

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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IOWA READY MIXED CONCRETE ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES 2023 EXCELLENCE IN CONCRETE AWARDS

AMES, IOWA - The 30th Annual Excellence in Concrete Awards were announced on November 9, 2023, at a ceremony in Ames, Iowa. The Iowa Ready Mixed Concrete Association (IRMCA) and American Concrete Institute (ACI) Iowa Chapter hosted the awards luncheon during the Iowa Better Concrete Conference.

The Excellence in Concrete Awards recognize outstanding projects from throughout the state. Entries were judged on the following criteria: architectural design, engineering and construction challenges, complexity of project, uniqueness of project, workmanship, finished impression, and diverse application of ready mixed concrete.

The 2023 Excellence in Concrete Award winners are listed below by category.

AGRICULTURAL CATEGORY

VIAFIELD NORTHWOOD FERTILIZER STORAGE BUILDING

Ready Mixed Concrete Producer: Croell, Inc., Northwood

Owner: Viafield, Northwood

General Contractor/Designer: Stueve Construction LLC, Algona

Concrete Subcontractor: Genuine Builders, Inc., Arlington, SD

Taking good care of its customers in a timely manner pushed the Northwood facility to drastically increase its fertilizer storage capacity. The rapidly increasing cost of the various fertilizer components virtually requires a building to keep all the material under roof and the mixing equipment out of the elements. Several bins in a variety of sizes allow for rapid collection and mixing of ingredients for the farmer's desired blend. This building hosts a variety of bin sizes each enclosed by concrete walls topped by wooden enclosures. Varied concrete wall heights from 4 to 8 feet, multiple openings for doors and equipment entrances, enclosed loadouts and sunken wash areas makes for a facility that needs a versatile contractor. The 2,300 cubic yards of concrete were all poured in just 10 days. The concrete crew worked quickly and efficiently making the job easier for all involved. This facility is a solid asset to both Viafield and the agricultural community in which it resides!

ABOVE-GRADE STRUCTURES CATEGORY

CONTINENTAL CEMENT CO. DomeSilo, BUFFALO

Ready Mixed Concrete Producer: Hahn Ready Mix, Davenport & Manatt's, Inc., Davenport

Owner: Continental Cement Company, Buffalo

Designer, Engineer, GC: Dome Technology, Idaho Falls, ID

Concrete Subcontractor: Treiber Construction Co., Davenport

Continental Cement teamed up with Dome Technology to create the largest cement storage dome facility in North America at its Buffalo, Iowa location. Standing 171 feet 6 inches tall and 165 ft in diameter, this facility has a storage capacity of 125,000 tons. Cement from both Hahn Ready Mix and Manatt's, Inc. was used to supply the nearly 8,600 CY of concrete in this project. Seven different mix designs, many of them being ternary with 35% replacement, were used in the foundation, ring wall and tunnel. Once the infrastructure was completed, an inflatable dome was erected to support the structure during construction. Long days of spraying shotcrete and setting rebar provided steady work for the concrete professionals. The additional storage of this facility will improve Continental Cement's ability to serve its customers. It represents a commitment to sustained operations and investment in the state of Iowa.

LOW-RISE BUILDINGS CATEGORY

VESTERHEIM COMMONS, DECORAH

Ready Mixed Concrete Producer: Croell, Inc., Decorah

Owner: Vesterheim, Decorah

General Contractor: McGough, St. Paul, MN

Concrete Subcontractor: Wicks Construction, Inc., Decorah

Architect/Designer: Snøhetta, New York, NY

Engineer: Meyer Borgman Johnson, Minneapolis, MN

This 7,600 SF, 3 story building nestled in downtown Decorah is a Norwegian inspired cultural gathering space created to inspire community engagement, experiences, and involvement. Snøhetta, a New York firm with roots in Oslo, Norway, was engaged to develop the master plan for the campus. Marked on the street by a soaring wooden canopy, it is a dynamic new entry point for this cultural campus, connecting the Vesterheim Norwegian-American museum with the education center. The walls on the main floor consist of ceiling height poured walls with large floor to ceiling window openings. These exposed concrete walls utilized liners made to look like the corrugated tin walls found in metal buildings over 50 years ago. Placing the concrete walls in the confined space of Decorah's existing downtown took amazing workmanship and attention to detail. The addition of polished concrete floors adds an additional touch to this uniquely designed and constructed building!

