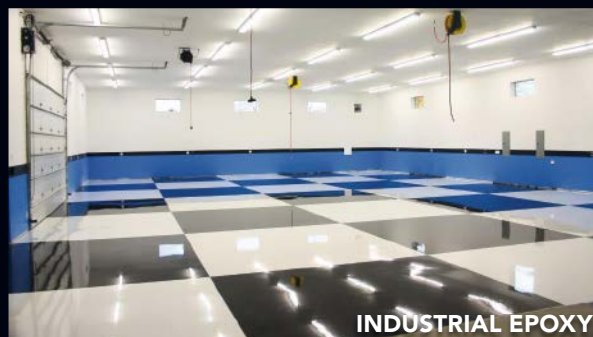


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## business & industry

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Photo courtesy of The Marshalltown Co.

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# concrete DECOR® EXPERTS



**Tina Grady Barbaccia** is a seasoned technical writer and editor who has worked in the trade press industry for the past 18 years, the last 10 of which have been in construction and concrete. Grady Barbaccia is an architecture, engineering and construction editorial specialist for Constructive Communication Inc. and may be reached at [tgbarbaccia@constructivecommunication.com](mailto:tgbarbaccia@constructivecommunication.com). See Tina's article on page 22.



**Karen Keyes** wears many hats at Denver-based Colorado Hardscapes Inc., including business development, marketing, sales, estimating and project management, with an emphasis on specialty rock construction. She can be reached at [karen@coloradohardscapes.com](mailto:karen@coloradohardscapes.com). See Karen's article on page 42.



**Chris Sullivan** is vice president of sales and marketing with ChemSystems Inc. He has led seminars and product demonstrations throughout North America. Chris was inducted into the Decorative Concrete Hall of Fame at the 2015 Concrete Decor Show. Reach him at [questions@concretedecor.net](mailto:questions@concretedecor.net). See Chris' column, "Concrete Questions," on page 56.



**Steve Vandewater**, a former decorative concrete contractor, is the creator of the Indiana Decorative Concrete Network website [www.indecorativeconcrete.com](http://www.indecorativeconcrete.com). He currently manages The Concrete Store at Sagamore Ready Mix in Fishers, Indiana. See Steve's article on page 50.

Explore our archive at [ConcreteDecor.net](http://ConcreteDecor.net)

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

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## DCC, MAC volunteers install school playground in South Carolina

Volunteers from the Decorative Concrete Council (DCC) and the Manufacturer's Advisory Council (MAC) traveled to Seneca, South Carolina, Feb. 29 – March 3 to install a new playground for the youngsters at Tamassee Elementary School. The DCC and MAC are specialty councils of the American Society of Concrete Contractors in St. Louis.

Todd Scharich, ASCC decorative concrete specialist, was the project manager for the installation. The project consisted of a spray texture concrete overlayment and colored opaque sealers to create games and pathways throughout the 7,500-square-foot play area. All manpower and materials were donated by DCC and MAC members.

Hopscotch, bean bag toss, mimic me and four square are some of the games the ASCC members designed and installed on the playground.



“What was gray, cracked concrete was transformed in only four days into a source of pride and joy for these kids,” says Scharich.

Companies supplying tools, materials and manpower were H&C Decorative Concrete Products, Patterned Concrete of Cincinnati, Concrete Mystique Engraving, Increte, Sundek of Washington, Multiquip, Wagman Metal Products, Wayne Brothers, ChemSystems Inc., Surfcoat, A.W. Cook Cement Products and Decorative Concrete Resources.

The project was challenging from the outset due to extreme and unseasonable rains in the region. The work was delayed multiple times due to what Scharich says was rain that “drowned his spirits.” From the end of October to mid-November 2015, when work was underway, Seneca had 0 days without rain, accumulating more than 10 inches of precipitation.

“This was on the heels of the South Carolina floods in early October that brought 12-24 inches of rain throughout the state,” he recalls. “Let’s just say Noah had the kids all lined up and he was about ready to sail.”

The DCC is the only professional

organization dedicated to the issues, trends and work of the decorative concrete industry, and to meeting the needs of contractors who pursue this specialty market. Made up of contractors who install decorative concrete, manufacturers and other interested parties, the DCC focuses on the mission of “Advancing Decorative Concrete Contractors Through Education and Networking.”

The MAC board advises ASCC on matters relating to associate membership and suggests methods of adding value to all membership opportunities.

☎ (866) 788-2722

🌐 [www.ascconline.org/decorative-concrete-council/overview](http://www.ascconline.org/decorative-concrete-council/overview)

## Concrete Sealers USA launches new website

Concrete Sealers USA recently launched its new website, [www.concretesealersusa.com](http://www.concretesealersusa.com). The company made changes to its existing website to make available added support materials, information and resources, to enhance existing product offerings and to improve the overall customer experience.

Key elements of the new website are a technical section that allows customers to easily download product labels, product specifications sheets and SDS sheets. A material calculator allows customers to easily compute their material needs based on product, surface type and square footage. An applicator program was rolled out to attract contractors nationwide interested in providing sealer solutions to their customers as part of their business in their geographic area.

Website visitors can now use a filtered search which allows searching by various criteria, for example by applications, product type or substrate type, to allow customers to more easily locate products. The new site is e-commerce enabled with one-page checkout to allow for fast, efficient and convenient ordering.

Several new products have been added to the site, including “natural look” silane and siloxane water repellants and a new and improved line of 25 percent solids acrylic cure and seals for decorative concrete, exposed aggregate and pavers.

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🌐 [www.concretesealersusa.com](http://www.concretesealersusa.com)

# EVENT CALENDAR

## Concrete Sawing and Drilling Association Board and Committee Meetings

June 2-3

Minneapolis, Minnesota

🌐 [www.csda.org](http://www.csda.org)

## American Society of Civil Engineers Concrete Canoe Competition

June 9-11, Tyler, Texas

🌐 [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org)

## American Society for Testing and Materials Committee Week

June 26-30

Chicago, Illinois

🌐 [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org)

## American Society of Concrete Contractors Concrete Executive Leadership Forum

July 14-17

La Jolla, California

🌐 [www.ascconline.org](http://www.ascconline.org)

## Portland Cement Association Education Foundation Professors' Workshop

July 25-29, Skokie, Illinois

🌐 [www.cement.org](http://www.cement.org)

## 15th International Conference on Alkali Aggregate Reaction in Concrete

July 3-7, Sao Paulo, Brazil

🌐 [www.ibracon.org.br/icaar](http://www.ibracon.org.br/icaar)

## First International Interactive Symposium on Ultra-High Performance Concrete

July 18-20

Des Moines, Iowa

🌐 [www.ccee.iastate.edu/events](http://www.ccee.iastate.edu/events)



## Rust-Oleum acquires Seal-Krete

Rust-Oleum Corp. has acquired Seal-Krete, a leading manufacturer of concrete care coatings and sealants.

For more than 30 years, Seal-Krete, based in Auburndale, Florida, has offered a complete line of concrete and masonry weatherproofing coatings developed for surface protection and beautification of residential and commercial concrete surfaces.

Among Seal-Krete's leading brands are Seal-Krete Original, Seal-Krete Epoxy-Seal, Clear Seal and Damplock. The brand is sold nationwide in home centers and hardware stores.

For nearly a century, Rust-Oleum has been the global leader in manufacturing innovative coatings that empower do-it-yourselfers and professionals alike across categories including small project paints, cleaners, primers, automotive, industrial, high-performance coatings and wood care. Its wide breadth of brands and products include such trusted names as Rust-Oleum, Stops Rust and Painter's Touch.

[www.rustoleum.com](http://www.rustoleum.com)

[www.seal-krete.com](http://www.seal-krete.com)

## CSDA elects 2016 board of directors

The Concrete Sawing & Drilling Association has elected its 2016 board members at the CSDA Convention & Tech Fair in March in Palm Desert, California.

Six board members, whose terms expire in 2018, were elected. They are Peter Bigwood, Brokk Inc., Monroe, Washington; Scott Brown, ICS Blount Inc., Portland, Oregon; Matthew Dragon, GPRS Inc., Toledo, Ohio; Bennett Jones, Advanced Concrete Sawing Inc., St. Paul, Minnesota; Kevin Schmitt, Husqvarna Construction Products, Olathe, Kansas; and Kellie Vazquez, Holes Inc., Houston, Texas.

Continuing their roles as CSDA officers are President Kevin Baron, Western Saw, Oxnard, California; Vice President Jack Sondergard, Central Concrete Cutting Inc., Edgar, Wisconsin; Secretary/Treasurer Mike Orzechowski, Diteq Corp., Lenexa, Kansas; Past President Judith O'Day, Terra Diamond Industrial, Salt Lake City, Utah; and Executive Director Patrick O'Brien, St. Petersburg, Florida.

Returning for the second year of their term are board members Tim Beckman,

Cutting Edge Services Corp., Batavia, Ohio; Matthew Finnigan, National Concrete Cutting Inc., Milton, Washington; Dan Foley, Cobra Concrete Cutting Services Co., Arlington Heights, Illinois; Greg Lipscomb, Diamond Products Ltd., Elyria, Ohio; Mike Nelson, K2 Diamond, Torrance, California; and Doug Walker, Douglas H. Walker, Mount Holly, New Jersey.

[www.csda.org](http://www.csda.org)

## ONLINE EXCLUSIVE



### ACI announces bowling ball competition winners

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## North America's Building Trades Unions comments on silica standard

North America's Building Trades Unions released the following statement March 24, 2016, in reference to OSHA issuing a new standard for silica:

"North America's Building Trades Unions is pleased OSHA has issued the final silica standard. We believe that the agency has been diligent in its efforts to hear and consider all stakeholder input, and (has) done a great job in getting the rule out. We look forward to reading it in detail. For 20 years, NABTU and our affiliates have been urging OSHA and the DOL to finalize this rule because reducing silica exposures will have a significant positive impact on the working conditions for all American construction workers. It is beyond debate that silica exposure kills construction workers. It causes silicosis — a deadly lung disease — lung cancer and other diseases. Silica-related diseases cannot be cured, but they can be prevented. Put simply, the OSHA silica standard will protect construction workers from getting sick or dying due to silica dust exposure."

North America's Building Trades Unions is an alliance of 14 national and international unions in the building and construction industry that collectively represent more than 3 million skilled craft professionals in the U.S. and Canada. Each year, its unions and signatory contractor

partners invest more than \$1 billion in private sector money to fund and operate more than 1,900 apprenticeship training and education facilities across North America that produce the safest, most highly trained and productive skilled craft workers found anywhere in the world.

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🌐 [www.buildingtrades.org](http://www.buildingtrades.org)

## VersaFlex launches S. America division

VersaFlex Inc. has established its new South American unit, VersaFlex South America. Fernando Costa will become the business manager of the new operation.

The company has successfully completed applications during the past several years in the South American market using a variety of its high-performance polyurea systems. Its website offers product information, project profiles, product safety data sheets and a wealth of technical support information, including webinars, white papers and e-books. Materials are offered in English, with translations in both Portuguese and Spanish coming soon.

VersaFlex South America is committed to providing outstanding technical support, world-class training and only the highest quality polyurea protective coatings and linings systems.

🌐 [www.versaflexsa.com](http://www.versaflexsa.com)

## Sherwin-Williams to acquire Valspar

The Sherwin-Williams Co. and The Valspar Corp. have entered into a definitive agreement under which Sherwin-Williams will acquire Valspar for \$113 per share in an all-cash transaction, for an enterprise value of approximately \$11.3 billion. The transaction, which has been unanimously approved by both company boards, represents a premium of approximately 41 percent to Valspar's volume weighted average price for 30 days up to and including March 18, 2016.

Sherwin-Williams and Valspar have highly complementary paints and coatings offerings and this combination enhances Sherwin-Williams' position as a premier global paints and coatings provider. The transaction results in a diversified array of strong brands and technologies, accelerates Sherwin-Williams' growth strategy by expanding its global platform in Asia-Pacific and EMEA, and also adds new capabilities in the packaging and coil segments. The combined company would have pro forma 2015 revenues and adjusted EBITDA (including estimated annual synergies) of approximately \$15.6 billion and \$2.8 billion, respectively, with approximately 58,000 employees.

The transaction is expected to close by the end of Q1 calendar year 2017, and is subject to the approval of Valspar shareholders and customary closing conditions, including the expiration or termination of the applicable waiting period under the U.S. Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act and regulatory approvals in various other jurisdictions.

🌐 [www.sherwin.com](http://www.sherwin.com)

🌐 [www.valspar.com](http://www.valspar.com)

## CIM holds record-breaking WOC auction

The National Steering Committee (NSC) for the Concrete Industry Management (CIM) program — a business-intensive program that awards students with a four-year bachelor's degree in concrete industry management — raised more than \$925,000 in gross revenue at its annual auction, held in conjunction with the World of Concrete in February.

The signature item this year was a Mack Granite Axle Forward model mounted with a McNeilus 11-cubic-yard Bridgmaster concrete transit mixer, donated by Mack Trucks Inc. and McNeilus Co., a division



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of Oshkosh Truck. The winning bidder of the mixer truck was Roy Simmons with Rockingham Redi-Mix Inc.

An addition to the list of industry items donated to the annual auction this year was a 1951 vintage Ford ready-mix truck, which was restored and donated by Dean Leaman of Allied Concrete Materials. The winning bidder of this unique item was Steve Ireland of SD Ireland Concrete.

In addition to the live auction, a silent auction was also held. This year CIM had record proceeds from the silent auction. Auction items included cement, concrete saws, drills, mixers, vibrators, safety equipment, screeds, fiber transport systems, dust collectors, decorative concrete tools, water meters, pumps, generators, training sessions, reference books, advertisements, laptop computers, sports travel packages, and golf and vacation travel packages.

Again this year, NSC partnered with GiveSmart, a user-friendly bidding technology service providing customized auction and event solutions primarily for nonprofit organizations. With GiveSmart, participants were able to register for the auction, sneak-preview silent and live auction items, make a donation and bid on their favorite silent auction items immediately. Once again this year, participants unable to attend the live auction could bid online during the event.

[www.concretedegree.com](http://www.concretedegree.com)

## ACI launches concrete industry guides

The American Concrete Institute unveiled two new resources for concrete professionals, including decorative concrete finishers. The new publications, “Concrete Fundamentals” and “Placing and Finishing Decorative Concrete,” disseminate guidance and best practices to concrete contractors.

“Concrete Fundamentals” is a full-color, introductory guide to concrete and concrete construction. The guide begins with the most basic question of all — “What is concrete?” — with later chapters covering materials, construction practices and testing.

The resource is recommended for industry newcomers including apprentices, journeymen, foremen, material suppliers, finishers or young engineers without field experience. The publication can also be a useful resource in training and development programs.

“Placing and Finishing Decorative Concrete” is described as a full-color resource that covers the materials, equipment and techniques required to successfully install decorative concrete flatwork. Topics covered in the book include mixture design for decorative concrete mixtures, the use of integral color and dry-shake color hardeners, the identification and uses of decorative finishing tools, equipment, stamping mats and stencils, the use of surface retarders and set-retarding admixtures to produce exposed aggregate surfaces, stamping and texturing concrete, seeding fresh concrete surfaces with decorative aggregate, decorative treatments for stair treads and risers, and cleaning and sealing methods for decorative concrete.

The new publications are part of a series of “essential and practical guides for the concrete professional.” The other books in ACI’s Concrete Craftsman Series are “Slabs-on-Ground,” “Supported Beams and Slabs” and “Shotcrete for the Craftsman.”

[www.concrete.org](http://www.concrete.org)

## PCI research wins innovation award

A research project that the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute spearheaded and sponsored has been honored with the prestigious American Society of Civil Engineers’ Charles Pankow Award for Innovation at the 2016 ASCE OPAL Gala in Washington, D.C.

The winning project, “Seismic Design Methodology for Precast Concrete Diaphragms,” represents groundbreaking research conducted by engineers and precast concrete industry experts throughout the U.S. View the video shown during the award program at this link: <http://bit.ly/26dQYS7>. It was jointly funded by PCI, the National Science Foundation, the Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation and the Charles Pankow Foundation.

The research behind the method integrated finite element analyses of a diaphragm with full-scale reinforcing detail experiments and shaking table system tests. This initiative resulted in the adoption of a revised force demand and resistance methodology for precast concrete diaphragms in 2015 NEHRP and ASCE/SEI 7-16. The complete research report is available at this link, [http://www.pci.org/Design\\_Resources/Research\\_and\\_Development](http://www.pci.org/Design_Resources/Research_and_Development), on the “Completed Projects and Programs” tab.

The Charles Pankow Award for Innovation was established by the Civil Engineering Research Foundation in 1996. Named for industry visionary Charles J. Pankow, the award recognizes the contributions of organizations working collaboratively to advance the design and construction industry by introducing innovation into practice.

[www.pci.org](http://www.pci.org)

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## W.R. Meadows debuts waterproofing video

To better assist with the application of Precon, W.R. Meadows' underslab and pre-applied waterproofing application solution, the company recently launched a Precon video. This video informs and educates viewers on the product and its ease of installation, helps guide users through installation and discusses what other company products can be used with Precon.

