Notable Concrete in Toronto and Vicinity

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Questions or comments? Please e-mail the editor, Michael Paul, at mpaul@duffnet.com
A 2009 TCA Tilt-Up Achievement Award winner in the Educational Division, this concrete achievement combined tilt-up wall panels with precast concrete floors in a complex addition to the North Campus Academic and Student Service Building of the Humber Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning. Although the layout of the building was simple to stay on budget, details such as a walkway formed from colored panels and a cantilevered tilt-up panel above the front entrance added interest without swelling costs. Thermal efficiencies from the combination of precast and tilt-up construction helped meet the College’s sustainable-design goals. Temporary ring beams helped brace the three-story tilt-up panels until the precast floor units could be installed. Project credits include Barry-Bryan Associates Ltd, Architect and Engineer; Tilt Wall Ontario Inc., Contractor.

James R. Baty II, Technical Director, Tilt-Up Concrete Association, Mount Vernon, IA, 319-895-6911, jbaty@tilt-up.org
A recent expansion to the city of Toronto’s R. C. Harris Water Treatment Plant included construction of a completely buried residuals management facility between existing structures while maintaining plant operation. The complex construction program preserved the Art Deco heritage buildings that, in 1992, were declared a National Historic Civil Engineering Site by the Canadian Society for Civil Engineers. The underground expansion required extensive shoring, concrete caisson walls, and a sloped concrete roof that accommodated existing shallow foundations and site grading. Project credits include CH2M HILL Canada Limited, Consulting Engineers; Kenaidan Contracting Ltd., Contractor.

Edwina Lui, Structural Operations Leader, CH2M HILL Canada Limited, Toronto, ON, 416-499-9000, edwina.lui@ch2m.com
Concrete was the perfect choice at St. Gabriel’s, as it enabled the architect to achieve all of the project goals with a single material. The beautifully executed architectural concrete walls create the structure and provide thermal mass, acoustic resonance, final finish and, most importantly, a wonderfully neutral canvas for the dynamic play of constantly changing colored light from the perimeter skylight above.

St. Gabriel’s is arguably the first house of worship in Canada to incorporate concrete in this unique way. Project credits include Larkin Architect Limited, Architect; Weissbau Inc., Design Collaborator; Carruthers & Wallace Ltd., Structural Engineers; David Pearl, Colored Glass Artist; Martin-Stewart Contracting Ltd., Contractor; Structform International, Formwork Contractor; St. Marys CBM, Material Supplier.

Roberto Chiotti, MRAIC, LEED-AP, Principal, Larkin Architect Limited, Toronto, ON, 416-504-6054, roberto@larkinarchitect.com
The Point Abino Lighthouse is a remarkable example of early reinforced, board-form concrete design and construction. It is a National Historic Site of Canada—one of only 12 lighthouses that have been awarded this distinction. The conservation and reconstruction work was extensive and difficult given the extent of deterioration and challenging site conditions. The work included reinstatement of industrial sash windows and chain railings, an elastomeric coating, and board-form concrete repairs to over 30% of the building exterior. Specifications, details, and procedures took into account the effect of extreme weather conditions. Project credits include Taylor Hazell Architects Ltd., Heritage Architect; Read Jones Christoffersen, Structural Engineer; Bricks Planning & Environmental Services Inc., Environmental Consultant; BTY Group, Cost Consultants; Phoenix Restoration Services, General Contractor; Sean Hutton, Town of Fort Erie, Project Manager.

Charles Hazell, Taylor Hazell Architects Ltd., Toronto, ON, 416-862-2694, chazell@taylorhazell.com
Concrete Toronto is the perfect guide to the city’s concrete heritage. Text and photographs cover numerous concrete milestones, including Scarborough College, Nathan Phillips Square and New City Hall, the Gardiner Expressway, Robarts Library, Rochdale College, the Manulife Centre, Central Technical School, Sidney Smith Hall, and many more. Essayists and journalists investigate the Brutalist movement, concrete construction and materiality, preservation and restoration techniques, and interviews with Vincent Tovell, Mary Dubois, Ron Thom, and Morden Yolles, among others. The essays, photographs, drawings, articles, studies, and interviews in the book have been lovingly compiled and edited by Toronto’s E.R.A. Architects, a practice widely recognized and awarded for its thoughtful and expert advice on matters related to existing buildings. Concrete Toronto may be purchased from Coach House Books at 416-979-2217 or sales@chbooks.com. Orders of five copies or more receive a 25% discount. (Photo credits: CN Tower, Archives of the Canadian Cement Association; New City Hall, Hugh Robertson, Panda Associates; McLaughlin Planetarium, University of Toronto.)

Michael McClelland, OAA, FRAIC, CAHP, Principal, ERA Architects Inc., Toronto, ON, 416-963-4497, michaelm@era.on.ca and Evan Munday, Publicist, Coach House Books, Toronto, ON, 416-979-2217, evan@chbooks.com
Ontario Concrete Awards
Excerpted and reprinted from the 2011 and 2010 Ontario Concrete Awards, courtesy of the ACI Ontario Chapter. See http://ontarioconcreteawards.ca for additional information. Click on the name to view the project.

