This has been a particularly momentous year at ACI. In following its tradition of producing renowned documents for the global concrete community, ACI published ACI 318-19, “Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete and Commentary,” in June 2019. This is the first edition of the code since the reorganized format of the Code was published in 2014. By most measures, the 2019 Code has some of the most significant technical changes since the 1971 Code. There was a wealth of technical changes transferred from cutting-edge research and from design and construction practice into the code. It is anticipated that the 2019 Code will be adopted in the United States by the International Building Code (IBC) and by numerous countries around the world.

To support the acceptance and awareness of ACI 318-19, the Institute is developing and delivering several supplemental resources, including ACI 318 seminars, an update to the ACI Reinforced Concrete Design Handbook, and an online subscription called ACI 318 Plus. The seminars, named “ACI 318-19: Changes to the Concrete Design Standard,” began in September of 2019 and are being held through 2020 in locations around the United States and the world. These public seminars were crafted to help users navigate what is new in the updated Code; a similar on-demand course on the changes in ACI 318-19 will be available through the ACI website.

In response to how professionals around the world access information and interact with technical content, a new product is also being developed. Called ACI 318 Plus, this annual subscription will provide users with digital/interactive access to ACI 318-19 along with links (in-document access) to related resources. ACI 318 Plus will provide enhanced digital search features through all Code provisions and commentary.

One of my Presidential initiatives is to increase membership both at the chapter and global levels. The Institute has much to offer young members, but only if they join. There are numerous opportunities for young members to take leadership roles as officers in chapters, and at the global level as voting members and officers in technical committees.

ACI is truly a worldwide leader in advancing the concrete industry. We are fortunate at ACI to have so many members and volunteers that are connected by the desire to continuously improve our knowledge of concrete and to disseminate that knowledge to improve the materials, design, and construction of concrete buildings and infrastructure. ACI can only be “always advancing” with the continued help and talent of our membership.

Best regards,

Randall W. Poston
ACI President
Founded in 1904 and headquartered in Farmington Hills, Michigan, USA, ACI is the world’s foremost professional community dedicated to the best use of concrete, with 30,000 members around the world. ACI envisions a future where everyone has the knowledge needed to use concrete effectively to meet the demands of a changing world.

There are now more than 315 ACI chapters and student chapters located around the world. ACI actively works to strengthen relationships between ACI and its chapter members by offering educational resources and social events to support the growth of local chapters. A Chapter Leadership Program took place in May 2019, at ACI World Headquarters, which included representatives from chapters around the country and the world. ACI recently launched a partnership with StarChapter that allows for local ACI chapter leaders to manage their chapters more efficiently using the technology, specifically designed for the local chapter needs.
The American Concrete Institute relies on the work of over 3000 volunteers who serve on committees to develop the latest codes, specifications, and practices related to concrete. ACI committee members consist of professionals from all experience levels and all sectors of the concrete industry. New committees formed in 2019 include ACI Committee 319, Precast Structural Concrete Code, whose mission is to develop and maintain structural concrete code requirements unique to the design of precast concrete.

ACI-certified individuals are critically important to the concrete industry, as they provide assurance that testing, placing, and inspecting are performed correctly. Through its certification programs, ACI is strengthening the workforce with competent and proven individuals who can perform their jobs in a way that will help ensure longevity for the industry.

ACI currently offers 30 certification programs designed to form a minimum qualification for personnel employed within the concrete construction industry. Certification examinations and optional training courses are conducted through an international network of more than 120 sponsoring groups. Since 1980, ACI has administered exams to over 550,000 individuals, with over 100,000 certifications currently maintained by ACI.

In 2019, the Institute launched the ACI Certification Verify App, enabling customers to quickly and easily verify the status of ACI-certified individuals. The app helps the entire verification process move more quickly and easily so jobs can move forward.

ACI updated the names and requirements for its Flatwork Finishing Certification program in 2019 to better reflect the knowledge, skills, and responsibilities of certified personnel; provide more flexible and convenient recertification options; and encourage personal growth within the concrete flatwork finishing sector.

ACI also announced the launch of its Post-Installed Concrete Anchor Installation Inspector certification program in 2019. ACI will use the program to certify individuals who have demonstrated the knowledge required to properly inspect the installation of post-installed adhesive and mechanical anchors in concrete. Additionally, ACI launched the Certification Veterans Rebate. Funded through a generous contribution of $50,000 from CMEC Holdings, Inc., to the ACI Foundation, the program provides rebates of $250 to help ease the financial burden of earning an ACI Certification.