Precon is used as a pre-applied membrane in vertical applications where access to the positive side is limited. The membrane can also be used for horizontal applications for underslab waterproofing and vapor-proofing. It is a composite sheet membrane comprising a nonwoven fabric, elastomeric membrane and patented plasmatic core.

Precon's fabric bonds tenaciously to poured concrete walls to create solid waterproofing protection. Superior to traditional clay-type products, it features a greater seal to stop water. A low-temperature version is also available.

☎ (800) 825-5976

🌐 [www.wrmeadows.com](http://www.wrmeadows.com)

## Sika acquires L. M. Scofield in the U.S.

Sika has acquired L. M. Scofield, a U.S.-based market leader in the production of concrete color additives for ready-mixed concrete, along with decorative products and treatments for concrete refurbishment. Scofield offers a comprehensive range of color solutions to serve customers in the fast-growing decorative concrete market of North America, and generated sales of CHF (Swiss franc) 17 million in 2015.

Based in Los Angeles, L. M. Scofield is a 100-year-old, family-owned company that has long been established as a trusted brand of concrete color additives and decorative products in North America. With two strategic production locations (Los Angeles, California, and Atlanta, Georgia), L. M. Scofield produces a complete range of color solution products.

The acquisition fits perfectly with Sika's accelerated growth strategy in North America. In the past two years the production footprint for mortars and admixtures has expanded with the addition of four new plants — in Denver, Atlanta, Philadelphia and Vancouver — with the number of factories in North America now totaling 18. In addition,

the acquisition of the mortar company BMI, made in 2015, completed the supply chain in the dynamic Californian market.

☎ (800) 800-9900

🌐 [www.scofield.com](http://www.scofield.com)

🌐 [www.usa.sika.com](http://www.usa.sika.com)

## Papé Machinery grows equipment fleet

Eugene, Oregon-based Papé Machinery Inc. has expanded its offering of Atlas Copco equipment at all 21 of its construction and forestry locations throughout California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington.

It will rent, sell and service a large range of equipment, including Atlas Copco air compressors, concrete tools and hydraulic attachments, in addition to the Dynapac asphalt rollers, pavers and soil rollers already served. It will also offer replacement parts for the equipment.

The Papé Group Inc. is headquartered in Eugene and is the holding company for Papé Machinery. The Papé companies have more than 80 locations in more than 60 cities throughout California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Nevada and Washington.

🌐 [www.atlascopco.us](http://www.atlascopco.us)

🌐 [www.papemachinery.com](http://www.papemachinery.com)

# TRANSITIONS

**Don Kosier** has reached 50 years of service with The Wooster Brush Co. Kosier is the 16th person in the company's 165-year history to reach this milestone. Wooster Brush is known around the area to have an exceptionally high retention rate. The current average length of service for all 550 company employees is 16 years.



**Fernando Costa** has been named the business manager for VersaFlex Inc.'s new South American operations unit.

**Brent Morris** is Prosoco's newest regional sales manager, serving customers in the Rocky Mountain area, including Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada and Utah. Contact Morris at (303) 912-5545 or [brent.morris@prosoco.com](mailto:brent.morris@prosoco.com).

Lackmond Products Inc., a supplier of diamond tools, carbide tools and equipment, recently hired two new employees.

**Brian Newman** is now Northeast territory manager, overseeing the company's sales strategies and business development in that region. Prior to joining Lackmond Products, Newman worked as a property/construction manager for a commercial real estate company in Massachusetts. **Mike Clemente** is now vice president of sales, overseeing the company's sales strategies and business development in North America. Clemente brings more than 36 years of experience in sales and distribution within the construction building materials markets.



**Bob Foote**, who recently celebrated his 25th anniversary with Blastrac North America, will manage Blastrac's new expansion of its Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, storefront. Foote formerly worked there in sales and customer service.

Chromaflo Technologies, a global supplier of colorant systems, chemical and pigment dispersions, has hired **An Nguyen** as Thermoset Americas' technical service representative. Nguyen will provide direct technical support to Chromaflo's Thermoset customers and top target programs with initial focus on the urethane market. Nguyen will be based out of the Ashtabula, Ohio, corporate office. He was most recently the sales/technical service manager for a company in Singapore.



## PCI names 2016 chairman

The Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute has elected Chuck Prussack, PE, as its 2016 chairman. Prussack is manager of sales, engineering and quality control for Oldcastle Precast Inc. in Spokane, Washington.

Prussack joined Oldcastle Precast in 1979 when it was known as Central Pre-mix Prestress Co. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Structural Engineers Association of Washington. He is also a PCI fellow, a panel member on several National Academy of Sciences bridge-related projects, a prestressed concrete lecturer and a presenter on various bridge projects. He earned his bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Washington State University.

"My theme (for this coming year) is being good stewards of the industry and what it takes to do that," says Prussack. "My goals for the institute include greater member engagement in training all levels of professionals, from plant workers to engineers and drafters, and promoting the benefits of precast/prestressed construction and product innovation with PCI as the primary resource for education, information and connection."

In addition to Prussack's appointment, two other officer elections were held by members of the 2016 board. Daniel A. Juntunen of Wells Concrete was elected vice chairman and Mason H. Lampton of Standard Concrete Products Inc. was elected secretary-treasurer.

The following individuals were elected as new members of PCI's 2016 board of directors: Dennis Fink, Northeast Prestressed Products LLC; John Seroky, High Concrete Group LLC; and Joel Sheets, Tindall Corp., South Carolina Division.

[www.pci.org](http://www.pci.org)

## PCA forecasts U.S. cement consumption

Cement consumption in the U.S. will continue to rise by 3.4 percent, according to a report from the Portland Cement Association.

The forecast in cement consumption is for growth, albeit at a slower rate, down slightly to 3.4 percent growth compared to its fall forecast of 5 percent. PCA expects 2017 cement consumption will grow at a rate of 4.3 percent.

Each year PCA's industry-renowned Market Intelligence Group provides data and insight on fundamental economic issues, including cement forecasts throughout the year.

[www.cement.org](http://www.cement.org)

## 'Build Your Future' expands to Indiana

With construction companies expected to hire more than 61,000 workers in Indiana through 2017, a new partnership between Build Your Future (BYF) and the Indiana Construction Roundtable Foundation is committed to meeting the demand for qualified craft professionals while helping individuals achieve their career goals.

BYF Indiana is a unique collaboration of employers, state agencies and industry associations that encourages residents to learn about construction careers and training opportunities now emerging in the state and to qualify for and obtain careers in these high-demand occupations.

To kick off the new partnership, the website [indiana.byf.org](http://indiana.byf.org) launched this year, and customized promotional materials from trading cards and posters to sunglasses and carpenter pencils were sent to more than 1,000 Indiana high schools. Along with these materials, customized presentations, videos and career day resources were also created to promote BYF Indiana statewide in schools, meetings and conferences and through the foundation's ambassador program.

The ambassador program was developed for skilled craft professionals to visit local high schools and present BYF Indiana's mission to students, discuss the value of construction careers, share their personal stories and provide guidance.

BYF is a national image-enhancement and recruitment initiative for the construction industry. Its mission is to recruit the next generation of craft professionals by making career and technical education a priority in secondary schools.

[www.byf.org](http://www.byf.org)

[indiana.byf.org](http://indiana.byf.org)

## Fishstone releases new how-to videos

The first in Fishstone's new how-to video series features U-Seal concrete sealer, a unique high-performance, two-component hybrid urethane/acrylic sealer formulated specifically for the decorative concrete industry. U-Seal is chemically resistant, highly stain- and scratch-resistant and can be used on interior and exterior, horizontal and vertical surfaces alike.

View the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3w10g71BHs>

Fishstone Studio Inc. is a manufacturer of decorative concrete admixtures, sealers and molds, offering an extensive lineup of concrete products through its website and distributors worldwide. Training events are held at its corporate location in Crystal Lake, Illinois, and at distributor locations worldwide.

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## South African man first to obtain polyurea master's degree

Abraham Bosman of BMB Corrosion Services CC in South Africa is the first and only individual to have completed all of the requirements and classes to earn the degree of Master Polyurea Applicator offered through Polyurea University and hosted by VersaFlex Inc.

The steps required to earn this prestigious degree include completion of all seven Polyurea University classes, submission of three job log-profile forms, and acquisition of a current Coatings Inspector Certification from SSPC, Nace International or equivalent third-party industry inspector certification programs.

The top degree offered by the university certifies the recipient has completed the requirements of both Qualified Polyurea Professional and Qualified Polyurea Inspector. Most recently, Bosman has worked to develop a polyurea specification for Anglo Kumba Iron Ore Sishen Mine in South Africa.

Polyurea University is committed to training contractors, specifiers and owners in polyurea technology, application, surface preparation and equipment.

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Quality Management System compliant for both polyurea coating manufacturing and design. It is a proud supporter of Polyurea.com and endorses hands-on polyurea training through the Polyurea University in Houston, Texas.

☎ (866) 571-0684 (Polyurea University)

☎ (913) 321-9000 VersaFlex

🌐 [www.polyureauniversity.com](http://www.polyureauniversity.com)

🌐 [www.versaflex.com](http://www.versaflex.com)

## Crusher Works joins Atlas Copco network as new dealer

Crusher Works of Birmingham, Alabama, has joined Atlas Copco's growing dealer network. The new dealer will offer Atlas Copco heavy compaction equipment at its Alabama location and plans to carry pavers by mid-2016 and milling machines in the future.

Crusher Works has a combined experience of more than 30 years renting, selling and servicing aggregate machinery products for a wide range of industries, including recycling, sand and gravel, limestone quarries, coal mines, asphalt, concrete, demolition, top soil, mulch and compost. Its equipment offerings include mobile screens, crushers and scalpers as well as hammers, drills, trommels, conveyors, truck unloaders, horizontal grinders, shredders and roll-sizers.

🌐 [www.atlascopco.us/usus](http://www.atlascopco.us/usus)

🌐 [www.crusherworks.com](http://www.crusherworks.com)

## Sakrete celebrates 80 years with refreshed identity

Sakrete is celebrating its 80th anniversary in 2016, and is refreshing its brand with a new logo and new packaging, website and marketing collateral such as point-of-purchase displays and signage.

Sakrete, credited with creating the ready-mix bag concrete category in 1936, is one of the most recognized and established brands in the industry. Its iconic yellow-and-black diamond logo — updated to feature slimmer yellow typeface and a now-horizontal yellow diamond centered over a black outline — can be found at commercial and residential worksites around the country.

This visual brand refresh is the first significant change the logo has undergone in the company's 80 years. Sakrete was founded in 1936 as North America's original dry cement mix brand and is a leader in concrete and concrete-related products, and other top-quality building products. The Sakrete brand is owned and managed by Oldcastle Architectural. Sakrete of North America is headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina.

☎ (800) 738-1621

🌐 [www.sakrete.com](http://www.sakrete.com)

## Aztec engine again named cleanest

For seven years in a row, Aztec has been recognized as having the cleanest 603cc engine in the industry. Kawasaki Motors Corp. introduced the gasoline-powered 603cc twin-valve engine into the commercial floor equipment market in 2010 to be converted to liquid propane gas (LPG).

Because gasoline cannot be used as an indoor fuel source, each equipment manufacturer must create its own LPG carburation system for the engine, have that system independently tested by a third party, register the system and resulting emission measurements with the EPA, and post a large financial performance bond with EPA promising not to change the configuration.

Aztec welcomed the introduction of this new, very powerful Kawasaki engine and immediately went to work on engineering the cleanest, most robust LPG configuration possible. Aztec's resulting configuration, with 28 grams carbon monoxide per kilowatt hour and 14.1 horsepower, remains the best in the industry.

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## ACPA elects new executive board

The American Concrete Pumping Association elected its executive board leadership in February at the ACPA Annual Meeting and Awards Presentation in Las Vegas.

Elected to serve a one-year term, the newly selected executive board consists of President Beth Langhauser, Midwest Ltd. Concrete Pumping Service, Rock Island, Illinois; Vice President Tony Inglese, Pioneer Concrete Pumping, Smyrna, Georgia; Secretary Nick Avella, Our Rental Corp., Farmingdale, New York; Treasurer Bob Weatherston, The Concrete Pump Store, Claremont, California; and Past President Carl Walker, Central Concrete Pumping, Fort Worth, Texas.

The ACPA is a nonprofit association which serves as an advocate for the concrete pumping industry committed to promotion, education and safety for its members and all those coming into contact with a concrete pump on the construction job site.

[www.concretepumpers.com](http://www.concretepumpers.com)

## ACPA issues 'Coworker Safety & Hose Handling' DVD

The American Concrete Pumping Association recently released its new DVD, "Coworker Safety & Hose Handling," designed to educate workers about safe practices around concrete pumps, and how to properly and safely handle the end hose. Topics covered include identifying dangerous areas, disabling the pump in an emergency and safe hose-handling techniques.

The DVD addresses an ongoing need for more safety information and training in the concrete pumping industry. Produced in cooperation with the American Society of Concrete Contractors, the "Coworker Safety & Hose Handling" DVD is a must-have for every safety library. Cost for ACPA members is \$25 and \$50 for nonmembers. For bulk purchases of 10 or more, the cost per DVD is \$10. English or Spanish versions are available. Preview or purchase the DVD at the ACPA website.

The ACPA is a nonprofit association committed to promotion, education and safety for its members and all those coming into contact with a concrete pump on the construction job site.

[\(614\) 431-5618](tel:6144315618)

[www.concretepumpers.com](http://www.concretepumpers.com)

## Justcut Inc. loses Jackie Jin

On March 8, Justcut Inc. lost its leader and "father figure," Jacky Jin, following an unexpected health crisis. "He was a great person," says Jason Desilva, sales manager.

Jin began his career selling 4- through 14-inch diamond blades on eBay and realized he had a good business model. Eleven years ago he recruited salesmen all over the country to expand his company. Desilva and Donald Paul were among that select group.

In 2008 he adjusted his business model to turn Justcut into a one-stop shop for diamonds and related products. "He stood behind Donald and I and financially backed us to bring all of our dreams to reality," Desilva says. "He was a father figure as well as best friend and inspiration to us on a daily basis."

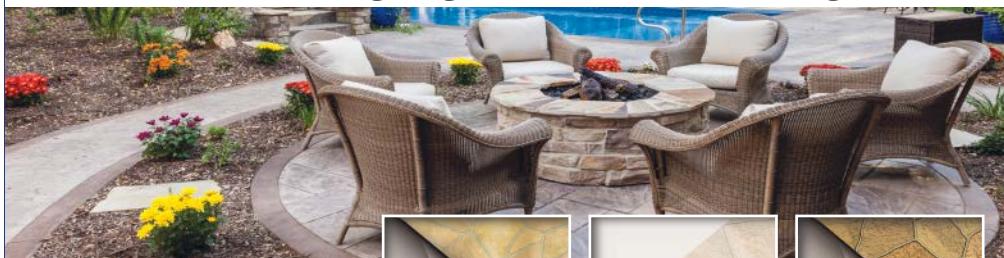
Jin, 40, is survived by his wife, Yen Pham, and two sons, Bill Jin and Harry Jin. Unbeknownst to Desilva and Paul, Jin had created a succession plan to allow the transfer of the company to his strong



team. Desilva and Paul are now teaching Pham the business to help keep the family involved and the company strong and growing, just as Jin left it.

He was buried in Austin, Texas, on March 12.

## Strip acrylic from decorative concrete without damaging the surroundings.



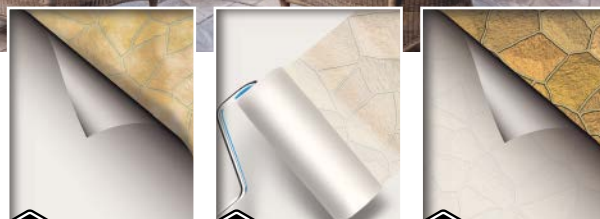
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## Bedrock consolidates its operations

Bedrock Contractor Supplies and Rentals has expanded its operations with an 11,000-square-foot warehousing space and office location. Bedrock now has easy-on and easy-off access to Interstate 95 to better serve customers in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

After years of contending with multiple locations, Bedrock has consolidated its warehousing and offices to one centralized location. Its principals believe that this

reinvestment will make Bedrock better able to serve its customer's needs for years to come, as well as increase its rental offering capabilities.

☎ (401) 378-7914

🌐 [www.bedrocksupplies.com](http://www.bedrocksupplies.com)

## Blastrac of North America opens store in Oklahoma City

Blastrac of North America recently expanded its Oklahoma City headquarters operations with an additional 25,000 square

feet by opening its first store at 13201 North Santa Fe Ave. Blastrac NA, a manufacturing company that specializes in surface preparation equipment, operates several sales-rental-repair locations throughout North America and Canada.

Not only are the Blastrac products available for purchase but the store also carries a line of products local contractors can pick up for surface prep jobs.

☎ (405) 608-3178

🌐 [www.blastrac.com](http://www.blastrac.com)

# Industry mourns the loss of George Lacker

**T**he decorative concrete industry lost one of its giants March 19 when George J. Lacker III, 62, passed away unexpectedly while on business in Ohio.

"George was larger than life and a man with truly great spirit and a heart of gold, a man who would go out of his way to help anybody," says Cathye Rankin, his life and business partner for the past 28 years.

