

Awards showcase trends in concrete

Industry association awards honor Oregon projects for creative and skillful use of concrete

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More, bigger, showier and greener. Oregon architects, engineers and builders have stepped up the use of concrete in construction over the past year to incorporate new building codes, technologies and tastes. And two industry trade associations on Friday night honored their creativity and skill with its annual Excellence in Concrete Awards.

The Oregon Concrete & Aggregate Producers Association and the Oregon Chapter of the American Concrete Institute named first, second and third place winners in 13 categories. Eighty companies in a variety of trades received awards for work completed over the last year.

Projects were judged on criteria that included creativity, aesthetics, sustainability, complexity and efficiency.

Jafco Concrete's Design Center came away with one of the evening's most celebrated awards in the Craftsmanship category. The center takes a multitude of different decorative concrete projects and finishes and brings them together into one 1,200-square-foot showroom.

"In our decorative concrete industry there's such a wide gap in expectations and what products can deliver," Joe Fettig, president of Jafco Concrete, said. "If you can run your hand across it and walk across it and see what it's like under use, (customers) get a real life expectation of what these products are rather than a Photoshop picture."

Central to the Design Center is a bar made of vertical stamped concrete done in



Courtesy of OCAPA

Ross Bros. & Company, Inc.'s work on the Depot Street Bridge replacement project for Jackson County in Rogue River captured first place in the commercial category.

bamboo. The top is designed to look like a Caribbean beach, which incorporates broken glass to create reflections into the blue and green concrete.

"Some of the decorative stuff is getting really elaborate," Jim Lang, a chairman of the award committee and owner of LaRusso Concrete, said. "The Jafco Design Center is amazing, with all the different colors and finishes."

In the mixed-use category, the River Renaissance Condominiums in Corvallis took the cake for the sheer volume of concrete in the project. General contractor Andersen Construction poured 1,400 yards of concrete, resulting in a 3-foot-thick foundation for the seven-story building with an underground parking structure.

"If you're ever in Corvallis and there's a bomb threat, go stand in the elevator core" of the River Renaissance, said Joel Andersen, project manager for Andersen

Construction. "I guarantee you'll make it."

The reinforcing steel in the foundation was also a technical challenge. It "may as well have been steel plates," Andersen said.

The Market of Choice grocery store in Eugene, which features multi-colored concrete and terrazzo walkways and aisles, captured first place in the commercial category. The durability and longevity of finished concrete have led designers to use it in new and different ways in commercial applications, Scot Prialux, sales and operations manager for Eugene Sand and Gravel, a supplier on the project, said.

"One of the biggest things is (stores) spent a lot of money replacing the tiled floors," Prialux said. "With a concrete-finished floor, as long as they keep the cleaning up to date, (it lasts longer). Plus you can make it any color or design that you want. It's a one-of-a-kind thing."

28th Annual Excellence in Concrete Project award winners:

The 28th Annual Excellence in Concrete Award Program presented by the Oregon Concrete & Aggregate Producers Association and the Oregon Chapter of the American Concrete Institute, recognizes the following companies for their exemplary use of concrete in building design, construction, and landscaping by architects, engineers, general contractors, and concrete producers. The awards were given at the Excellence in Concrete award banquet, held on April 11, 2008 at the Portland Hilton.

Bridges: Depot Street Bridge Replacement, Rogue River

David Evans and Associates, Inc., civil/structural engineer and architectural firm; Jackson County, owner/developer; Knife River Corporation, Ready-mix supplier; Ross Bros. & Company, Inc., general contractor, concrete contractor and concrete finishing company.

Commercial: Market of Choice, Eugene

Brown Contracting, Inc., concrete contractor and concrete finishing company; Eugene Sand & Gravel, Ready-mix supplier; Market of Choice, owner/developer; Steve Stearns Construction, general contractor.

Craftsmanship: Jaf-Co Concrete Design Center, Newberg

JAF-Co Concrete, Inc., owner/developer and concrete finishing company; Quality Concrete, Ready-mix supplier.

ICF Commercial: Mill Quarter, Bend

Ang Engineering, structural engineer; GGL Architecture, LLC, architectural firm; Hooker Creek Companies, LLC, Ready-mix supplier; Howard S. Wright Construction Company, general contractor; Mill Quarter Properties, owner/developer; Stephen Perrault Construction, ICF concrete contractor.

Mixed Use: Riverfront Renaissance Condominiums, Corvallis

CH2M Hill, architectural firm, civil/structural engineer; Corvallis Riverfront, LLC, owner/developer; Knife River Corporation, Ready-mix supplier; Marion Construction, concrete contractor.

Parking: Centennial Parking Plaza, Bend

Cary Kopczyński & Company, civil/structural engineer; City of Bend, owner/developer; Hooker Creek Companies, LLC, Ready-mix supplier; Marion Construction Company, concrete contractor; R&H Construction, general contractor; Salem Concrete Paving, concrete finishing company; Yost Grube Hall, architectural firm.

Paving: Albany Regional Multimodal Center, Albany

Brown Contracting, Inc., concrete contractor; City of Albany, owner/developer; David Evans and Associates, Inc., structural engineer; James W. Fowler Co., general contractor; Knife River Corporation, Ready-mix supplier; Zimmer, Gunsul, Frasca Architects, LLP, architectural firm.

Pervious: Pringle Creek Community, Salem

LM Construction, concrete contractor; North Santiam Paving Company, general contractor; Opsis Architecture, architectural firm; Pringle Creek Community, owner/developer; Quality Concrete, Ready-mix supplier.

Public Facility: Pacific University Health Campus, Hillsboro

KPFF Consulting Engineers, structural engineer; Lease Crutcher Lewis, general contractor; Knife River Corporation, Ready-mix supplier; Pacific University, owner/developer; SRG Partnership, Inc., architectural firm; Whitaker/Ellis, concrete contractor and concrete finishing company.

Residential, Single: Kurilo/Haagenson Residence, Troutdale

DECA Architecture, Inc., architectural firm; Gerbovitz Construction, concrete contractor and concrete finishing company; Michael E. Elia, P.E., structural engineer; Mo Haagenson, owner; Phil Haagenson, general contractor; Troutdale Sand & Gravel Company, Ready-mix supplier.

Residential, Multi: John Ross Condominiums, Portland

Block 35 Investors, LLC, owner/developer; GBD Architects, architectural firm; TVA Architects, Inc., architectural firm; Hoffman Structures, Inc., concrete contractor, concrete finishing company; Hoffman Construction Company, general contractor; KPFF Consulting Engineers, civil/structural engineer; CEMEX USA, Ready-mix supplier.

Tilt-Up: Evergreen Large Format Theater, McMinnville

Baker Rock Resources, Ready-mix supplier; Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum, owner/developer; S.I. Grace, LLC, general contractor; Scott/Edwards Architecture, LLP, architectural firm; WDY, Inc., structural engineer; Whitaker/Ellis, concrete contractor.

Utility: Fern Hill Reservoir #2, Hillsboro

CH2M Hill, structural engineer and architectural firm; DYK Incorporated, specialty contractors; Joint Water Commission, owner/developer; Knife River Corporation, Ready-mix supplier; Ward-Henshaw Construction Co. Inc., general contractor, concrete contractor.