Automotive Centre of Excellence
Value Parking Garage
Sherbourne Common
Absolute World
Lafarge Technical Centre

Enermodal Office Building
QE W St. Catharines Widening
Life Sciences Building
Courtcliffe Park Phase
Roy McMurtry Youth Centre

Ashbridges Bay Skatepark
Dufferin Street Widening & Reconstruction
Bob Gale Arena Complex
Village Suites Oshawa

Algoma Orchards
Aerocentre V
RBC Centre

Ontario Concrete Awards

Automotive Centre of Excellence, University of Ontario Institute of Technology, Founders Drive, Oshawa, ON L1G 8C4

Architect of Record: Diamond and Schmitt Architects. Engineer of Record: Halcrow Yolles. General Contractor: Carillion Construction Inc. Forming Contractor: Avenue Building Corporation. Material Supplier: Dufferin Concrete, a division of Holcim (Canada) Inc. (2011 Architectural Merit Award)

Value Parking Garage, Pearson International Airport, 6145 Viscount Road, Mississauga, ON L4V 1B4


North Campus Academic and Student Services Addition
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Architect of Record: Robertson Simmons Architects Inc. Engineer of Record: MTE Consultants Inc. General Contractor: Melloui-Biamey Construction Inc. Material Suppliers: Coreslab Structures (ONT) Inc. and Dufferin Concrete, a division of Holcim (Canada) Inc. (2011 Sustainable Concrete Construction Award)
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Bob Gale Arena Complex
Village Suites Oshawa

Algoma Orchards
Aerocentre V
RBC Centre

QEW St. Catharines Widening, St. Catharines, ON

Life Sciences Building, York University, 6 Thompson Road, Toronto, ON M3J 1P3

Engineer of Record: Morrison Hershfield. General Contractor: Dufferin Construction Company, a division of Holcim (Canada). Material Supplier: Dufferin Concrete, a division of Holcim (Canada) and Armtec Limited Partnership. (2011 Infrastructure Award)

Architect of Record: NXL Architects and SSG Architecture Inc. Engineer of Record: Blackwell Bowick Partnership Ltd. General Contractor: Carrilion Construction Inc. Material Supplier: St. Marys CBM. (2011 Structural Design Innovation Award)
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Aerocentre V
RBC Centre

Engineer of Record: AMEC Environment and Structure. General Contractor: CRL Campbell Construction and Drainage Ltd. Specialty Contractor: King Paving & Materials Company. Material Supplier: Inter County Concrete Products.
(2011 Specialty Concrete Products Award)

Architect of Record: Kleinfeldt Mychajlowycz Architects Inc. Engineer of Record: Halsall Associates Limited. General Contractor: Bird Construction. Material Supplier: Dufferin Concrete, a division of Holcim (Canada).
(2010 Architectural Merit Award)
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Bob Gale Arena Complex
Village Suites Oshawa

Algoma Orchards
Aerocentre V
RBC Centre

Ashbridges Bay Skatepark, Lakeshore Boulevard East and Coxwell Avenue, Toronto, ON M4L

Dufferin Street Widening & Reconstruction, Dufferin Street at Clark Avenue, Toronto, ON L4J 2K2


Architect of Record: G. O’Connor Consultants Inc. Engineer of Record: Morrsion Hershfield Ltd. General Contractor: Pave-Al Ltd. Material Supplier: Miller Concrete. (2010 Infrastructure Award)
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- Algoma Orchards
- Aerocentre V
- RBC Centre

Village Suites Oshawa, 1700 Simcoe Street North, Oshawa, ON L1G 4Y1

Architect of Record: Lintack Architects Inc. Engineer of Record: MTE Consultants Inc. General Contractor: Dundurn Edge Developments Inc. Material Supplier: Coreslab Structures (ONT) Inc. (2010 Mid to High Rise Residential Award)

Bob Gale Arena Complex, 4334 Thorold Stone Road, Niagara Falls, ON L2J 1A2

Architect and Engineer of Record: Barry-Bryan Associates Ltd. General Contractor: Aquicon Construction Co. Ltd. Material Supplier: Coreslab Structures (ONT) Inc. (2010 Material Development & Innovation Award)
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Village Suites Oshawa

Algoma Orchards
Aerocentre V
RBC Centre

Algoma Orchards, 201 Regional Road 42, Newcastle, ON L1B 1L9
Aerocentre V, 5550-5570 Explorer Drive, Mississauga, ON L4W 5N1

Architect and Engineer of Record: Barry-Bryan Associates Ltd. General Contractor: Johnson Building Construction Inc. Specialty Contractor: Tilt Wall Ontario Inc. Material Supplier: Dufferin Concrete, a division of Holcim (Canada).
(2010 Specialty Concrete Products Award)

Architect of Record: Sweeney Sterling Finlayson & Co. Architects Inc. Engineer of Record: Stephenson Engineering Ltd. General Contractor: Vanbots, a division of Carillion Construction Inc. Forming Contractor: Structform International Ltd. Material Supplier: James Dick Construction Ltd. and Armtec Pre-Con.
(2010 Structural Design Innovation Award)

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Village Suites Oshawa

Algoma Orchards
Aerocentre V
RBC Centre

RBC Centre, 155 Wellington Street West, Toronto, ON M5V 3H6

Architect of Record: B+H Architects. Engineer of Record: Halcrow Yolles. General Contractor: PCL Constructors Canada Inc. Material Supplier: St. Marys CBM. (2010 Sustainable Concrete Construction Award)
Notable Concrete in Toronto and Vicinity Map
Click on the map below to view the Google map.