Bent Mikkelsen, publisher of *Concrete Decor*, remembers, "George was probably one of the first subscribers to *Concrete Decor*. I remember his first call. Aside from wanting to support the magazine, he had nothing but kind words, a distinguishable passion for the craft and nothing but encouragement for the magazine and me, a guy he didn't know.

"Kindness, support, encouragement and a genuine passion. In the 15 years I have known George, that's always what I got from him," Mikkelsen says. "It made each visit with the guy a blessing to my life. It may sound old fashioned, but it's people like him that make an industry better for everyone."

Lacker received recognition and awards from *Concrete Decor*, *Concrete Construction* and *Residential Concrete* magazines, as well as the Concrete Network and Artistry in Concrete at the World of Concrete. A staunch supporter of many of *Concrete Decor's* endeavors, he was among the first sponsors of the newly launched RoadShow.

Lacker, who began his career when he was only 16 years

old placing industrial floors for Baker Concrete in Ohio, first stained concrete in the mid '90s. Over the years he has stained and polished floors in such iconic establishments as the Hard Rock Cafe in Hollywood, the Ritz-Carlton in West Palm Beach and Sloppy Joe's in Key West.

He owned GLC3 Concrete and Couture Concrete Systems in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and "gave birth" in 1996 to Concretetivity, a cementitious topping that can be applied from 3/8 to 2 inches thick, as an alternative to more traditional toppings. "That was his baby," Rankin says, and probably the accomplishment of which he was proudest. He was busy shaping it up and showing it off until the day he died.

Lacker was passionate about his work, and even though he had a serious heart issue that landed him in a coma for a couple months about a year ago, he stayed positive after recovering and persevered. He kept busy developing his new innovative system, which consisted of a composite underlayment made to go over a wood subfloor that isolated all the joints in the plywood and would work in tandem with his Concretetivity.

The week before Lacker passed away, he drove from Florida to Ohio to showcase the system at an event at Jason Geiser's store in Orrville. "It comforts me to know he was doing what he loved, right to his last moments on earth," Geiser says.

In addition to Rankin, Lacker is survived by his sisters Diane (with husband, Gary Brackmeier) and Paula; brother, Robert; and his nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be directed to the Wounded Warrior Project. Please visit our website for more about George Lacker and comments from his industry friends.





## Website helps architects specify concrete moisture testing

Wagner Meters recently introduced AIAspec.com, where the company offers the AIA-approved online course, "Moisture Testing of Concrete Floor Slabs," hosted by Howard Kanare, a nationally recognized expert who specializes in the interaction of concrete and floor covering systems. He covers the vital information that architects and others need to know when it comes to specifying moisture testing in concrete slabs.

The presence of water is actually a key factor in why concrete is so strong. At the same time, water — too much of it, anyway — can wreak havoc on a construction project. No architect, engineer or builder wants excess water to be present when the finished floor is installed over the concrete slab. Too much water inevitably leads to a catastrophic flooring failure, which can translate into costly repairs and a damaged reputation. So it is essential that the moisture condition of the concrete slab be assessed before installing the finished floor.

AIAspec.com is a single online resource to help architects and engineers understand the latest science about moisture testing of concrete slabs, offering a suite of custom tools to help avoid significant project delays, costly repairs and even lawsuits that can occur because of mold, mildew, warping, debonding or other moisture-related problems.

Kanare was the senior principal scientist for more than three decades at CTLGroup, the research laboratory owned by the Portland Cement Association. He is also the author of the definitive book on the subject, "Concrete Floors and Moisture." He also has a longstanding relationship with ASTM International, with extensive experience as chairman of both the F1869 and F2170 committees.

[www.aiaspec.com](http://www.aiaspec.com)

## NRMCA unveils concrete building campaign

Using its 2016 national convention as a launching pad, the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association has unveiled Build with Strength, a multimillion dollar coordinated industry campaign to better educate the design/build and code communities about the benefits of concrete construction in the low- to mid-rise sector and in general.

The program is based on a significant research investment made by the NRMCA to better understand the motivations behind the use of certain construction materials including concrete. The research showed that a great majority of the design/build community was favorable to concrete construction because of attributes like strength, durability and ease of use. However, certain misconceptions about cost and environmental impact often led decision makers to choose less safe building materials such as wood and wood products.

The campaign relies on an unprecedented communications strategy that will include a Build with Strength-branded website, video content, a multicity media tour, rapid response capabilities, advertising, social media properties and stakeholder engagement opportunities.

Additionally, the campaign is designed to drive industry and project decision makers to resources such as webinars and live seminars for technical support and design assistance while also building an advocacy network that will support concrete's position in building codes, standards and rating systems at the state and local level. The campaign has already been activated in both Washington state and Maryland where state legislatures were considering legislation that would have greatly impacted the construction materials market.

[www.buildwithstrength.com](http://www.buildwithstrength.com)

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### Propane burnisher also can maintain floors

Niagara's new Lavina B36G-S propane burnisher hones, polishes, burnishes and maintains floors. Features include a 36-inch work path on the 617-pound propane model with a powerful Kawasaki engine (603 cc, 18 hp) along with a forced planetary drive with three 14-inch heads and a low-profile base. It also includes a suspension dust collection and water-delivery system.



For best results, the burnisher should be used with ShinePro diamond pads and screens. The machine can be used wet or dry. If wet, use with water or a pH-neutral cleaning solution designed for floor maintenance.

Most maintenance schedules require a single step using the White Buff pad. For floors requiring two maintenance steps, operators may use a Yellow 1800 one day, followed by the White Buff the next, and so on. To maintain concrete or natural stone floors with minor scratching or etching, begin with one grit lower.

For very dirty and worn-out floors, start with the ShinePro diamond screens as a more aggressive step. No special equipment is needed — just attach them on top of the regular pads.

☎ (800) 622-2048

🌐 [www.niagaramachine.com](http://www.niagaramachine.com)

### Key Resin expands terrazzo product offering to China

Key Resin Co., an Ohio-based resinous flooring materials manufacturer since 1993, has entered into a long-term agreement with Laticrete International and Laticrete China to offer Key Resin's Key Epoxy Terrazzo Flooring System as a co-branded flooring system in the Peoples Republic of China.

Laticrete China has an established presence in China with more than 100 sales people, several distribution locations, and a flooring products team specializing in architectural design and specifications.

☎ (888) 943-4532

🌐 [www.keyresin.com](http://www.keyresin.com)

### Quick tie-down strap features ratchet mechanism

RZ Industries has introduced a fast and easy-to-use tie-down strap that's based on a traditional ratchet mechanism. Quickloader Tiedown Strap, which has a spring-loaded spool to keep its webbing in place, features a long handle for more leverage and an extended release mechanism so users don't pinch their fingers or hurt their knuckles when the ratchet is released.



Quickloader comes in a variety of sizes covering everything from personal use to professional use to commercial applications.

☎ (888) 777-9422

🌐 [www.rzindustries.com](http://www.rzindustries.com)

### Bosch enhances its grinder portfolio

Robert Bosch Tool Corp. has updated its portfolio of corded and cordless angle grinders.

All of the grinders in this series have two things in common: advanced performance and durability. Powerful new motors, extending from 10- and 13-amp models to 18V, deliver more amperage than their predecessors.

In addition, many of the grinders are now the most durable in their class, combining longer carbon brush lifetimes, stronger motors, direct cooling and motor overload protection.

Longer multigrip paddle switches allow users to grip the grinders in virtually any position along the ergonomic barrel. While convenient for the operator, this design change also ensures the tool's air inlets aren't obstructed by hands, an industry first.

The 18V cordless grinders (GWS18V-50 and GWS18V-45) bring an extra level of performance and mobility to the jobsite with their powerful four-pole motors. Check out [www.bethepro.com](http://www.bethepro.com) for additional tips and videos.

☎ (877) 267-2499

🌐 [www.boschtools.com](http://www.boschtools.com)



### Husqvarna vacuum is perfect grinder companion

The new Husqvarna DC 3000 vacuum is the perfect companion for Husqvarna's compact grinders PG 280, PG 400 or PG 450 grinders. The lightweight DC 3000 is a versatile, high-volume dust collector that can handle heavy-duty dry/wet grinding applications.

It features automatic dust-filter cleaning that prevents clogging while the vacuum is running. The polyester filters are washable for easy maintenance. To easily dispose debris, the top of the vacuum lifts off and the container is easily tilted to allow the debris to slide out.

The DC 3000 comes standard with a Husqvarna multiadaptor, wand, floor tool, integrated cart with dump function and 30-foot hose.

🌐 [www.husqvarnacp.com](http://www.husqvarnacp.com)



### Ardex extends warranties for moisture control systems

Ardex Americas has extended its warranties for Ardex MC Moisture Control Systems when installed by an Ardex LevelMaster Elite Installer or an Ardex academy-trained installer. Sample warranties are published at the Ardex Americas website on the web page for each product.

Ardex MC Moisture Control Systems extended warranties require receipt and approval of an Ardex Moisture Control System pre-installation checklist.

☎ (888) 512-7339

🌐 [www.ardexamericas.com](http://www.ardexamericas.com)



## Husqvarna launches two new cutting carts

Husqvarna Construction Products has launched two new cutting carts, the KV 760 and KV 970/1260, that are specially designed to fit Husqvarna gas power cutters. These carts make it easy to cut in straight or curved lines, close to walls or curbs.

Quick connections make it easy to install the cutter on the cart. The depth limiter facilitates easy adjustment of the cutting depth. The carts come standard with a 3.5-gallon (13.3 liter) pressurized water tank and a 10-foot (3 m) hose that connects to the water nozzle on the blade guard. This new feature, together with the power cutters' water-saving cutting system, allows hours of cutting with or without the cart.

Another feature on the carts is the lateral adjustment. The wheels can be moved to the left or right, allowing the machine to cut close to walls or curbs. The handle has also been redesigned with a soft insert, making it more comfortable to operate. The fuel cap has been relocated to the right side to make refueling more efficient. The cart also folds to make it easier to transport and store.

☎ (913) 928-1000

🌐 [www.husqvarnacp.com](http://www.husqvarnacp.com)



## Mapei debuts below-grade waterproofing line

Mapei Corp. introduced its below-grade waterproofing product line to the North American construction market at World of Concrete 2016, including Mapeproof membranes made out of a layer of woven and nonwoven, puncture- and tear-resistant polypropylene fabrics. Encased within these fabrics is high-swelling, self-sealing sodium bentonite. Mapeproof membranes are offered in a standard-grade version (Mapeproof HW) and an alternate grade designed specifically for sites where contaminated or salt groundwater is present (Mapeproof SW).

Also introduced at the show were Mapethene self-adhering, rubberized-asphalt sheet waterproofing membranes. Mapethene membranes are constructed of a 4-mil-thick, impact-resistant, cross-laminated, high-density polyethylene film laminated onto a proprietary 56-mil-thick rubberized-asphalt compound. Mapethene membranes are offered in both high-temperature (Mapethene HT) and low-temperature (Mapethene LT) variants.

Supporting these waterproofing products is a complete line of detailing and accessories, including Mapedrain, a product group that includes seven three-dimensional drainage composites, each engineered for specific site drainage requirements, and Mapebond, a product group that includes four contact adhesives, which meet the varied site conditions and the various VOC regulations in place at different locations.

☎ (800) 426-2734

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- Versatility allows interior & exterior use
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800-910-3120

### Husqvarna expands saw offerings

Husqvarna Construction Products has added three new saws to its lineup of tools. Each is equipped with a patented water containment system, which keeps water, slurry and debris controlled. Double water-splashguards decrease water spray behind the saws and make cleaning easier.

All three saws can make 22.5-degree and 45-degree bevel cuts by simply rotating the saw head. The saw head can also easily switch between plunge and miter cutting, making it fast and versatile on the jobsite.

With a cutting capacity of 5 inches deep and a 17.25-inch cutting length, the Husqvarna MS 360 is the next generation of the company's popular MS 355 masonry saw. This saw can make different types of cuts as easily as a tile saw. It's ideally suited for cutting pavers, bricks, stone and concrete block.

Designed to keep operators comfortable and increase their efficiency, the saw has an optional adjustable two-wheel stand. When the saw is locked on the stand, one person can move the unit around the jobsite. The stand also allows the user to position the saw at various heights or collapse it with one hand.

The saw comes with a Husqvarna Vari-Cut Turbo blade and when paired together, the duo will make quick work of hard concrete, stone and other masonry materials.

Besides the MS 360, Husqvarna has added two new tile saws — TS 70 and TS 90 — to its lineup. Both saws are equipped with innovative features, such as the ability to cut longer tile and adjust the saw's height.

Both saws also feature the patented jet stream water containment system. Water is stored in a separate water tank that can be removed from the saw frame for filling and cleaning. The tank is housed within the saw frame, enabling the user to move saw and water around easily.

The difference in these two saws is their cutting capacity. The TS 70 is able to handle materials up to 32 inches long in a compact, dependable and easy-to-operate form. It can also cut diagonally up to 28 inches. The TS 90 features a unique dual movement cart that enables the operator to cut large tile while staying in place.

☎ (913) 928-1000

🌐 [www.husqvarnacp.com](http://www.husqvarnacp.com)



### Omnova introduces four new coatings

Omnova Solutions introduced four new coatings at the American Coatings Show April 12 in Indianapolis, significantly expanding the company's presence and portfolio for the specialty coatings market in North America.

Omnova's launches at ACS included Pliotec SC140, a styrene-acrylic latex designed for high-performance, zero-VOC Direct-to-Metal coatings; Pliotec EL135, an acrylic elastomeric latex for roof and exterior masonry coatings; Pliotec WPM120, a waterproofing membrane product that provides superior water resistance; and Mor-Shine CSG finish, an advanced surface guard that provides new levels of durability and beauty to polished concrete floors.

🌐 [www.omnova.com](http://www.omnova.com)

### Marco releases new blasting pot and LED light

Marco recently released the Blastmaster 10 cubic-foot abrasive blasting pot and the Blastmaster 308 Series LED Hose-Mounted Light.

The blasting pot is a pressure vessel used as part of an abrasive blasting system to deliver a mixture of abrasive and compressed air to a work surface. The pot, able to hold up to 10 cubic feet of abrasive, increases production by extending blasting time between each fill.

The three-LED module light produces a 45-inch, round pattern of bright white light at 18 inches from the surface. This light includes an abrasion-resistant urethane body and shatter-resistant borosilicate lens to protect the long-lasting LED module. Designed to be used with multiple power sources, the Blastmaster 308 Series LED Hose-Mounted Light provides a crisp light to illuminate a surface being abrasive blasted and is ideal for a wide range of applications.

For decades, Marco has been providing the surface preparation and protective coatings industries with innovative and reliable products and service.

☎ (800) 252-7848

🌐 [www.marco.us](http://www.marco.us)



### 12-volt cordless Hilti tools increase productivity

Hilti has launched its smallest and lightest range of cordless tools to help customers reach new levels of productivity, control and accessibility in everyday light-duty drilling and screw-driving applications.

Operating on a new 12-V battery platform and only weighing around 2.5 pounds each, the Hilti cordless hammer drill/driver SF 2H-A, cordless screwdriver SFD 2-A and cordless impact SID 2-A have been designed for working in tight spaces, dark corners and occupied spaces where noise level is a concern.

These tools are well-balanced and ergonomically designed for excellent handling and comfort including a slide-style connection battery. They also feature two LED lights on the base of the tool to illuminate the task at hand.

The batteries come complete with state-of-charge indicators so users will always know how much charge is left. The 12-V range is fitted with a system which features electronic battery management for extra-long lifetime and an impact-resistant battery casing for high-drop resistance.

The new 12-V kits are offered with either a single 12-V battery charger or a 12-V battery adapter that allows customers to use their existing Hilti 18-V and 36-V lithium-ion chargers to recharge the 12-V batteries.

☎ (800) 879-8000

🌐 [www.us.hilti.com](http://www.us.hilti.com)





## Brokk demolition machine is small but mighty

Brokk, a leading manufacturer of remote-controlled demolition machines, has updated its original Brokk 60 by introducing the Brokk 60 II. The extremely small new model features an upgraded hydraulic system, which has increased its power over the original by 10 percent.

In addition to the hydraulic system changes, Brokk improved the machine's handling to make it even smoother and more maneuverable in tight spaces.

The Brokk 60 II weighs 1,102 pounds, and its overall dimensions remain the same as the original Brokk 60 — only 23.2-inches wide and 34.3-inches tall. The unit's three-part arm system works with a variety of attachments including hydraulic hammers, grapples, crushers and buckets to achieve flexibility and versatility.

☎ (800) 621-7856

🌐 [www.brokk.com/us](http://www.brokk.com/us)



## BN Rebar Tier saves time

For more than 30 years BN Products has been making products and tools that save money, make money and add value to contractors' bottom lines. Now, it has introduced the new BNT-40 Rebar Tier.

The new product, which reduces tying time, ties up to 6-by-6 (3/4-inch by 3/4-inch) rebar. It is lightweight and has a compact body and a brushless twisting motor. The tool includes two batteries and a battery charger. High-capacity 14.4-volt lithium-ion batteries provide up to 2.5 ties per charge. The tool uses 21-gauge nonproprietary spooled galvanized wire and provides up to 128 ties per spool with a simple, one-handed operation.

