Notable Concrete in Washington, DC and Vicinity

Compiled by ACI Committee 124, Concrete Aesthetics
Designed and produced by ACI Publishing Services
Thanks to Katie Spencer and AIA|DC for publicizing the call for submissions
Questions or comments? Please e-mail the editor, Michael Paul, at mpaul@duffnet.com
At Ridge Street Row, four two-unit townhouses set a new standard for the use of concrete in residential projects. A method usually reserved for commercial buildings, the shell is built with precast concrete panels for the walls, and precast, prestressed hollow-core planks for the floors. Storefront windows and doors are aluminum and glass. The brick in the front was a building requirement within the property’s historic district.

The use of concrete is not only for fire protection but also to limit noise transmission between residential units and termite problems. Precast panels lend a faster and more efficient construction process as well.

The structure allows for large expanses of glass in the rear and punched openings on the street façade that bring ample natural light into spaces. Together with the inclusion of terraces, rooms extend beyond their walls to invite the outdoors in. The project achieves ecological and aesthetic harmony, blending the building’s unconventional materials and structure within its context of historic urban fabric.

Project credits include Suzane Reatig Architecture, Architect-Developer; Advance Structural Concepts, Inc., Structural Engineer; IT Associates, MEP Engineer; Marriottsville Construction, Contractor; Oldcastle Precast, Precast Supplier.

Submitted by: Melanie Becker, Suzane Reatig Architecture, Washington, DC, +1.202.518.0260, melanie@reatig.com

Photographer: Robert Lautman
505 Ninth Street is located in the heart of Penn Quarter, north of Pennsylvania Avenue in northwest Washington, DC, and is surrounded by numerous structures of historic significance.

The dominant volume is a precast concrete and glass tower rising ten stories and 110 ft, in which the precast concrete is detailed to simulate Indiana limestone. Attached to the primary volume are a series of stepped secondary structures, each responding to both the historic context and the program, and ranging in material from glass curtain wall to brick veneer.

The building delivers two-and-a-half levels of parking and 320,000 ft² of rentable office, retail, and theater space for a total gross building area of 459,000 ft².

Project credits include Boston Properties, Developer; Hartman-Cox Architects, Architect; Clark Construction Group, General Contractor; and Modern Mosaic, Precast Concrete Supplier.

Submitted by: Anthony Yoder, AIA, LEED BD+C, Hartman-Cox Architects, Washington, DC, +1.202.333.6446, ayoder@hartmancox.com

Photographer: Bryan Becker Photography
This LEED Gold project is a significant addition to and restoration of the American Pharmacists Association Headquarters, a local landmark on the Mall in Washington, DC. The original headquarters building is predominately a ceremonial structure and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The addition provides office space and is a sympathetic background building to the historic landmark.

The primary design challenge was providing a large addition that complemented the existing historic structure. The two main design concepts to address this challenge were to separate the original building from the larger addition with a one-story hyphen and to create a precast concrete façade design that clearly is a background building.

The new six-story addition provides 175,250 ft\(^2\) of office space above grade.

Project credits include American Pharmacists Association, Owner; Hartman-Cox Architects, Architect; Tishman, General Contractor; Arban and Carosi, Precast Concrete Supplier; Bryan Becker Photography, Photographer.

Francis L. Cardozo High School, in northwest Washington, DC, sits prominently on a two-block parcel with commanding views of the city to the south. Completed in 1916, the Nationally Registered collegiate gothic building has continuously operated as a Washington, DC, public high school.

The historically and culturally significant building has been modernized for state-of-the-art teaching environments for the twenty-first century. The targeted LEED Gold school accommodates 1100 students and includes a complete modernization of 350,000 gross ft² of existing historic infrastructure and a 42,000 ft² gymnasium addition. The addition was clad in brick and limestone-like precast concrete to continue the aesthetic of the historic building’s base.

Project credits include Department of General Services of the District of Columbia, Owner; Hartman-Cox Architects, Design Architect; Grimm+Parker Architects, School Architect; GCS/Sigal, General Contractor, Modern Mosaic, Precast Concrete Supplier; Bryan Becker Photography, Photographer.

Submitted by: Anthony Yoder, AIA, LEED BD+C, Hartman-Cox Architects, Washington, DC, +1.202.333.6446, ayoder@hartmancox.com
Lincoln Square is a prominent office building in Washington, DC's, Pennsylvania Avenue Historic District. Many of the original buildings on the site contribute the character of the district and were incorporated in the new construction.

The dominant portion of the building is new and is detailed to reinforce the existing façades and the streetscape of the area. Light rose-colored brick and limestone–like precast concrete continue the palette of surrounding buildings in a thoroughly contemporary design.

The building delivers 363,000 gross ft² above grade while below-grade area is approximately 174,000 ft².

Project credits include Lawrence Ruben Company, Inc., Developer; Hartman-Cox Architects, Architect; and Clark Construction Group, General Contractor.

Submitted by: Anthony Yoder, AIA, LEED BD+C, Hartman-Cox Architects, Washington, DC, +1.202.333.6446, ayoder@hartmancox.com

Photographer: Alan Karchmer
Click on the map below to view the Google map.