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL DECORATIVE CATEGORY

VESTERHEIM COMMONS, DECORAH

Ready Mixed Concrete Producer: Croell, Inc., Decorah

Owner: Vesterheim, Decorah

General Contractor: McGough, St. Paul, MN

Concrete Subcontractor: Wicks Construction, Inc., Decorah

Architect/Designer: Snøhetta, New York, NY

Engineer: Meyer Borgman Johnson, Minneapolis, MN

From floor to ceiling, Vesterheim Commons emanates thoughtful detail in every aspect of its construction. The building utilized mass timber framing attributable to Norway's use of renewable timber. Architects used that massive framing to enhance views of the natural landscape and surrounding scenery with large windows facing north towards the park and south towards Decorah's main street. The exposed concrete walls, made to look like corrugated tin, give a unique aesthetic

feel to the building. The main floor is concrete, polished and sealed, further brightening the area and enhancing the extensive use of wood finish work in the ceiling and oculus to the 2nd floor. On the exterior, exposed aggregate concrete accentuates the entrance to the building. Workmanship and attention to detail add to the beauty of this project that allows Vesterheim to draw in visitors from not only Iowa, but around the country!

PARKING AREAS/DRIVES (>1,000 CY) CATEGORY

MIDAMERICAN ENERGY CENTRAL CAMPUS, DAVENPORT

Ready Mixed Concrete Producer: Hahn Ready Mix, Davenport

Owner: MidAmerican Energy Company, Davenport

General Contractor: Russell Construction, Davenport

Concrete Subcontractor: Treiber Construction, Co., Davenport

Architect/Designer: INVISION Architecture, Des Moines

Engineer: Bishop Engineering, Urbandale

MidAmerican Energy recently built a new base of operations on a 40-acre site in Davenport. The engineer utilized concrete in the design plan in part due to the non-ideal existing site conditions. Furthermore, the owner preferred the durability and lifespan of concrete in lieu of asphalt.

A two-year project, the MidAmerican Central Campus was poured in a variety of site conditions. From battling mud and rain in the spring, to heat and high evaporation rates in the summer, to freezing conditions in December, this project required collaboration and attention to detail to ensure a quality driving surface. Almost all paving was finished with a laser screed. Qualified ACI finishers collaborated with quality control personnel to ensure proper slump, air, and set times to provide MidAmerican with a durable and beautiful parking area. Sure to last them many years into the future!

INFRASTRUCTURE - RECREATIONAL CATEGORY

RIVERSIDE SKATEPARK RELOCATION, CEDAR RAPIDS

Ready Mixed Concrete Producer: King's Material, Inc., Cedar Rapids

Owner: City of Cedar Rapids

General Contractor: Pirc-Tobin Construction, Inc., Alburnett

Concrete Subcontractor: Spohn Ranch, Inc., Los Angeles, CA

Engineer: HR Green, Inc., Cedar Rapids

The Riverside Skatepark is one of Iowa's premier skateparks, both in terms of scale and innovative approach. Recently relocated and redesigned, it draws in thousands of riders from across the state who are experiencing firsthand the superiority of concrete in comparison to the previous skatepark's metal ramps. Concrete's flexibility as a construction material allowed the skatepark design to integrate seamlessly with the site's sloping topography. Working with the slope, rather than against it, was both the "green" and economical approach. The natural grey along with sweeping bands of integral color in the flatwork add an artistic touch appreciated by both the skateboarders and general public. The use of concrete allowed for creativity, long-term durability, and a unique combination of smoothness and friction, ensuring the best possible skatepark for Cedar Rapids' skateboarding community.

INFRASTRUCTURE-STRUCTURES CATEGORY

NORTH WATER TOWER, ALTOONA

Ready Mixed Concrete Producer: Manatt's, Inc., Johnston

Owner: City of Altoona

General Contractor: Landmark Structures, Fort Worth, TX

Engineer: Veenstra & Kimm, Inc., West Des Moines

The next time you drive through Altoona you will notice a large concrete water tower standing over the industrial park area. This impressive tower stands 156 feet in the air and will hold a maximum of 750,000 gallons. The project included a 4-foot-thick mat foundation below grade roughly the same diameter as the tank bowl. You will notice the unique uniform smooth appearance of 15 architectural wall lifts, each 8 inches thick and 7 feet tall with repeating pattern. To achieve the consistent color and appearance of all 15 lifts, Manatt's designed a mix just for this project to ensure availability and consistency of materials throughout the project duration. The end result is a uniform pattern and color throughout the entire pedestal. Manatt's was excited to work with Landmark Structures on changing the Iowa Horizon with this fitting example of diversity and capabilities of ready mixed concrete. A definite asset to the city of Altoona's infrastructure!