☎ (800) 992-3833

🌐 [www.bnproducts.com](http://www.bnproducts.com)



## Bon's 2016 catalog features 400+ new products

Bon's 2016 Master Catalog features more than 400 new products for the professional tradesman of the building industry. This year the newly formatted catalog makes finding tools even easier.

The new design provides more detailed product information in an easy-to-view format. The design makes finding a specific trade area quick and easy with brightly colored section indicators. The 400 new products cover almost all trades of the building profession including masonry, landscape/hardscape, paving and general contracting. Many of the new products are high-quality Bon hand tools, demonstrating the company's commitment to developing and improving products for today's contractor.

Call to request a free catalog or view online. Bon Tool Co., founded in 1958 with one high-quality masonry tool, is a leading manufacturer of construction tools and equipment in the U.S.

☎ (724) 443-7080

🌐 [www.bontool.com](http://www.bontool.com)

## Dual-slope rotating laser resists drops

The new Hilti dual-slope rotating laser PR 300-HV2S works horizontally, vertically and in dual-slope mode with an easy user-guided interface that includes a remote and receiver in one device.

All Hilti exterior lasers, including the Hilti PR2-HS, PR 30-HVS and now the PR 300-HV2S, are complete with the most innovative drop-resistant technology, equipped with protective features internally and externally. The rotating laser can resist drops from a tripod at 5 feet and the receiver can withstand drops from 6.5 feet due to the new PRA 83 rubber housing.



If slope values are provided, the new, digital, dial-in functionality allows users to enter the X and Y values and the tool does the work. However, when trying to identify an existing slope the PR 300-HV2S includes an automatic feature which aligns the laser to the receiver, allowing the user to read the slope value on the display.

When paired with the Hilti Automatic tripod PRA 90, the tool offers fast, one-person height transfers. In vertical mode, auto alignment replaces string line applications. The laser line remains in a steady position, unlike string which is prone to movement.

☎ (800) 879-8000

🌐 [www.us.hilti.com](http://www.us.hilti.com)



# All you need to know about concrete color.

[www.daviscolors.com](http://www.daviscolors.com)



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## Trowel arrives 'broken in' and ready to go

The Elite Series Five Star Concrete Finishing Trowel by Kraft Tool is designed and engineered for the professional finisher. The blade — available in carbon steel, golden stainless steel and blue steel — features a precision ground edge that is already “broken-in” and ready for immediate use.



A high-strength, lightweight aluminum mounting stands up to the rigors of tough cement work. An oversized stainless-steel toe rivet provides extra strength when applying pressure during finish work. All trowels are available in four different handle styles including ProForm soft grip, laminated wood, leather and the new patent-pending cork.

The new patent-pending Kraft Tool Cork Handle features natural moisture-absorbent properties and an ergonomic, fatigue-reducing design that provides for a comfortable grip. Kraft Tool Co. has been manufacturing high-quality hand tools in the USA for 35 years.

(800) 422-2448

[www.krafttool.com](http://www.krafttool.com)

## Flexmar promotes NextGen polyaspartic coatings

Flexmar Coatings has introduced NextGen polyaspartic coatings, a new line of polyaspartics that enhances ease of use and labor cost-savings for the coatings applicator and minimizes disruption and discomfort for the end-user. Now, same-day application and return to service is possible.

Flexmar NextGen polyaspartic coatings include factory-pigmented Flexmar NextGen Self-Prime HS color coats, Flexmar NextGen Clear Coat HS clear polyaspartic sealers and Flexmar NextGen Variegate HS polyaspartic stain-sealers. They are combined along with decorative media and micro-media slip-reduction agents to create all-polyaspartic concrete floor coatings systems.

NextGen overcomes deficiencies of polyaspartic coatings technology by incorporating features applicators have been asking for and their customers are increasingly demanding. Its hallmark is a combination of a 25-minute working open time with a rapid one-hour recoat and one- to two-hour return-to-service interval, zero VOCs and virtually no odor — without trading off one performance property to achieve another.

(877) 339-1442

[www.flexmarpolyaspartics.com](http://www.flexmarpolyaspartics.com)

## Bosch table saw can detect flesh

Safety comes first on any construction jobsite, especially regarding a table saw where a momentary lack of focus could have permanent consequences. Bosch, a power tool industry technology leader, extends its heritage of award-winning table saw design with the introduction of the Reaxx Jobsite Table Saw — the first saw with the company's proprietary flesh-detecting Active Response Technology.

The Active Response Technology system detects human flesh that comes in contact with the blade and rapidly drops the saw blade below the tabletop. This high-speed action helps reduce the potential of serious user injury.

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Users can access a Reaxx Android phone app, which uses near field communication to provide saw registration, saw status and troubleshooting steps, lockout options, performance information, number of activations remaining and service requirements. In addition, an iOS phone app is available that provides information about saw registration and troubleshooting steps.

Like all Bosch table saws, the Bosch Reaxx saw includes a modular blade guard system. This primary safety device provides a physical barrier between the user and the saw blade, as well as offers protection against kick-back. Check out [www.bethepro.com](http://www.bethepro.com) for tips and videos.

☎ (877) 267-2499

🌐 [www.boschtools.com](http://www.boschtools.com)

### Air compressor is lightweight and portable

Hitachi Power Tools announced the newest addition to the air compressor market, the EC99S, featuring an oil-lubricated cast-iron pump and thermal overload protection. This four-gallon twin-stack compressor weighs less than 53 pounds and is easy to transport around any jobsite thanks to its ergonomic handle.



The EC99S ships complete with a bottle of synthetic oil and an oil dipstick. It can run multiple nailers depending upon the applications.

☎ (800) 829-4752

🌐 [www.hitachipowertools.com](http://www.hitachipowertools.com)

### 2016 Business on Wheels Trailer Package

ENGRAVE-A-CRETE announces the All New 2016 Business on Wheels Trailer Package to its lineup of Decorative Concrete Business Opportunities.

The Ready-To-Go trailer acts as a rolling billboard for your business wherever you go. It comes fully wrapped with colorful decorative concrete photos and your business contact info. The 14' trailer features rear and side entry doors and is outfitted with shelving and storage spaces for organized and easy access.

Decorative concrete engraving tools included in the business package are the Cobra Pro Pack, Mongoose X Pro Pack, KaleidoCrete Pro Pack, along with the Flagstone, Grout Line and Tile Layout template sets.

Other equipment includes a heavy-duty floor machine, 13hp pressure washer, washing deck, air compressor, various sprayers and much more.

Purchase of a trailer package entitles the owner to free training and ongoing tech support. For a complete listing of contents, visit [engraveacrete.com/trailer-package](http://engraveacrete.com/trailer-package).

☎ (800) 884-2114

🌐 [www.engraveacrete.com](http://www.engraveacrete.com)

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**Registration:** This webinar is available by invitation only and online seating is limited. Please contact Wagner Meters today to reserve your seat for this groundbreaking presentation.

Circle Reader Service Number 65

# Nine Tips for Not Getting Lost in Translation

## Globalizing your content means presenting it in other languages

by Tina Grady Barbaccia

**T**ODAY's global economy means companies are doing business all over the world, which often requires marketing materials or websites to be available in multiple languages. Producing content in several languages may help attract clients who don't speak English as their primary language because they see you are trying to identify with these potential customers and are literally "speaking their language."

### Translating key messages

Global marketplace discussions often reference the famous story of how the Chevy Nova failed in Latin America. The vehicle allegedly didn't do well in that geographic region because "no va" means "no go" in Spanish. This story was later debunked as false (General Motors was actually aware of the direct translation and felt it wasn't an

issue), but nonetheless, it remains a good example of how key messages can be lost in translation.

Online translation tools such as Google Translate produce translated material by simply typing in phrases. However, these tools don't understand or distinguish certain phrases, which is important when targeting specific markets such as the already-niche concrete industry.

In a recent presentation, "Getting Translation Right: 10 Ways to Make Your Translation Projects More Efficient," Smartling, a New York-based translation company, described the "hows and whys" of effective translations. The presentation stressed that translations can end up being both funny and embarrassing if they are not correct. And, in this age of social media, it's important to remember that if there is an

incorrect translation, there's a good chance that a screenshot will be taken and it will get posted online and to social media.

These nine tips from Smartling will help you with translating your company's information. It's important to know what to ask for from a translation agency to help ensure that the translated terminology will make sense and what to avoid.

**1. Hire a professional.** Don't ask bilingual staff or family to translate just because they are native speakers. Simply knowing the language isn't enough. The person translating also must thoroughly understand the nuances of translation. Enlist bilingual staff in other ways, such as getting them to create style guides for each language, define terminology and review translations.

**2. Determine the target market.** Who do you want to reach? Expanding the number of languages into which the content is translated will connect a company and its brand to more customers worldwide, which helps increase its presence.

**3. Localize content for culture/geographic location.** There are not always word-for-word translations and even when there are, there may be subtle differences in dialects or slang usage. Localizing content means the customer experience should be native to the individual on every level.

This not only means having a command of local dialects and regional idiosyncrasies, but observing cultural appropriateness and sensitivity as well as having a "detailed awareness" of the variables across global markets — such as current events and customs.

**4. Let translators work in context.** Allow translators and reviewers to see what is being translated in the way end users will view it. Take the word "home," for example. The English word home is used for a place to live and for a home page on a website. If translators are given the word "home" on a spreadsheet without any other information,

## Translation versus 'Transcreation': What's the difference?

**T**ranslation is the transformation of information from one language to another. 'Transcreation' is taking the concept or information and making it relevant for a particular market. When thinking about the U.S. market, a message may be very much geared toward a particular market and may use slang or idioms that are only used in the U.S.

As noted in the Smartling presentation, sometimes the translated phrases may not make any sense in a different market. Even if the content is relevant, it's being expressed in a way that just doesn't mean anything to the people reading it. The translators instead need to 'transcreate' or really recreate that particular marketing message to make

it relevant to that language, culture and country.

Translations result in new words in another language, but with the same messaging. With 'transcreation,' the result is a brand-new message that's targeted and localized. A typical example is a 'homerun.' Although a homerun and its relationship to baseball is understood throughout the United States, it won't make any sense in French.

To ensure proper translations, write the marketing or website copy in a way that's idiom free. Sometimes, however, when trying to make an impact on a certain market, idioms can be effective. In that situation, keep your idioms centralized on the market you're trying to reach.



they won't know its intended use. Let translators see exactly how the content will be presented to the customer.

**5. Use cloud-based technology for efficiency.** Instead of a spreadsheet to manage translation, use a cloud-based technology to help with the process. As long as everyone on the translation team has a web browser, it enables them to work off of one place, making the process more efficient.

**6. Establish a workflow.** Several issues must be considered when developing an efficient and effective workflow. Will your business use multiple translation resources? Does some content require additional review before approval and delivery? Are there internal or in-country reviewers for certain languages? A suggested method is to establish the flow, document it and take a look at where the inefficiencies appear.

**7. Use translation memory during the translation process.** "Translation memory" functions as a database of sentences that has already been translated and approved. They are stored and accessed the next time a translation job is worked on. The translators know it's exactly the same so they don't have to translate that same word or sentence again.

**8. Review content early and often.** Identify and review a sample piece of content to help you spot potential problems early on. Pinpoint the terminology key to your business to get that terminology translated for the crucial markets.

**9. Establish a plan to maintain and update future content.** Once translation of a website or marketing materials is complete, the content must be maintained. Consider the frequency of changes and updates, including developing a plan to decide when another language becomes a priority and how easy it would be to add another language — or even 10 more languages. Smartling recommends starting to grow the market when significant revenue can be added. 📱

*Tina Grady Barbaccia is a seasoned technical writer and editor who has worked in the trade press industry for the past 18 years — the last 10 of which have been in construction and concrete. Grady Barbaccia is an architecture, engineering and construction editorial specialist for Constructive Communication Inc. and may be reached at [tgbarbaccia@constructivecommunication.com](mailto:tgbarbaccia@constructivecommunication.com).*

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Photos courtesy of L. M. Scofield Co.

# Annual Decorative Concrete Competition Lauds Projects Based on Skill and Creativity

by Amy Johnson

In February, L. M. Scofield Co. held its eighth annual Decorative Concrete Awards ceremony at World of Concrete 2016. Scofield's contest is focused on honoring outstanding concrete work that uses Scofield Systems. Contractors, construction companies, architects and designers are eligible to submit, and projects are judged on skill

of installation, creativity, artistic expression and integration with the overall design intent.

Here are summaries of the projects of the Grand Prize winners in six categories, as well as the names of the runners-up.

## Stamped Concrete GRAND PRIZE WINNER Ozark Pattern Concrete, Lowell, Arkansas

Slate pavers are highly prized for hardscaping, but they come with a high price tag as well. With the real thing not suitable for the budget, a homeowner in Fayetteville, Arkansas, opted to go with concrete to create the most authentic-looking slate pool deck possible.

Ozark Pattern Concrete Inc. specializes in realistic, natural-looking architectural concrete and it was up for the challenge to create an authentic one-off look. The OPC crew started the 2,174-square-foot project with a classic random-slate stamped pattern. The concrete was colored with Scofield Lithochrome color hardener in Platinum Gray, using Deep Charcoal antiquing release.

OPC also poured and textured a curb to create a raised bed on the house side of the project. Then OPC highlighted individual stones



with different dyes. Varying the color creates the impression of natural stone in all its variety of color.

### First Runner-up

Pro-Line, Oregon, Ohio | *Tawil project*

### Second Runner-up

Architectural Concrete, Louisville, Kentucky. | *Fire Pit*



# Integral Color

## GRAND PRIZE WINNER

### PGAdesign, Oakland, California

The Guadalupe River Park and Gardens, “a three-mile ribbon of park land” that runs along the riverbank in the heart of downtown San Jose, California, has many distinct features, with the newest its Rotary PlayGarden.

The Guadalupe River Park Conservancy, which was created in the 1960s to beautify the city and, more importantly, protect it from flooding, has implemented master plans for land use compatible with that mission that include a series of parks, trails and gardens.

The Rotary Club of San Jose wanted to make the PlayGarden its centennial gift to the community, which asked the club for a play area that could give children of varying abilities a choice of activities including spinning, rotating, swinging, sliding and tactile play.

General contractor Hensel Phelps teamed up with landscape architect PGAdesign to build a unique place with equipment for climbing, spinning and bouncing, along with areas of sand, water and even a wheelchair-accessible carousel. The creative layout allows children with special needs to play alongside their siblings and friends.

To echo the river landscape, PGAdesign landscape architect Karen Krolewski specified concrete integrally colored with Scofield's Chromix admixtures for color-conditioned concrete and stained with Lithochrome color hardener. Scofield even developed a custom blue color, Rotary II, to complement the blue rubber under the play equipment.



Achieving consistent color under variable conditions proved a challenge, but in the end, the color was consistent — and brilliant — even with two different pours.

#### First Runner-up

Macedos Construction, Flemington, New Jersey  
*Port Liberty Cruise Lines*

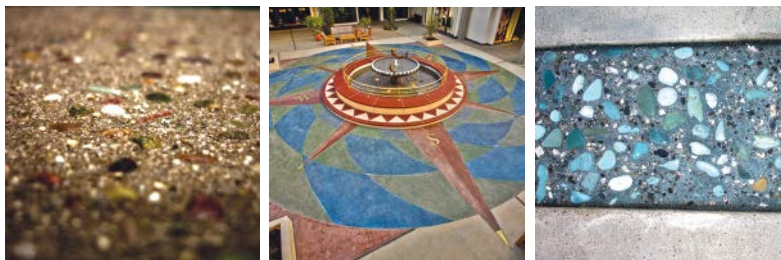
#### Second Runner-up

Storybook Gardens, Ilderton, Ontario, Canada  
*Frank Van Bussel & Sons*



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# Artistic Concrete

## GRAND PRIZE WINNER

**Capitol Decorative Concrete,  
Piedmont, South Carolina**

Why limit art to walls when floors make such wonderful canvases? The owners of Charleston Harbor Resort & Marina in South Carolina wanted a retail floor that was both unique and evocative of their place on the historic harbor, so they asked Victoria M. Simpson, concrete artist and owner of Capitol Decorative Concrete, to fashion one. She suggested recreating an old map of the harbor and they loved the idea.

"The project is truly the most creative project I have done to date," Simpson says. She started by dividing an 8 1/2-by-11-inch navigational map into a small grid, enlarging each square to 3-by-3 feet on the floor and drawing the pattern in pencil and marker. Then she scored each detail — islands, beaches, marshes, bridges and shipwrecks — with a diamond four-inch grinder blade to allow for a color break.

To create the appearance of water, Simpson carefully sprayed Copper Patina and Fern Green Scofield Lithochrome Chemstain in different strengths and allowed them to run together to create a marbled effect that looks like movement from shallow to deep. Antique Amber was used for sandy beaches and Dark Walnut and Padre Brown for the landmasses. Shipwrecks were marked in primary colors with acrylic paint and sealed.

"The owners fell in love with the floor and decided that the shipwrecks could be a game for kids shopping with their parents,"



Simpson says. "They are given a prize if they locate all the shipwrecks in the store. The search keeps them busy while their parents are shopping."

