

THE MNPA MINUTE

BECAUSE IT ONLY TAKES A MINUTE TO LEARN SOMETHING NEW

EXPLORE, DESIGN AND BUILD WITH PRECAST CONCRETE

Precast concrete construction is the top choice of owners, architects, engineers, and general contractors for designing and building high performance structures that are inherently versatile, efficient and resilient. Whether you are thinking of using precast concrete for the very first time or you have used it numerous times in the past, you will be able to explore the possibilities, design your vision and build a masterpiece with precast, prestressed concrete.

The possibilities of using precast concrete systems in building projects are nearly endless. Precast concrete is ideal for a variety of buildings such as: offices, schools, student housing, multifamily housing, retail, prisons, sports arenas and stadiums, data centers and more. Your local precast concrete producer and the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI) are two excellent resources to learn more about the attributes and benefits of precast concrete. Additional resources PCI offers:

- PCI Ascent Magazine
- PCI Journal
- PCI Webinars
- PCI eLearning Center
- PCI Design Awards Program
- PCI Architectural Precast Concrete Manual
- PCI Designers Notebook
- PCI Design Handbook
- PCI Hollow-core Design Manual

Partnering with your local precast concrete producer as early as possible in your planning and design process through the design-assist method could offer significant advantages and benefits over traditional project delivery methods. Design-assist allows you to collaborate

with your precast concrete producer on the integration of pre-glazing of wall panel window openings in the plant, casting-in electrical wiring, conduits, outlet boxes and plumbing openings in exterior wall panels, or using the extruded cores of hollow-core slabs for air distribution ducting thereby eliminating conventional ductwork. Your precast concrete producer can assist you with conversions from conventional steel or cast-in-place concrete construction. A total precast concrete structural frame and façade offers adaptability and cost savings. Through the design-assist process you can explore the economies of scale that can be achieved with precast concrete through repetition while also taking advantage of

its inherent plasticity providing for unique custom shapes with endless colors, forms and textures.

Every precast concrete building project is custom and has a variety of design parameters that need to be considered for your specific building. By taking advantage of the numerous resources available from PCI and leveraging the extensive knowledge and creativity of your precast concrete producer early in the design process, will result in the most efficient and economical precast concrete design possible. For additional resources, visit the PCI website at pci.org or PCI Midwest at pcimidwest.org.