INFRASTRUCTURE-BRIDGES CATEGORY

2ND AVENUE BRIDGE REHABILITATION, DES MOINES

Ready Mixed Concrete Producer: Manatt's, Inc., Johnston

Owner/Engineer: City of Des Moines

General Contractor: Jasper Construction Services, Inc., Newton

Concrete Subcontractor: Cunningham-Reis, LLC, Van Meter

Engineer/Designer: Stanley Consultants, Inc., Des Moines

This project was a reconstruction of the 2nd Avenue bridge over Birdland Drive. The bridge is a 124 ft x 50 ft continuous concrete slab bridge. Including a trail and sidewalk, it has a total structure width of 70 feet. The bridge was constructed in two stages allowing for two lanes of traffic to continue to flow on 2nd Ave. This meant careful demolition of the existing bridge, driving pile within 10 ft of traffic with live powerlines on the opposing side, setting falsework in two stages, forming and pouring the abutments, piers, and deck in one half per stage with the precision to make the two stages come together seamlessly. There was great pride taken in the workmanship on this bridge. Extra time and care was taken putting a nice finish on the exposed solid wall piers and sides of the deck after the formwork was stripped. The reconstructed bridge gives both aesthetic form and function to the infrastructure of the City of Des Moines!

RECREATIONAL TRAILS CATEGORY

CAMP COURAGEOUS NATURE TRAIL, MONTICELLO

Ready Mixed Concrete Producer: BARD Materials, Dyersville

Owner/ General Contractor: Camp Courageous, Monticello

Concrete Subcontractor: Ace Concrete, LLC, Monticello

Camp Courageous is a non-profit organization that provides year-round recreational, respite, and travel opportunities for individuals with disabilities. They strive to inspire a world where individuals with special needs are empowered with courage and the ability to explore their world with confidence. The construction of an accessible trail for their campers is just one of the many thoughtfully planned amenities of this site. The Camp Courageous Nature Trail is beautifully complex in the way it winds through the wooded area matching grades and slopes to make it seem to fit perfectly with the terrain around it. The trail has a light broom finish that is accented with glow in the dark pebbles embedded in each end of the trail. A unique and fun touch for the campers to enjoy. This project was challenging with the 6' wide trail winding into a wooded area

with steeper grades. Most had to be placed with a power buggy. Impressive care was taken to create a smooth, clean finish to this trail. It is sure to lend to years of fun and enjoyment for all who cross its path each year!

RESIDENTIAL ABOVE-GRADE CATEGORY

CHRIS & LAURA BERTELSON RESIDENCE, WINTERSET

Ready Mixed Concrete Producer: Concrete Supply, Inc., Des Moines

General Contractor: Newcastle Home Builders, Winterset

Concrete Subcontractor: Stromax Homes & Construction, Winterset

Decorative Concrete: Concrete Impressions, Dallas Center

Architect: Tom Clause, Seattle, WA

Engineer: Lange Structural Group, Lincoln, NE

ICF Supplier: Fox Blocks, Omaha, NE

LiteDeck Supplier: LiteForm, S. Sioux City, NE

The homeowners desired to build an insulated concrete form home in a historic neighborhood with details authentic to the Craftsman-era of architecture. Items such as a stained-glass window, exterior bricks, and re-milled woodwork from the Victorian-era home that previously stood in its place were reclaimed for use in the new construction. This 8,800 sf home includes exterior ICF walls and an elevated second story concrete porch that cantilevers above the concrete first story wrap-around porch. This project included 60 CY of stamped and stained concrete, heated driveway and carport slabs, as well as 400 sf of concrete LiteDeck porch decks. Tucked below the first story porch is a basement saferoom. The versatility of ICF allowed the finished home to appear to be an authentic Craftsman-era home that blends seamlessly into its historic neighborhood. This endeavor took over 3 years to complete. The result is a stunning masterpiece, built to endure for centuries to come.