### First Runner-up

**Nu-Crete Surgeons, Pompano Beach, Florida  
Presidents**

### Second Runner-up

**Philadelphia Polished Concrete,  
Manahawkin, New Jersey  
*Organic Logo for Manavi Gourmet Market***

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# Stained Concrete

## GRAND PRIZE WINNER

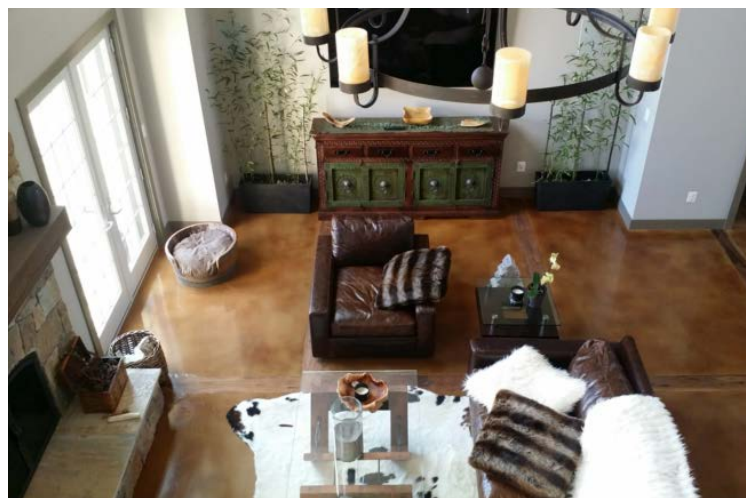
Hyde Concrete, Pasadena, Maryland

Animals and carpets have a problematic relationship, but how else could two veterinarians with lots of pets get the look of comfortable luxury in their new home? Try going with a stained cementitious overlay.

The architect wanted an earthy floor that complemented wood accents in the home, particularly the wood beams in the ceiling. A product vendor had seen other finished floors created by Hyde Concrete and recommended she bring them in. Together they came up with the idea of a colored concrete floor that included a wood inlay to mirror the ceiling beams. It took several samples to come up with the right combination of color, pattern and texture in the otherwise smooth self-leveling overlay.

Three-quarter-inch walnut inlays were placed and then Hyde Concrete got to work. First, it took extra care to protect the wood inlays. Then it primed the substrate and stapled in a metal lath.

The next step was to place a half-inch self-leveling underlayment. After prepping this surface, the crew placed a quarter-inch self-leveling cementitious overlay and strategically broadcast a dry shake color hardener to achieve a colored void in the surface for a final effect. After cleaning and prepping again, Hyde stained the floor with Scofield Lithochrome in Padre Brown and sealed it with a clear epoxy primer and a urethane topcoat.



Now animals and humans are at home on this stunning and durable floor.

### First Runner-up

Maverick Specialty Contracting, Seattle, Washington  
*Kids 'N Us Learning Academy*

### Second Runner-up

Turner Construction, Seattle, Washington  
*Amazon Block*

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# Heavy/Highway

## GRAND PRIZE WINNER

### Beta Group Inc., Lincoln, Rhode Island

From 18-wheelers to two-wheelers, the type of traffic has changed significantly since the Washington Bridge was constructed in 1930, replacing the original circa 1875 bridge. Once a city street connector that linked East Providence with the city of Providence, Rhode Island, and a former interstate highway carrier, the bridge still runs alongside one of the state's busiest freeways, Interstate 195.

But now a new bridge to the north carries the interstate travelers and the south side of the old Washington Bridge has been transformed into the beautiful George Redman Linear Park. Instead of semis, it's now crossed by walkers, strollers, runners and cyclists, including thousands of bike commuters. And stamped and textured concrete is a big part of its transformation.

Beta Group Inc. project manager Kelly Carr was tasked with keeping the park harmonious with the surrounding Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor preserving the region's Industrial Revolution mill history. Stone pavers were originally planned for the median and pedestrian way, but the weight, cost and constructability were prohibitive.

Instead Beta colored the concrete decking with Scofield's Lithochrome Color Hardener in Brick Red and Stone Gray. The crew textured different areas with Lithotex Pavecrafters concrete imprinting tools in traditional patterns of New Brick Basketweave, Limestone Double Rectangle Stacked and Used Brick Running Bond and applied Lithochrome Antiquing Release in Deep Charcoal.



The challenge came with the conditions under which the texturing had to be completed. The wind blows at a constant 5 to 15 miles per hour and direct sun hits the bridge surface 90 percent of the day. The team placed multiple 10-by-10-foot test panels in real life conditions so members could verify results and modify techniques until they got the desired results — a beautiful park with its own unique character.

#### First Runner-up

Ramsey Constructors Inc., Lakeville, New York  
*Ontario roadwork*

#### Second Runner-up

Streb Construction, Iowa City, Iowa | *I-80 wall*

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## Polished Concrete

### GRAND PRIZE WINNER

Missouri Terrazzo Co., St. Louis, Missouri

Movies inhabit the world of make-believe, where special effects can seem more real than true life. And that is a perfect description of the new polished concrete floor at the AMC Theater in St. Charles, Missouri. Although it really looks like terrazzo, it is in fact polished concrete, with the concrete mix and the choice of aggregates conceived and executed as carefully as any big-screen spectacle.

The owners wanted all the color and energy of terrazzo, as well as its look of quality and permanence, but the cost made it impractical for this application. That didn't stop them, though, from calling local experts Missouri Terrazzo Co. for help.

The project manager for the company's resinous and polished concrete division, Rick Chalcraft, had the solution: Install a specially formulated concrete floor, color it with the Scofield Formula One system of liquid dye, distribute marble chips to mimic terrazzo, and grind and polish to a high gloss.

Missouri Terrazzo oversaw every aspect of the floor, from designing the mix to choosing the aggregate. Vee-Jay Cement Contracting Co. out of St. Louis poured the floor with the colored aggregate and broadcast more chips before finishing it. Then Chalcraft's team dyed the concrete using three dye colors, Leather, Driftwood and Black, and finished by grinding and polishing the floor.

"A lot of care went into the final look," says Chalcraft. "This is the closest we've ever come to actual terrazzo." It's an illusion that would make any special effects artist proud.

### First Runner-up

Philadelphia Polished Concrete,  
Manahawkin, New Jersey  
*Manavi Gourmet Market*

### Second Runner-up

Premier Concrete Construction,  
Wilton, New Hampshire  
*Weare Residence*



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# ARTISAN IN CONCRETE



Photos courtesy of Stamped Artistry

## Robert Salinas, Stamped Artistry Houston, Texas

by Vanessa Salvia

**R**OBERT Salinas, 58, jokes that he has 50 years of concrete experience. That's not too far off from the truth, because as a youngster he recalls helping to place concrete for the pool company his uncle and father worked at in San Antonio, Texas.

"I've been pouring concrete since I was 8 years old," he says. "After school I'd go help. And in the summertime, I don't even remember summer vacation, because my summer vacation was always working with concrete."

His dream job was to be a fireman, but when that didn't work out for him because of some hearing loss, Salinas joined the pool company his father worked for after college. "In 1981, at 23 years old I decided I wanted to go out on my

own, so the family and I rented out our home and moved to Houston, Texas, and I started my own concrete contracting company," he says. "We did lots of exposed aggregate and Kool Deck for many of the local Houston pool companies."

In 1977 and 1978, Salinas began to encounter the earliest stamped concrete technology. Stamping has since become his specialty, and he uses SureCrete Design Products almost exclusively. His company, Stamped Artistry, won a SureCrete's Best Stamped Concrete award in 2015 for 7,000 square feet in front of a house with an 80-foot-wide circular driveway with a water feature in the middle of it.

"A cream-colored outer band is 6-feet wide," he says. "The terracotta area near the house is the Old Granite stamp from









Proline scored in 3-by-3-foot squares and the inner pattern is Yorkstone in multiple colors using color hardeners and powder releases. It turned out absolutely beautiful.”

Salinas’ talented crew, led by his supervisor and brother, Roland, offers multiple applications including staining, epoxy flake systems, metallics, microtoppings, overlays and concrete countertops. “Pretty much the whole realm of decorative applications,” he says.

“I have a fantastic crew that is versatile in their talents and can pretty much tackle anything. Three of my top guys have been with us 30+ years.”

### School of hard knocks grad

From the earliest days of the decorative industry, with minimal tech support if any, Salinas learned techniques and tools through trial and error. “Tech support was almost nonexistent, so we were our own tech support,” he says.

“I always wanted to stay one step ahead of the other guys so I’d research different applications and products even before the Internet or Google was available.”

One of his earliest circa 1977 “stamping” jobs was for his employer, the owner of the pool company. They put no color in the concrete, laid down 4 mil poly and then

hit the metal stamps with sledgehammers because they didn’t have tampers.

“What happens when you press that stamp with the poly is it pushes it down and rounds the corners so it gave you a cobblestone effect,” Salinas explains. “Once we pulled the plastic off we went, ‘Wow! Look at that!’ It was fascinating. I’ve always been open to learning new things, always researching.”

In the 1980s, Salinas’ business did a lot of jobs with interlocking pavers, millions of square feet, he says. Gradually, decorative concrete and stamping became increasingly popular and overtook that. They still offer





interlocking paving jobs but they are few and far between.

### Continuing education proponent

Through constant education, Salinas and his team became experienced in all facets of decorative concrete. "If someone was having a seminar I was there," he recalls. "In decorative concrete, because the technology is improving and changing constantly, continuing education is a must."

Last fall, Salinas was part of the first-place "Brawl in the Fall" team, led by Keefe Duhon of Concrete Revolution in Louisiana, when the competition was held

in Indianapolis during the Concrete Decor Show. The team created a swamp scene utilizing an epoxy floor colored to look like water and accented with hand-carved concrete trees and partially submerged logs.

"Keefe called out for helpers on Facebook, and I always wanted to do something like that," Salinas says. "That was one of the coolest things I've ever done."

Salinas has stayed in the business for so long because of the sheer artistic pleasure and challenges. "There is so much satisfaction in taking a job from selling the job to rolling on that first coat of sealer and watching all the colors pop," he says.

"No matter what kind of job it is, complex or simple, we created something that is one of a kind. Money doesn't drive me, but the satisfaction of designing and creating does, to having a happy customer. I can't draw a stick figure to save my life but I think I'm pretty creative. We are concrete artists and concrete is our medium!" 📱

🌐 [www.stampedartistry.com](http://www.stampedartistry.com)

See more photos from this feature online at [ConcreteDecor.net](http://ConcreteDecor.net)



# OSU Further Polishes its Image with Expansion Project

## Ohio State University Campus Building Additions Columbus, Ohio

by Vanessa Salvia

**O**HIO State University experienced a growth spurt this past summer with campus-wide new construction and renovations that continued well into 2016. As part of the university's largest design-build project to date, ICC Safety Surfaces was brought in to stain and polish more than 20,000 square feet of concrete flooring.

Chris Duger, owner of Columbus, Ohio's ICC Safety Surfaces, specializes in flooring. "We do a lot of food and beverage manufacturing facilities," he says. "That's probably 50 percent of our work," with the other half comprising polished, decorative and stained concrete.

ICC Safety Surfaces was brought onboard because other companies were unwilling to get involved in the "paper trail-oriented" process of working with a university. "It can be a big headache," Duger says. "We actually walked away from some of the bigger flooring jobs because of it and they came back to us and told us they really wanted us to bid. There are not a lot of contractors



Photos courtesy of ICC Safety Surfaces

### Project at a Glance

**Client:** Ohio State University

**Contractor:** ICC Safety Surfaces, Columbus, Ohio

**www.iccsafetysurfaces.com**

**Scope of project:** Polishing and staining more than 20,000 square feet of concrete floors in two new campus buildings

**Products used:** Prosoco's Consolideck LSGuard, PolishGuard and GemTone stains in Antique Cork, Bronze, Dark Brown and Red Rock; Ameripolish Classic Dye in black; Metzger/McGuire's Rapid Refloor and Spal-Pro RS 88

**Most challenging aspect:** Fixing floor dings from other trades meant matching the color of the Rapid Refloor to the colors that were spec'd for the floor design, which involved several half-circles and semi-circular designs over a large swatch of floor. Hand polishing three stairwells of about 75 steps per stairwell was time consuming.

around here who can do the type of work we're doing."

### Sometimes bigger is better

The company has the expertise and all the large-scale equipment necessary to polish and stain large areas. This work took place in two buildings noted on the plans as Building H, with 4,000 square feet of polished concrete coated with Prosoco's LS and Polish Guard, and Building J, with 16,000 square feet and a multicolored floor. The two structures are part of OSU's North Residential District building projects, which aim to improve and expand living environments and facilities throughout campus. Infrastructure work on the buildings began in 2014 and continued throughout the 2015 academic year.

Duger's work began in March 2015 and was completed in July.

The second building that was completed, Building J, contains a dining hall and office spaces. The dining hall was spec'd to have a large swath of the floor covered in half-circular designs stained with four different colors of Prosoco water-based GemTone in Antique Cork, Bronze, Dark Brown and Red Rock.

Building J also has three stairwells with about 75 steps each that all had to be polished with hand-held grinders. "That was time-consuming," Duger says, "but that's the only way we could do it."

### Overcoming challenges

There were other challenges, including damage to the floor from other trades





working on it, but the most challenging was laying out the design. "Everything's based off of a radius," Duger explains, "and if we would have laid out the design when the building was originally built it would have been easier. When you've got all the construction materials and equipment and everything in the way you can't really find a radius point and pull from that one single point throughout to get your design."

The crew took PVC pipe and bent it to get their radiuses. They also had to tape off every color and cover it with plastic before spraying the GemTone stain and densifying before moving on to the next color.

The floors were polished using 40-, 80- and 150-grit metals, then 50-, 100-, 200-, 400-, 800- and 1500-grit resins. The joints separating each color were filled with black Spal-Pro RS 88 semi-rigid polyurea joint filler from Metzger/McGuire that was shaved down with a razor scraper before grinding up to 400 grit. The floor was stained with Ameripolish Classic Dye in black before it was densified with Prosoco's Consolideck LSGuard and polished up to

1,500. "Then we used Prosoco's Consolideck PolishGuard and burnished it," he says.

The Ameripolish solvent-based stain was chosen to get a more true black as opposed to a bluish-black that the designers wanted. "If you know anything about Ohio State . . . they don't put blue anywhere," laughs Duger.

The specialized crew cut all the transition colors with an Engrave-A-Crete Mongoose concrete engraving saw. They used Metzger/McGuire's Rapid Refloor polyurea/polyurethane hybrid filler to repair small surface defects. Because of the four different colors in the decorative radiuses, whenever a pipe dropped and left a ding, the Rapid Refloor filler had to be prepared in a matching color.

"One big challenge has been getting the floor space to work on without anybody else on it, and there's damage that happens," Duger says. "You have to use these different colors of Rapid Refloor to match the multitude of stains because you have to go through and do that filling process first. I've got a specific crew of guys that are highly skilled and talented and the job came out beautiful."

Duger, a painter by trade, graduated from OSU with an economics degree before forming Industrial Coatings Corp. in 1996. He and his wife formed ICC Safety Surfaces and have been producing stained and epoxy floors since 2004. He's seen the market change substantially since then, and says the industry is moving toward dyeing floors with stains and polishing them which, he adds, is keeping his "great group of guys busy."



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# Floor Features a Shining Example of Walk-on Art

## Girdwood Elementary School, Girdwood, Alaska

by Vanessa Salvia

**A**FLOOR at an Alaskan elementary school honored the natural environment and became art that kids can walk on, thanks to Mapei's Ultratop PC polishable concrete topping.

Girdwood, Alaska, 36 miles southeast of Anchorage, is a picturesque year-around resort town with a five-star skiing mountain, Alyeska, in its backyard. In 2015, Girdwood Elementary School was renovated to expand and modernize the original school built in 1982. To meet a state mandate that 1 percent of the school's renovation budget be earmarked for public artwork, the school commissioned three artists, including Anchorage artist Sheila Wyne.

### Capturing the outside inside

Wyne incorporated the beauty of Alaska's natural environment by adding color and texture to the floor through scenes depicting the interplay of sunlight and the topography of the sand flats of Turnagain Arm, a branch of Cook Inlet which progressively narrows and is prone to extreme tidal changes.

#### Project at a Glance

**Client:** Girdwood Elementary School, Girdwood, Alaska

**Decorative concrete contractor:** Performa Inc.

**Project manager:** Greg Hutchins, Performa Inc.

**www.performa-inc.com**

**Scope of project:** 7,000 square feet of flooring in a newly expanded elementary school. Artwork was commissioned by three artists to evoke the natural environment of Girdwood through replicating tidal flats and animal tracks throughout the floor.

**Artists:** Sheila Wyne; Shala Dobson and Jim Dault

**www.dobsonanddault.com**

**Products used:** Planibond EBA, Ultratop PC, Mapecem Quickpatch and Planibond AE, all by Mapei; acetone-carried stain in five colors by Ameripolish

**Most challenging aspect:** More than 700 pieces of water jet-cut aluminum needed to be epoxied into place before the final Planibond could be placed. The aluminum grinding created a black film that had to be properly cleaned off. Eleven subcontractors shared the space.