RESIDENTIAL DECORATIVE CATEGORY

KITCHEN POOL & BACKYARD ENVIRONMENT, VINTON

Ready Mixed Concrete Producer: Manatt's, Inc., Vinton

Owner: Deb & John Ketchen, Vinton

GC & Concrete Subcontractor: Power Concrete Construction & Design Center, North Liberty

Landscape Architect: Jason Allen & Ed Geneser, Country Landscapes, North Liberty

Construction of this residential backyard environment included renovation of an existing concrete pool, pool decks and the addition of a new covered outdoor kitchen/bar & grill area. A poured concrete wall provided superior load strength surrounding the pool and created a large area for the firepit and seat wall for entertaining. The custom concrete pool features a seamless perimeter appearance and capstone profile coping utilizing custom cover stones as an alternative to a metal lid/auto cover. The pool deck incorporated a decorative limestone colored Roman slate seamless texture stamp. Meticulous architectural precision was required to lay out the forms for the saw cut pattern. The stoop and steps similarly feature a Stegmeier capstone profile for the risers that matched the new pool coping. Significant attention to detail made this project an absolute oasis for this family to enjoy for years to come!

STREETS & INTERSECTIONS CATEGORY

ADAMS STREET RECONSTRUCTION - 2022, WASHINGTON

Ready Mixed Concrete Producer: Ideal Ready Mix Co., Inc., Fairfield

Owner: City of Washington, IA

General Contractor: Cornerstone Excavating, Inc., Washington

Concrete Subcontractor: Jones Contracting Corp., West Point

Engineer: Garden & Associates, Ltd., Oskaloosa

The City of Washington's five-year capital improvements plan included the reconstruction of East Adams Street. Paving of Adams Street with installation of a sidewalk, curb, gutter and water main were essential to the plan. The city wanted to improve this "connector road" on a nice route out to the highway. The existing 18-foot-wide seal coat street needed to be remedied. Engineered with partially new sewer service, careful consideration for uninterrupted access to homes and businesses was taken. Coordinating the timeline with the utility company to meet the completion date was crucial. The finished appearance of this nearly 2,500 CY newly paved road is broom finished concrete with integral curb. From beginning to end, the engineers and contractors on this job did an outstanding job paving the way for a primary route on the SE side of Washington.

REPAIR & RESTORATION CATEGORY

MUSCATINE TRANSFER STATION TIPPING FLOOR RESURFACING

Ready Mixed Concrete Producer: Hahn Ready Mix, Muscatine

Owner: City of Muscatine

General Contractor: KE Flatwork, Inc., Eldridge

Engineer: Bolton & Menk, Inc., Cedar Rapids

This project reconstructed the deteriorated tipping floor of the City of Muscatine's solid waste transfer station. The facility was originally constructed in 1994 and continual use pushing trash into the truck hopper with heavy equipment had eroded the floor surfacing. Erosion and exposed steel reinforcement had become a hazard and compromised the structural integrity of the floor. When specialty floor material repair options were cost prohibitive, a cooperative effort between the City, Bolton & Menk, and Hahn Ready Mix came up with a concrete design alternative which would provide a durable, cost-effective repair option that could be completed quickly to maintain the essential public service this facility provides. A specific concrete mix design was needed to be both durable and workable. Granite trap rock was used in the mix, further increasing the durability of the finished concrete. The result is a bonded structural concrete overlay with new steel reinforcement that will provide a surface expected to have a longer lifespan than the original floor at a fraction of the cost of proprietary surfacing repair products.

STREETSCAPES CATEGORY

INGERSOLL AVE – 28TH ST. TO MLK JR. PKWY PHS III, DES MOINES

Ready Mixed Concrete Producer: Manatt's, Inc., Johnston

Owner: City of Des Moines

GC/ Concrete Subcontractor: Jasper Construction Services, Inc., Newton

Designer/Engineer: Kirkham Michael, Urbandale

Phase III of the Ingersoll Ave Streetscape project included matching the south side of the street to streetscapes that have been done along the corridor in recent years. Safety, walkability, improved pedestrian crossings, a dedicated bicycle lane, buried utility lines and stormwater infrastructure were all a part of this project. Ultimately creating a vibrant commercial corridor with a uniform cross-section. It included a red integral colored concrete bike trail, beveled sidewalk joints, raised planter landscaping areas, decorative planter railings, brick pavers, and cast-in-place urn pedestals. The project required multiple pours and extensive formwork during each stage to complete all of the concrete elements. Working with difficult accessibility on the Ingersoll Ave corridor around traffic and alongside underground utilities being relocated, the contractors did an amazing job. A wonderful amenity for all those who travel this area to enjoy!

For photos of the Excellence in Concrete Award winners please visit concretesate.org

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IRMCA is a state organization representing the ready mixed concrete industry.

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