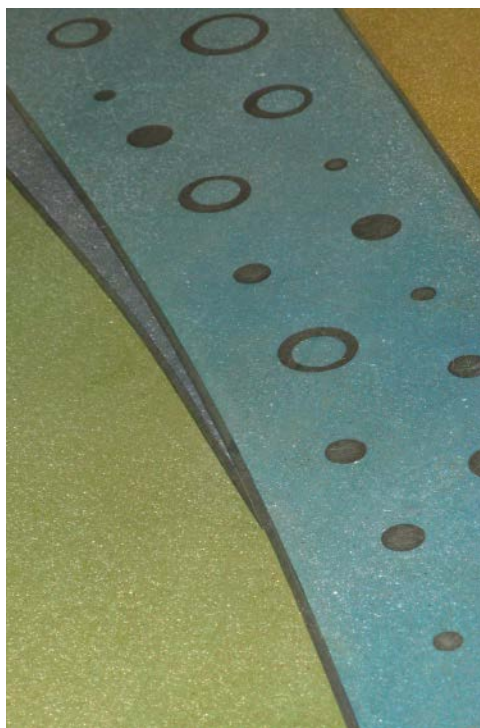


Photo courtesy of Sheila Wyne

Artists Jim Dault and Shala Dobson of Meadow Lakes, Alaska, also created moose, ptarmigan (medium-sized gamebirds in the grouse family) and snowshoe tracks using inlaid aluminum for the hallways of the school.

Greg Hutchins with Anchorage-based Performa Inc. managed the 7,000-square-foot project. He says his team put in about 80 hours of testing and mockups before settling on Ultratop. "We've used Mapei products before and Ultratop seemed to be the best for polishing," he says. Even though it's a little harder to grind, "It's a little bit easier to pour and its consistency eliminates a lot of air."

Hutchins says with some products, grinding down to 3/8 inch and working quickly sometimes uncovers encapsulated air. However, Ultratop didn't expose encapsulated air, which eliminated the need to grout and fill.



Photo courtesy of Greg Hutchins

### 'Ebb and Flow'

Wyne's installation, "Ebb and Flow," evokes the beauty of Turnagain Flats, where strong tides leave multicolor striations of sand, transparent bubbles and ever-changing reflections of sunlight on the rippled contour of the beach. Wyne calls the flats "one of nature's floors that appears with subtle changes twice a day."

In her artist statement, she writes, "There are moments within the tidal changes when the water recedes but there is still a shimmer and a texture — like glass marbles — on the surface of the flats."

Wyne used several different colors and more than 700 randomly shaped pieces of aluminum to create the reflections, texture and color gradations she wanted. Using high-pressure water jets, she cut pieces of 1/4-inch aluminum sheet stock to resemble bubbles, and used 1/2-inch aluminum strips anchored with an epoxy gel in curved patterns to replicate striations in the sand





flats. She, Dault and Dobson then hand-placed and epoxy-anchored the snowshoe prints, animal tracks and “bubble” circles to the slab.

Hutchins says he was amazed at how well Wyne projected her vision onto the floor,

admitting he initially had his doubts. “I questioned it at first,” he says, when he saw the waves beginning to take shape. “I asked her if she was sure she wanted these colors and these embeds because once we get this stuff stained there’s no going back!

“When I walked in and actually saw it all cleaned up and the light was just right I said, ‘Wow, I can visualize that out in the inlet.’ In just the right light you would see that reflection across the bay. She did a phenomenal job.”


For Hutchins, one challenge was working around 11 subs on a floor that took up so much space. It required skill to polish both concrete and aluminum — vastly different in hardness — and to blend stain and dyes to achieve the artist’s required color nuances.

### Finessing the finish

Grinding the aluminum and concrete topping presented a challenge because the aluminum grinding created a black film over the surface of the Ultratop. “We had to clean the black film off completely the right way or else it would ruin the whole look of the project,” he recalls.

Wyne had to install more than 700 pieces of the aluminum embeds before the top layer of concrete was poured. The team chose acetone-based colors in turquoise, forest green, gold, dark green and blue by Ameripolish. The stains were applied, scrubbed and cleaned, then the process was repeated a second time. After the stains were dry, Ameripolish 3D, a lithium densifier, was applied to lock in the color.

The team used Mapei Planibond EBA, a 100 percent solid epoxy primer with 16-grit silica broadcast into it. Hutchins says the primer provided a highly profiled surface for the Ultratop PC to bond to. Mapecem Quickpatch was used to fill some dips to maintain an ultra-flat surface.

The final steps involved diamond polishing followed by a coat of Ameripolish 3D SP sealer. A second coat of sealer was applied and the floor was burnished by a large buffer to create the final shine that topped off a remarkable Alaskan showcase project. 

See more photos from this feature online at [ConcreteDecor.net](http://ConcreteDecor.net)

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Photos by Omnis Luque

# White Pavilion Complements Mexican Mansion-Turned-Museum

## Quinta Montes Molina Pavilion, Merida, Yucatan, Mexico

by Vanessa Salvia

**A** DECORATIVE concrete pavilion sits proudly on the grounds of a popular tourist destination in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico. The pavilion frames three sides of a paved courtyard at La Quinta Montes Molina — a historic early-20th century

mansion in Merida that now serves as a museum and venue for social events in the garden. Prior to the pavilion's construction, temporary tents were used to protect guests from the elements. The tents became a safety hazard, and also required maintenance and storage.

The museum sought a permanent structure for its entertaining, one that was both suited to different size events and



visually connected to the home. The new pavilion is nearly 13,000 square feet (1,200 square meters) and is made of 36 slim concrete columns that form a C-shaped promenade supporting a 6-inch, knife-edged canopy. The columns' shape was designed to be as slim as possible, with a base equal to 5 percent of their height. The project was completed in summer 2014.

### Project at a Glance

**Client:** La Quinta Montes Molina in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico — a historic early 20th century house that is now a museum

**Design:** Materia Arquitectónica

[www.materia-arquitectonica.com.mx](http://www.materia-arquitectonica.com.mx)

**Challenges:** The museum needed a contemporary, permanent, hurricane-proof structure for social events that also tied in visually with the home.

**Scope of project:** The team designed a nearly 13,000-square-foot (1,200-square-meter) pavilion made of 36 slim precast concrete columns that form a C-shape promenade supporting a 6-inch, knife-edged canopy.







“This allows for the spaces to feel as open as possible while maintaining a rhythm that embraces the place,” says Gustavo Carmona, principal architect at Materia Arquitectonica, the firm that designed the structure. “The thorough study and analysis of the project made evident the need to design a structure that not only solved the functional problem at hand but also generated an intimate connection with a historic house while framing the sky and green areas around it.”

Because of the historic nature of the museum, the project had to be approved by Mexico’s National Institute of Anthropology and History. “The proposed architecture had to be respectful of the existing house and its language, although contemporary,” explains Carmona. “The structure also had a very limited budget and had to be erected in a three-month time frame. This led to a construction type that could be manufactured off-site and then mounted. The pavilion also had to be hurricane-proof.”

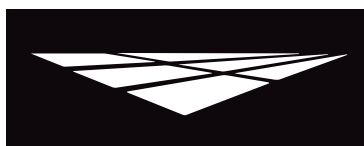
Carmona says that the columns express their fabrication method in their joinery and seams — as a result, the mold used to form them becomes part of the design. A secondary steel structure above the roof allows the calibration of the canopy and ties together all of the column heads to provide a hurricane-safe structure. The steel grid also serves as a track for a retractable roof that may be closed during periods of rain.

“The upper steel ring is both technical and architectural,” Carmano says. “It solves the connection to the concrete roof panels and the steel frame above while also providing a ‘floating’ effect as the concrete of the top panels never touches the concrete of the columns. This enables the pavilion to have a lighter feel.”



The columns were created using white cement and local stone and aggregate. The light color not only ties in with the character of the city, but it allows shadows of the surrounding trees to play across the surface of the structure.

In October 2015, Quinta Montes Molina was awarded first place in the culture category of the 2015 Biennial of Architecture of Mexico City.



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# TOP TOOLS

## FOR THE TOOLBOX

**CONTRACTORS ACROSS THE COUNTRY  
SHARE INSIGHTS ON WHAT  
HELPS THEM SUCCEED**

Photo courtesy of Colorado Hardscapes



by Karen Keyes

As decorative contractors, we all have our favorite tools in our trusty toolbox. I asked contractors around the country what their “go-to tool” was and I’ve compiled the answers that topped the list. Some are traditional tools, while others are not.

While surveying my peers, I discovered that contractors approach projects differently and require a great variety of tools to get the job done. Perhaps this is why our industry is so innovative and unique.

## PLACEMENT TOOLS

If concrete is not placed properly, the margin for decorative success decreases rapidly from the get-go.

For Lance Boyer of Trademark Concrete in Anaheim, California, the top placement tool is “a roller tamp for top-cast finishes, as it depresses the aggregate enough to yield a consistent sand texture.”

For field operations, Mike Riggs of Progressive Hardscapes in Phoenix, Arizona, swears by the Bunyan Striker, a hydraulic roller screed, while John Parker, a finisher and foreman for Progressive, votes for the magnesium bull float.

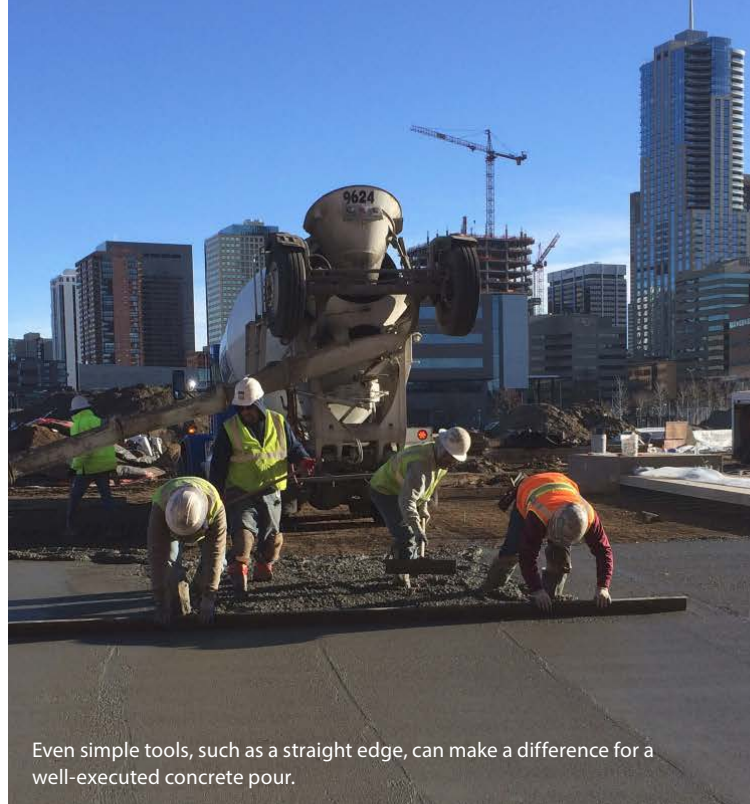
## FINISHING TOOLS

The types of tools needed for finishing, where the magic takes shape, are as varied as decorative concrete itself.

“A margin/pointing trowel,” says Ryan Lakebrink of Lakebrink’s Custom Concrete in Washington, Missouri, has so many uses like, “working the concrete in tight areas, opening cans of stain and cleanly removing diamonds from a grinder.”

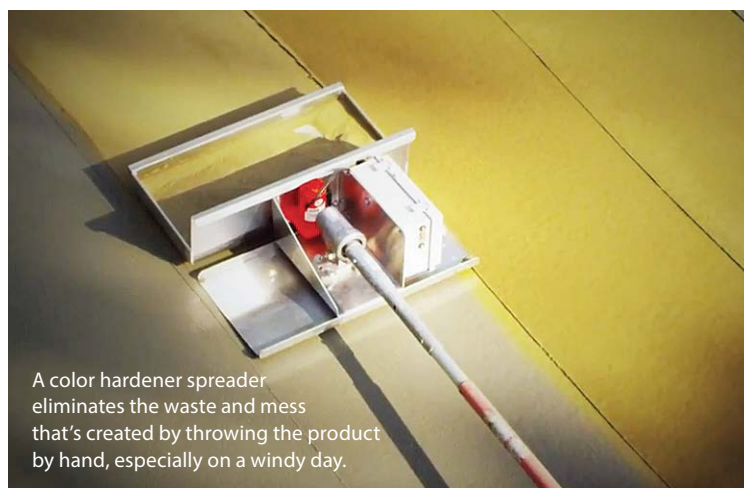
John Fletcher of Carolina Bomanite in Charlotte, North Carolina, prefers imprinting tools, in particular L. M. Scofield’s Used Brick-Basketweave. “We install this as a warning strip at QuikTrip stores.”

Ira Goldberg of Beyond Concrete in Keyport, New Jersey, likes a color hardener spreader. His company doesn’t own one, although he used one at a workshop and appreciated it. “It created an almost carpet-like, even application of color hardener. This tool eliminated the waste and mess that’s created especially on a windy day. It also offers uniformity that’s virtually impossible to duplicate when broadcasting color hardener by hand.”



Even simple tools, such as a straight edge, can make a difference for a well-executed concrete pour.

Photo courtesy of Colorado Hardscapes



A color hardener spreader eliminates the waste and mess that’s created by throwing the product by hand, especially on a windy day.

Photo courtesy of Triple Hard Tools



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## DETAIL TOOLS

The details in decorative concrete define the craftsmanship and quality. Different types of decorative concrete contractors will use different detailing tools, everything from edge grinders and saws to paint brushes.

"A tool that immediately comes to mind is the Cobra made by Engrave-A-Crete," says Dan Kroesen of Musselman & Hall Contractors LLC in Kansas City, Missouri. "It's indispensable when it comes to making intricate cuts, especially when making radius cuts. We use it to prep control joints for joint filler on polished concrete floors."

Picking a favorite detail tool was tough for Rick Lobdell of Concrete Mystique in Nashville, Tennessee, who doesn't rely on conventional tools. "What's important to me is soap stone, a tape measure, a white chalk line (because red is permanent), a square and an angle grinder. I rarely use anything else," he says, except for a DeWalt angle grinder. "I've tried multiple types and I think it is the correct size, build and speed."

## CLEARLY COMMUNICATED PLANS

Without question, a good set of drawings and specifications helps a project go smoothly. Ted Martin, carpenter foreman of Progressive Hardscapes, says, "An accurate set of plans with the correct grades and slopes" is the most important tool on the job site. But it takes more than a good set of prints — it takes clear communication of scope between the bid and the construction.

Progressive's Riggs says the top tools in his office are "my two large computer monitor screens and on-screen takeoff (software)."

We use a similar system at Colorado Hardscapes, and these tools clearly help identify the scope for both client and crew before any construction. When plans have all the pertinent information needed to bid and build a project, the contractor can focus on the quality and the finishes the decorative concrete requires.

## PHONE

Electronic devices probably wouldn't have made the list 10 or 15 years ago. Technology and connectivity have come a long way to help the construction industry.

First, phones help you connect to other industry experts, as Todd Scharich of the American Society of Concrete Contractors points out. "The most important tool to decorative contractors today is their phone. The contractor's phone gives access to videos,



Photo courtesy of Engrave-A-Crete

instructions, peers and industry support (DCC Hotline)," he says. "Trial and error will always exist, but educated contractors will use the technology they have in their hand to reduce the errors and open their mind to new methods and means of creating decorative concrete masterpieces."

Smartphone technology takes the value of phones to a whole new level, says Lakebrink. "We use them for constant communication and to share photos (which are) essential in decorative concrete. The availability and quality of the smartphone cameras are amazing. The ability to access product data from manufacturers online on the job is invaluable."

## SAMPLES

At Colorado Hardscapes, we strongly believe in samples. In fact, we have dedicated a whole room to display our samples and have a full-time employee working on them daily. Most of our projects

are a direct result of a sample or a meeting in our Design Center discussing finishes and samples. Keep some samples in your truck at all times, so you can show them off with no effort.

So without question, "The most valuable tool is our design center and all the samples," says John Buteyn of Colorado Hardscapes. "I know of no better way to present options to a client and to establish expectations than through samples and mock-ups. This ensures the owners, architects and general contractors, as well as our own crews, know exactly what's expected."

## SKILLED EMPLOYEES

No, I'm not calling employees tools. That's just rude. But without skilled craftsmen, any tool in your toolbox would be worthless. So, I end this list with some great quotes on the importance of skilled employees.

Boyer says, "A tool in the hands of an experienced craftsman is the best tool."

"Once the work starts in the field, there are numerous tools needed, but even more important than the actual tools are the craftsmen using them," says Buteyn. "Experience, expertise and commitment to excellence . . . those things make the difference between a mediocre project and a remarkably good project."

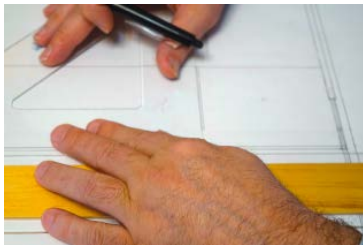
And lastly, according to Byron Klemaske II of T.B. Penick and Sons: "Smart people that possess expertise, art and skill — find them and invest in them. They will surely make all your tools extraordinary!"

For without great people, all the tools in the world won't make a difference. 📱

*Karen Keyes wears many hats at Denver-based Colorado Hardscapes Inc., including business development, marketing, sales, estimating and project management, with an emphasis on specialty rock construction. She can be reached at karen@coloradohardscapes.com.*



Photo courtesy of Carolina Bomanite







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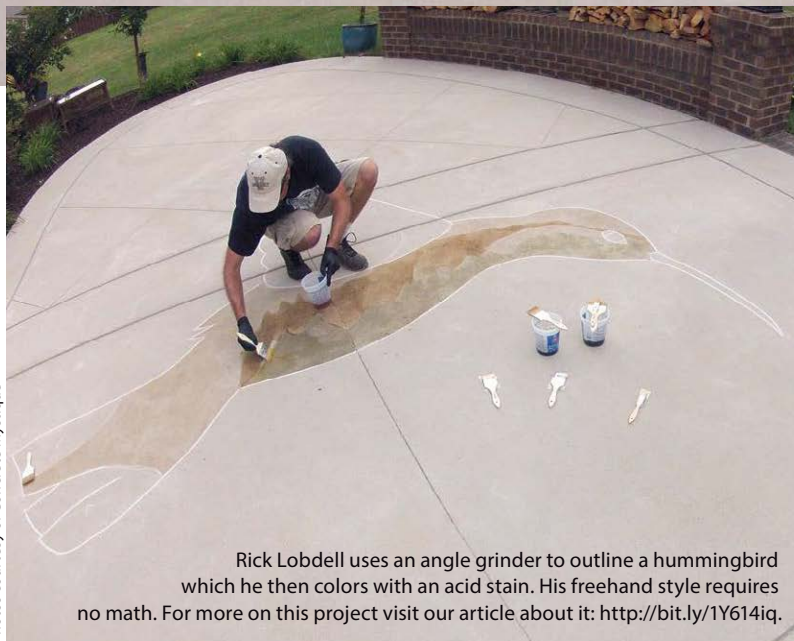
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# SAW SKILL

Artists cut their way  
to creativity



Rick Lobdell uses an angle grinder to outline a hummingbird which he then colors with an acid stain. His freehand style requires no math. For more on this project visit our article about it: <http://bit.ly/1Y614iq>.

by Joe Maty

**C**ARY Grant — the Las Vegas decorative-concrete impresario, not the Hollywood movie icon — has crafted dramatic masterpieces through his company, Floor Seasons, that could be considered Oscar-worthy, if there was a decorative concrete category.

Likewise, Rick Lobdell, owner of Concrete Mystique in Nashville, has produced his share of award-winning art. He's an artist, first and foremost, with a master's in art to prove it. "I'm a concrete artist, not a decorative concrete contractor," says Lobdell.

Though Grant and Lobdell are about as geographically far apart as they can get, both share a common pursuit and an integral skill set — decorative concrete artistry and deft use of concrete saws as an important tool in the creation of their signature works of art.





Photos courtesy of Floor Seasons

For this complex project, Grant used custom-made vinyl stencils as a guide to saw cut this "taco man" image into the floor.

## A saw in the hands

Lobdell, a classically trained artist, studied art the old-school way: he learned how to paint with a brush, palette and canvas. Since the starving-artist lifestyle wasn't his calling, he began a career in the construction industry which incorporated his artistic talents. Some 12 years ago, he went to work for Concrete Mystique and acquired the business three years later.

"I hand draw everything I work on. I don't think stencils are necessary for what I do as an artist," he says, about plotting and cutting joint lines — or as he calls them, engraved lines.

Lobdell describes a collaboration with illustrator John Campbell on an interior residential entryway featuring an elegant stained floor with a fountain/pool image at the center. Campbell's contribution was the realism and detail reflected in this central feature.

The first day, Lobdell drew lattice tile and two wrought iron-like vines using chalk-like soapstone. Then he engraved lines to separate the art elements and the background using an angle saw, a must-have in his toolbox, and a specialty cutting tool, the Cobra from Engrave-A-Crete. The latter was used for straight lines.

After painting the lattice and vine design, he returned the next day to regrind with the angle saw and apply a clear sealer. "When I do interiors, I do serious coatings to protect them," Lobdell says. "It's artwork and I want it to be around a long time."

Next up is a residential patio featuring a vine and leaf pattern. Lobdell sketched the design on site, drew it on the surface and engraved the lines, all in one day. For color variation, he used different concentrations of a black acid stain and applied it with artists' brushes. When he was done staining, he neutralized and power-washed the surface. The next day, he recut all the joint lines. But no grout for him.

"I like the white lines," he says, and regularly uses a wider blade, 3/8 inch thick. This produces the highly visible, light-colored lines in his decorative work.

He also likes math. "Basic algebra and geometry, nothing crazy, are extremely important on many of my projects," Lobdell says. "It's very rare when I don't use math," especially considering his essential tools are a straight edge, tape measure and a square. "I use math to create layout and designs in my compositions. It's what makes my process so efficient."

On his free-form projects, usually involving vine and leaf patterns, math doesn't play as large a role. "It's more about understanding how



The image of a dragon was created with the help of a tattoo artist in Las Vegas who penciled in the lines for Grant to cut.

to lay out a space. Everything becomes asymmetrical which makes math harder or less important. In this case I no longer need the Cobra to cut straight lines because there are none. Instead I am doing everything with my DeWalt angle grinder with the wider blade. I just follow my lines as close as possible," he says.

"When I am using my angle grinder, I feel a sense of freedom as if I am carving my design more than just engraving it."

## LESSONS LEARNED

Cary Grant passes along some sage advice from his journal of trial and errors:

- If possible, make cuts before walls are in place. This makes the job along the edges more manageable.
- Limit periods of cutting to 15 to 20 minutes, and switch blades or take a break. This kind of cutting produces "a lot of heat, and wear and tear on the saw." Don't rush.
- Practice is essential. When he started out in the decorative trade, he practiced making circles, horse's heads, letters and other images on surfaces that were later covered with carpeting or other flooring materials.
- Sell the client on the color and design features of the project, but avoid using colored joints as they have to be hand-painted and sealed. Instead, use grout in any color. If a client insists on hand-colored joints, charge accordingly. Typically, a steep premium will nip this idea in the bud.
- Ensure all saw-cut lines touch so there's no interruption in the joint line.
- Don't apply sealer outside the saw-cut joint lines or the stain applied later won't penetrate properly. The sealer must be first ground off.
- Metal templates can be reused many times, while vinyl ones are used once.
- Don't include cut circular patterns smaller than a soda can in diameter. Tools that can cut smaller circles are difficult to use and not always precise.
- Remember, you can't erase a saw-cut line to fix it.





Rick Lobdell draws, saw cuts and stains the design on this patio in Brentwood, Tennessee. The design was based on a pattern found on an area rug elsewhere in the home.

Photos courtesy of Concrete Mystique



Lobdell notes on these free-form projects, it's important to have a strong lower back, a good base to stand balanced, and an intent focus on cutting the surface. "Sometimes surfaces are really soft and I have to lightly touch it. Other times, the concrete is incredibly hard and I have to push fairly hard into the concrete to create my line." The most important thing is to follow your drawing.

Projects that revolve around cutting curves with his angle grinder are quicker to complete, Lobdell says. "Straight lines with lots of math and the Cobra slow me down because it takes a lot more concentration to break down a complex design" before engraving, he says. "Starting and stopping lines takes a lot of focus."

Above all, take your time and practice honing your saw-cutting skills. "You have to be careful and calculating. Starting out, I took my time, since you only get one shot at it. Of course you make mistakes. When I train others, I don't expect them to be as fast as me."

Lobdell started out a dozen years ago doing basic design patterns, then graduated to more complex images and designs. "As I got more confident, the designs got more complicated."

## Road to mastery

Showing examples from his extensive portfolio spanning some 20 years, Grant reviews the saw-cut methods employed to create precisely plotted joints separating color and image elements in several projects.

One is a lobby/waiting room of a high-end auto-detailing shop, where a concrete floor was colored with an acid stain and a solvent-based dye. For the curvilinear joints separating acid-stained from dyed areas, Grant used thin-gauge PVC pipe bent into arcs. This pipe was then used to trace lines in the floor.

"There's no way to do a 40-foot arc without plotting it out" to get the geometry right, he says. He used a DeWalt angle saw and masonry blade to cut the joints.

This technique for plotting and cutting the curvilinear joints is a low-cost alternative to using an advanced saw that Grant didn't own years ago, when this project was installed. Today a concrete engraving saw such as Engrave-A-Crete's Mongoose, which he concedes is "pricey" for a contractor starting out, is well worth the investment.

Another project was a foyer in a learning center where Floor Seasons created a detailed pattern of "swirly" filigree set into a dark acid-stained floor. Again, PVC pipe formed the large, sweeping arcs. For the "leaves" and more intricate swirling branches, he traced the joint lines of custom-made metal templates onto the surface, followed by an angle saw. The art elements were grouted and painstakingly sealed with a small chip brush.

A third Floor Seasons project involved the skills of a tattoo artist who helped create an intricate dragon figure. The artist first drew chalk lines, followed by pencil for the final design (chalk would blow away during cutting). For such detailed work — slowly and methodically cutting numerous pencil lines — Grant used a 4-inch DeWalt blade.

Grant's last example involves a highly stylized, multicolor Chicano character for a Mexican restaurant. For this complex



Photo courtesy of Floor Seasons

Grant uses thin-gauge PVC pipe to trace curves onto a floor before cutting them into the surface with an angle saw.

project, custom-made vinyl stencils made from a customer-supplied PDF file were the only real option.

Grant laid out vinyl-patterned sheets with black lines to separate colors, and cut the joint lines through the lines in the vinyl with an angle saw. The design was hand-painted with a small chip brush, sealed, grouted and sealed again. The grout cleans up the art, he says, covering spots in the joint line where some color may have "rolled in." The results are clean lines with no ragged edges.

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# Don't Be Afraid of the Water!

## Water-based acrylic sealers have great advantages

by Steve VandeWater

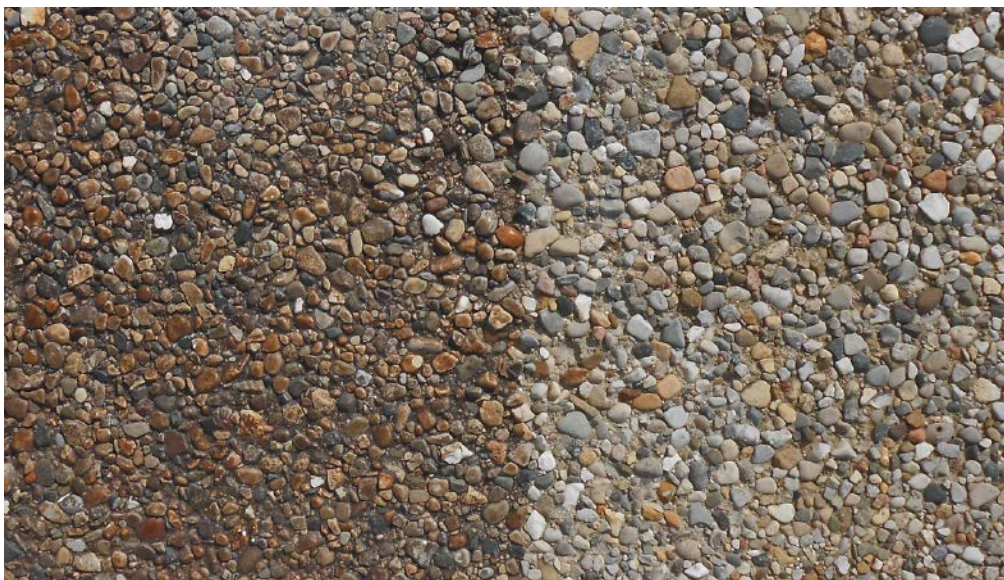
**I**n the 30-odd years I've been in the concrete industry, first as a contractor and now as a retailer, I've heard time and again that water-based acrylic sealers can't compare to solvent-based acrylics. I don't know who came up with this idea or how it became so universally accepted. Maybe it was true "back in the day," however, based upon my own observations and experimentation, I no longer subscribe to that train of thought. In fact, I believe using water-based acrylics can be beneficial in many cases.

### The turning point

My pessimistic attitude toward water-based sealers began to change about five years ago. I had recently quit contracting and had taken a new job selling decorative concrete supplies. While sampling sealers from a number of manufacturers, I tested both solvent-based acrylics and water-based acrylics on stamped and colored concrete.

One day I stripped the sealer off a very small 1-by-1-foot section so I could test some acid stain. In the past, if I needed to strip a small bit of acrylic sealer, I simply used xylol and a rag. That was my plan this time, too.

I applied the xylol to some water-based



After four years of weathering, here is a side-by-side comparison of an area with a water-based brown acrylic sealer on the left and what little, if any, solvent-based brown acrylic sealer is left on the right.

Photos courtesy of Steve VandeWater

acrylic sealer and, to my surprise, nothing happened. I applied more, and really let it puddle and sit for a while. I wiped off the still-wet xylol with a rag and the sealer remained unaffected. I applied more xylol and vigorously scrubbed the area with a stiff brush and a terry cloth. After about 10 to 15 minutes of constant work, I had only stripped an area about the size of a quarter dollar. I quickly concluded that if water-based sealer was tough enough to withstand that kind of abuse, it would do equally well in normal weather.

### New regulations, new carriers

Not long after this experience, I got word that Indiana was adopting new regulations regarding solvent-based sealers. Due to changes in VOC laws, xylol would no longer be a component. Instead, acetone and its derivatives would be the new carriers. Unlike xylol, these solvents are notorious for drying extremely quickly. Many dry much too quickly to be used effectively. With that in mind, I knew my customers would have to learn a whole new way of doing things. I began to experiment with VOC-compliant sealers to see what was in store for my contractors.

I found rolling these fast-drying sealers was problematic, especially in hot weather. Often, the sealer would dry so quickly that it would begin to "cobweb" from the roller. Fine strands of sealer would float around in the air like wisps of cotton candy.

Even when the application appeared to go well, there were often well-defined roller marks after the sealer dried. These were apparently caused by a double coat of sealer between roller passes. The solvent would flash off so quickly that the sealer could not melt into itself as it was being rolled. Streaking was even more prevalent when using brown-tinted sealer on exposed aggregate surfaces.

In addition to the streaking issue, bubbles would often times form in the sealer. These could either be large bubbles, about an inch in diameter, or thousands of tiny closely spaced bubbles which gave the impression that the sealer had blushed (whitened). There were also times when tiny bubbles were invisible, but became very noticeable when they crackled loudly underfoot. Sometimes, there appeared to be no problems at all, but three weeks later bubbles would form! Clearly, there had to be a solution.



Seen here is a water-based acrylic sealer with a satin finish on textured concrete.



## A side-by-side test

About that time, I asked a sealer manufacturer to formulate a dark brown-tinted water-based sealer for me to test. I poured a small sample of exposed pea gravel concrete. On one half of the sample, I applied brown-tinted solvent-based acrylic sealer. On the other half, I applied the brown-tinted water-based acrylic sealer. Initially, both sides looked good. They were both nice and shiny, but I preferred the darker pigment that had been added to the special water-based sealer.

I set this sample outside my store, directly under a downspout. Each time it rains, water beats down upon it. In the past four years, the solvent-based sealer has been completely weathered away. On the other hand, the water-based sealer still appears nearly the same as it did when applied. It has lost a bit of gloss, but the rich color and slight sheen are still intact.

## Pros and cons

Based on my observations, I have begun advocating the use of water-based acrylic sealers over solvent-based ones for all types of concrete. Benefits of water-based sealers include:

- They don't release harmful vapors into the atmosphere.
- They are far safer for the worker to apply, especially indoors.
- They are easier and cheaper to apply because they can be sprayed on with a cheap plastic garden sprayer and don't flash dry during warm weather.
- They eliminate or reduce most sealer problems including bubbling and roller marks.
- They are often more durable.
- They are available in high-gloss or matte finishes.
- They don't darken the surface nearly as much as solvent-based sealers, so the surface looks much more natural. To some, that's an advantage when installing decorative concrete.
- Water-based acrylic cure-and-seals work just as well as solvent-based ones for curing plain concrete — again without darkening the surface.

In fairness, water-based sealers do have some drawbacks. They include:

- Water-based sealers are very difficult to remove if a problem should occur.
- They don't work well when applied at temperatures below 50 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Water-based sealers will freeze and become unusable much more easily than solvent-based acrylics.
- They do not provide the darkening effect that some customers prefer, especially on decorative concrete.
- When exposed to long periods of wet weather, they may rewet and appear milky. Typically, though, when the surface dries, the sealer once again becomes clear.

Taking all things into consideration, it may make your life easier if you try water-based sealer on your next project. Your employees, as well as the rest of the planet, will benefit as well. 📱

*Steve VandeWater, a former decorative concrete contractor, is the creator of the Indiana Decorative Concrete Network website [www.indecorativeconcrete.com](http://www.indecorativeconcrete.com). He currently manages The Concrete Store at Sagamore Ready Mix in Fishers, Indiana.*

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# Go Green

Sustainable product offerings are growing



Workers apply Prosoco's Consolideck surface hardener. The company was among the first coating producers to have emissions testing and third-party certifications done on its concrete products.

Photos courtesy of Prosoco

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End of Life Options: Salvageable/Reusable (100%)

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This Declare label discloses the ingredients in Prosoco's Consolideck surface hardener and indicates its compliance with standards established by the International Living Future Institute.

by Gail Elber

**D**ECORATIVE concrete often appeals to designers and building owners who want to minimize their impact on the environment, because polished, stamped or textured surfaces eliminate the need for coverings that perpetually need replacement.

Acquainting yourself with what constitutes a green product and developing an arsenal of them can help you communicate with environmentally minded customers and, consequently, court their business.

### What's a green product?

LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, is the U.S.'s best-known standard. Buildings accumulate LEED points based on how their design, construction, maintenance and operation avoid carbon

emissions, pollution and energy consumption. Learn more about LEED points in Chris Sullivan's article, "Chalk up Green Points with Decorative Concrete," on page 56 in this issue.

Products don't get LEED ratings, but using certain products earns LEED points for a building by meeting sustainability goals. Manufacturers pay a fee to submit their products for certification as sustainable. To learn more about certifying organizations, visit [www.inhabitat.com](http://www.inhabitat.com) and search for "green building labels 101."

Prosoco, which makes cleaners, sealers and consolidators for concrete and masonry, has several third-party certifications, says Kevin Sigourney, product manager for Prosoco's floor-finishing Consolideck line.

"We were among the first coating producers to have emissions testing and third-party





Kool Deck from Mortex keeps a surface cooler with an innovative built-in shading characteristic.

certifications done on our concrete floor offerings,” he says. “We’ve finished or refinished over 700 million square feet of concrete with products certified as Indoor Advantage Gold and conformant with all green building standards.”

The Indoor Advantage Gold standard, administered by SCS Global Services, identifies products that meet LEED v4 EQ credit criteria. When a product is certified, it will contribute to LEED points, Sigourney says.

A noncertified product can still be sustainable. Ned Matteson of Endurable Concrete Products says products that are biodegradable or nontoxic are becoming the norm.

“Our company has gone away from anything that isn’t considered a green-type product,” he says. “Chemistry has changed, and it isn’t necessary to be using toxic solvents any more to make high-performance products.”

Most of Endurable’s products are qualified to earn LEED points. Its Endurable Concrete Sealer has a two-part water-based polyurethane chemistry that Matteson says far outlasts solvent-based acrylic sealers.



Endurable Concrete’s two-part water-based polyurethane sealer will far outlast its solvent-based acrylic rivals.



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## Good for the environment

For every chemical-laden product you use, there's probably a version that's friendlier to the environment.

Franmar, for instance, has environmentally friendly form releases compatible with wood, steel, urethane and silicone, and latex that won't harm the planet like petroleum-based products. The company's Blue Bear cleaning products are also easy on the environment. They are all made from soybeans and natural elements. And they have another benefit, says marketing coordinator Scott Sarver.

"There's a lot of nasty chemicals where you have to deal with a lot of personal protective equipment," he says, and worry about what the exposure is doing to you and your workers. "You don't have to worry about that with our products."

What's good for the environment is generally good for your employees, too. "One of our favorite products has been soy gel-based for the removal of sealers," says John Fletcher of Carolina Bomanite. "We are big proponents of the use of water-based sealers around pools and bodies of water where runoff or contamination may be a concern. It's also easier for our employees to use."

NewLook, too, has several products with sustainability value. Its Slik Zero, with zero VOCs, is an example of a biodegradable form release which reacts with the lime in the concrete to form a layer of water-insoluble soaps between the form and the concrete.

NewLook also makes Eco Acid, a noncorrosive, nonfuming alternative to acid cleaners used to prepare concrete for staining. Another NewLook product, Faux Fusion, is a nonacid-based stain engineered to be colorfast outdoors, says NewLook's marketing director, Beau Young. Nonacid stains, he notes, don't need to be neutralized, eliminating the neutralizer disposal problem.

NewLook's Endura Cool Stain contains reflective pigments that reduce the temperature of concrete surfaces by reflecting sunlight. Reducing the amount of sunlight that concrete absorbs helps reduce the "urban heat island" effect of concrete surfaces, a desirable sustainability goal.

Another way to reduce the temperature of concrete is to texture it in such a way that bumps on the surface shade it from the sun. Mortex pioneered this in 1962 with its Kool Deck topping, a fully



Photo courtesy of NewLook

NewLook's Faux Fusion, which required no safety gear during application, was used to restore a fountain at the Zermatt Resort in Utah.

cementitious decking material, and other textured toppings claiming the same benefit. (See "Cool Concrete," *Concrete Decor*, July 2011, for more about how to cool surfaces.)

## Seeming green versus being green

Sigourney of Prosoco says the green market abounds in misinformation. "A lot of companies have been greenwashing, taking liberties," he says, explaining that some companies will say, 'It's water-based, so it's green.' "Well, it might be water-based, but it contains phosphates. There are a lot of water-based products that wouldn't necessarily meet a green standard. It might contain a chemical that has a negative impact on the environment. You can't just rely on a company putting a green leaf on a product."

Yet another misconception is that a product formulated for sustainability value won't work as well as an old-school product. Franmar's Sarver will put his company's soy-based coating removers up against any formulation. Its 600 GL paint and urethane stripper has been around for 30 years. "Soy is a fantastic migrator through all these coatings," he says. "It has no bioaccumulability, so there is no environmental hazard."

## To sell green, be green

Customers interested in sustainable construction tend to be associated with institutions, technology corporations or high-end homes. Some decorative concrete contractors specialize in marketing their services to these prospective customers.

Kevin Barnett, a principal of Clean Cut Concrete in San Jose, California, is one of them. "I've been a builder all my life, and when I got my first professional construction management job in 2006 I was blown away by how much waste was going off of every construction site," he recalls. On one memorable occasion, he had just finished a commercial remodel when the tenant decided its company had outgrown the space. The tenant subleased the space to new tenants, who subsequently demolished the brand-new interior because it wasn't to their liking.

"There were dumpsters full of brand-new carpet being hauled to the dump," Barnett said. "There had to be a better way."

Barnett started studying sustainable construction and got his LEED Accredited Professional certification in 2009. After meeting concrete polishing guru Bill Brown out of San Francisco in 2011,

## How green can it get?

Concrete may already be green, but even greener developments are on the horizon. Several European research groups are working on bioreceptive concrete, designed to foster the growth of plants. From the inside to the outside, it has a waterproofing layer to protect the structural concrete, a porous layer that supports plant growth and retains rainwater, and a discontinuous coating that lets the rainwater in but retards its evaporation.

The porous layer incorporates magnesium phosphate cement, a product used for concrete repairs that's slightly acidic and more plant-friendly than portland cement. The material can be formed into concrete panels with dimpled textures suitable for seeding with mosses. Instead of spraying concrete with harsh chemicals to get rid of moss, building owners may soon be bragging about the growth on their truly green buildings.



he focused on polished concrete flooring, because it doesn't off-gas chemicals the way many petroleum-based floor coverings do, which helps maintain indoor air quality.

"We select the products that are most environmentally friendly and deliver the best performance," Barnett says. Clean Cut Concrete mechanically finishes floors to a high polish and uses penetrating guards as opposed to topical sealers, which require periodic stripping with harsh chemicals and replacement.

Clean Cut Concrete also practices a no-waste philosophy in its day-to-day business. Barnett says that's a good idea for any contractor who wants to serve the green market. "I hope when people see our office staff drives hybrids, and our crews bring reusable water bottles to the site every day, and our office is lined with reclaimed wood, they see that we're doing everything we can to reduce waste," he says. "I hope they see we actually care and we're not just checking a box."

If you want to market your services to architects and building owners who are interested in sustainable construction, getting a LEED credential is a good start, Barnett says. The USGBC offers a LEED Green Associate certification that attests to general knowledge of sustainable construction, then LEED Accredited Professional certifications in various areas.

Bomanite's Fletcher finds sustainability may sometimes be a tough sell. "Our Grasscrete product defines the term and has been around for many years, but municipalities and cities still fail to fully understand the practical use of the product for sustainable construction," he says.

Still, Fletcher brings green alternatives to his customers' attention.



Photo courtesy of Carolina Bomanite

Carolina Bomanite Corp. installed Grasscrete at Airpark Residential Community to reduce flow of water from the "wing zone" paved area.

"For projects that might have more public exposure, we may provide 'greener' alternatives to our clients with the understanding that there may be a variant in price."

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# Chalk up Green Points with Decorative Concrete

by Chris Sullivan

**W**HETHER you realize it or not, the decorative concrete industry is firmly involved in the green building movement. Manufacturers are developing more water-based stains, sealers and color systems. Installers are offering low-VOC options to clients. Architects, designers and homeowners are better educated and are demanding green alternatives on their projects.

Certain municipalities are setting stricter controls on construction waste and/or the types of chemicals that can be used on projects. I have even heard of specific cases where release powder has been banned from projects because of the dust it creates. No matter your view on the subject, I think we can all agree that being better stewards of the land and air is important for all of us, as well as future generations.

The sustainability leader in the construction industry is the U.S. Green Building Council. While the USGBC has many facets, it's best known for its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, program. The LEED rating system sets guidelines for all types of construction projects. What most people don't realize is that USGBC is not a government agency, and building according to the LEED green building rating system is 100 percent voluntary.

No financial incentives are given out for LEED-accredited project. In many cases LEED projects are more expensive to build but the savings in energy and maintenance over the life of a LEED-accredited project often offset the initial higher upfront cost.

It is widely recognized that concrete is a sustainable building material and contributes toward achieving certification for most types of construction projects under the LEED rating system. But what is less recognized is how decorative concrete fits into the picture.

## How does the LEED program work?

Before we can discuss how decorative concrete contributes toward LEED



Photo courtesy of Lonestar Decorative Concrete, Watauga Texas

A dyed and polished concrete floor is an easy way decorative concrete can contribute LEED credits. The credit requirements specifically suggest low-VOC "concrete stain and sealer finish systems" or "polished concrete."

certification, we need to understand what LEED is and how the program works. Here's how USGBC summarizes the program:

"LEED is an internationally recognized green building certification system, providing third-party verification that a building or community was designed and built using strategies aimed at improving performance across all the metrics that matter most: energy savings, water efficiency, CO2 emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts."

This program was developed to provide constructors and operators a detailed roadmap for implementing real-world green building design as well as construction and operations solutions. LEED is flexible, and works throughout the life cycle of both commercial and residential buildings. It can be used for new construction as well as the retrofit of existing buildings.

Each program is based on five key credit

categories, which differ depending on the type of project:

- Sustainable sites
- Water efficiency
- Energy and atmosphere
- Materials and resources
- Indoor environmental quality

Each key category comprises specific and measurable tasks for earning LEED credits. There are 100 possible points, with 40 points needed to qualify for the minimum LEED certification.

Certified	40 – 49 points
Silver	50 – 59 points
Gold	60 – 79 points
Platinum	80 points and above

The LEED certification process, and how decorative concrete plays a part, can be complex. This article is designed to provide an overview, and is in no way a complete guide to using decorative concrete to achieve LEED certification.



## Obtaining LEED certification: Direct impact

There are three major categories where decorative concrete has a direct impact on obtaining LEED certification, with each worth one LEED point. For full guidelines, see USGBC's LEED 2016 for New Construction and Major Renovations Rating System.

### Sustainable Sites — Exterior

#### Credit 7.1: Heat Island Effect — Nonroof

A key goal of LEED is to minimize the impact of construction on surrounding exterior environments, communities and ecosystems. Heat and light are two of the biggest environmental pollutants when buildings are constructed. "Heat islands" are thermal gradient differences between developed and undeveloped areas. Under the Sustainable Sites section of LEED, Credit 7.1 addresses heat islands to minimize impacts on the environment through a combination of shade (manmade or trees), pervious surfaces, or reflective hardscape surfaces (driveways, parking areas, courtyards, sidewalks and other landscape surfaces) for at least 50 percent of the project's hardscape surfaces. The materials used must have a solar reflective index (SRI) of 29 or greater.

Using light-colored concrete, achieved with integral color, color hardener, toppings or stains, helps meet the SRI of 29 or greater. The color can be used on standard concrete, stamped concrete or pervious concrete to meet the requirement. These practices are effective on both new and retrofit construction projects.

### Indoor Environmental Quality — Interior

#### Credit 4.1: Low-Emitting Materials — Adhesives and Sealants

This credit's intent is to reduce irritating or harmful indoor air contaminants by reducing the VOCs (volatile organic compounds) of adhesives and sealants used in construction. To qualify for this credit, the sealant must not exceed 250 g/l of VOC.

Most interior decorative concrete is sealed to protect and enhance it. Using architectural sealers and coatings is a great way to bring out the beauty of concrete and these decorative sealers can be clear or colored, opaque or translucent. Today, most decorative concrete sealer manufacturers offer both solvent- and water-based LEED-compliant products.

### Indoor Environmental Quality — Interior

#### Credit 4.3: Low-Emitting Materials — Flooring Systems

This credit also reduces indoor air contaminants but it focuses on complete flooring systems like carpet, vinyl composition tile and concrete stains versus a single adhesive or sealant (as in Credit 4.1). The three major flooring systems that qualify for this credit are carpet with new-generation adhesives, low-emitting hard flooring surfaces (including vinyl, linoleum,

laminate, wood, ceramic and rubber) and concrete stain, sealer and polished systems that meet low-VOC requirements.

Of all the LEED credits, this one is the most impactful for decorative concrete flooring systems. In fact, the credit requirements name low-VOC emitting "concrete stain and sealer finish systems" or "polished concrete" as options. Decorative concrete has a real advantage in helping achieve this LEED credit in that the concrete substrate is the final working floor without any additional hard surface material being applied.



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## Obtaining LEED certification: Indirect impact

There are seven categories where using concrete with decorative finishes or admixtures has an indirect impact on obtaining LEED certification, with each worth one LEED point. For full guidelines, see USGBC's LEED 2016 for New Construction and Major Renovations Rating System.

These seven categories are:

- Credit 6.1: Storm Water Design – quality control

- Credit 1.1: Building Reuse – maintain 75 percent of existing walls, floors and roof
- Credit 1.2: Building Reuse – maintain 95 percent of existing walls, floors and roof
- Credit 4.1: Recycled Content – 10 percent (post-consumer and pre-consumer)
- Credit 4.2: Recycled Content – 20 percent (post-consumer and pre-consumer)
- Credit 5.1: Regional Materials – 10 percent extracted, processed and manufactured locally
- Credit 5.2: Regional Materials – 20 percent extracted, processed and manufactured locally

In many of these categories, decorative finishes such as cement-based toppings or qualifying stains and sealers are used to enhance or beautify existing parts of a structure such as walls or floors. Decorative concrete can also indirectly earn points when fly ash or recycled aggregates are in the mix design, or the concrete or decorative additive is manufactured locally, contributing to the overall amount of regional material being used on the project.

I hope this article gives you a good idea of how the LEED green building rating

system works and how decorative concrete impacts and helps contribute toward LEED certification. For those who use the LEED program or work regularly on LEED projects, USGBC offers various levels of accreditation depending on your area of interest. As the green movement grows, so will the demand for decorative concrete products, systems and processes that meet these requirements.

For more information about the LEED program and how to achieve certification, visit [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org).

*Chris Sullivan is vice president of sales and marketing with ChemSystems Inc. He has led seminars and product demonstrations throughout North America. Chris was inducted into the Decorative Concrete Hall of Fame at the 2015 Concrete Decor Show. Reach him at [questions@concretedecor.net](mailto:questions@concretedecor.net).*

*Editor's note: Parts of this report first appeared in an article written by Chris Sullivan for Concrete Network. It can be found at <http://bit.ly/1SPstBp>.*

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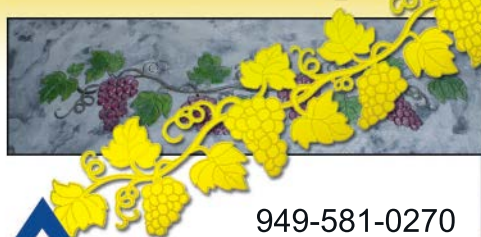
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# Whiskey Kitchen

by Vanessa Salvia

**W**HEN you live in Tennessee and you've got clients with a bare kitchen who also like to entertain and enjoy their adult beverages, a Jack Daniels theme seemed like a natural fit. When Dusty Baker of Stone-Crete suggested this to his clients who live near the distillery, "their eyes lit up," he says. In addition to the concrete countertop, backsplash and island, Baker also built the tables and cabinetry over about a year's time. The job was completed in late 2015.

Baker's been working with concrete about

10 years, originally doing marble and tile work, and now teaches his "Dusty Crete" method through Brandon Gore's Concrete Design School. He uses Buddy Rhodes products to create the rustic, imperfect finish that complements the furniture Baker makes using reclaimed wood.

"It's not like a spray-up finish with a flawless look," he says. "Basically, I'm creating imperfections and then there's a series of finishes I do that highlights the imperfections and that gives it the look."



Baker had to do some "sweet talking" at the distillery to get the two Jack Daniels barrels that anchor the 14-by-3-foot horseshoe-shaped island with two 6-foot wings. The color comes from a series of applications using Buddy Rhodes' Leather and Black glazes applied to a base that's half white and half gray.

Baker tooled the edging, leaving it looking distressed. A concrete backsplash is installed on a radius inlaid with a tree that the clients have adopted as their family crest. Baker also created an oversized farm sink that's big enough to hold 5-gallon buckets.

[www.stonecreteartistry.com](http://www.stonecreteartistry.com)

Photos courtesy of Stone-Crete Artistry



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


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