ACI held a Certification Summit in Austin, TX, in November 2019. The Summit is designed to bring together Sponsoring Group (SG) representatives and ACI staff to discuss the ACI-SG relationship, including up-to-date requirements and responsibilities, and to promote greater communication between organizations.

As the industry adopts the ACI 318-19 code, demand for certified anchor inspectors is expected to grow.

With more than 16,000 student members, ACI is a force for empowering the next generation of concrete designers, constructors, and leaders.

Students studying concrete find ACI is a community where they can receive free membership and free online access to a wide range of the Institute’s content. Students demonstrate their knowledge of concrete at regional competitions, then globally at ACI Concrete Conventions. The brightest students from around the world convene, compete, and excel in the ACI community.

In 2019, students from around the world participated in the Mortar Workability and Eco Concrete Competitions at the ACI Convention in Quebec City, QC, Canada, in March and a Fiber-Reinforced Polymer Concrete Competition at the ACI Convention in Cincinnati, OH, USA, in October. Regional competitions took place in the Philippines, Iraq, Mexico, Pakistan, and Jordan.
In 2019, ACI released the new ACI 318-19 Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete. The new code ensures that concrete industry professionals have the most up-to-date requirements necessary to ensure public health and safety. The first to be published since the format of ACI 318 was reorganized in 2014, it is anticipated that it will be referenced in the 2021 International Building Code (IBC). To assist industry professionals in learning the new code, a series of public seminars began in September 2019.

ACI will continue to provide leadership to the concrete industry. With 115 years of experience, ACI combines the Institute’s historical knowledge with state-of-the-art resources.

70 countries around the world base the structural concrete section of their building codes on ACI 318.
In 2019, ACI provided 17 concrete industry experts through the ACI Ambassador Program to present at conferences in Thailand, Mexico, Guatemala, Poland, Cuba, Indonesia, Singapore, China, Australia, Ecuador, South Africa, Egypt, Jordan, and Vietnam.

ACI also sponsored and gave presentations at the Future Concrete Conference in Kuwait City, Kuwait.

The International Organization for Standardization’s (ISO) technical committee 71 on “Concrete, Reinforced Concrete, and Prestressed Concrete” and its subcommittees met in Birmingham, Michigan, USA, near ACI World Headquarters on October 14-17, 2019. As secretariat of ISO TC 71, ACI convenes meetings every 12 to 18 months to build consensus on state-of-the-art concrete technology including material testing, execution, design, nontraditional reinforcement, repair, and sustainability.

Delegates from more than 80 countries attended meetings and a reception at ACI World Headquarters, with many continuing to the ACI Concrete Convention the following week in Cincinnati, Ohio, USA.

Known globally as the world’s gathering place for advancing concrete, ACI will host its popular Conventions in Rosemont/Chicago, Illinois, USA, and Raleigh, North Carolina, USA, in 2020. With a streamlined name—the ACI Concrete Convention—and an updated and energized identity, the event will showcase the convening power of the Institute, the diversity of our community, and the knowledge-sharing that occurs among experts, professionals, and students.

The ACI Concrete Conference on Materials & Design took place November 17-18, 2019, in Amman, Jordan. This 2-day conference was held at the Royal Scientific Society and convened leading experts along with concrete professionals to discuss topics such as fiber-reinforced polymer composites for reinforced concrete construction, mass concrete, and troubleshooting concrete construction. ACI President and ACI Committee 318 past Chair Randall Poston led a full-day session on the new ACI 318-19 Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete.
ACI has long focused its efforts on knowledge development and dissemination. Through its mission, the Institute dedicates resources and effort to advance the adoption of its consensus-based knowledge. ACI supports efforts to engage in state code development, helping ACI achieve its mission of developing, disseminating, and advancing the adoption of consensus-based knowledge on concrete and its uses.

ACI attended the Construction Specifications Institute Master Specifiers Retreat on June 19-21 in Chicago, Illinois, USA, to advocate for and educate on the importance of ACI specifications. ACI also continues to work with the International Code Council and participate in the ICC Annual Conference and Group Public Comment Hearings, held October 20-30, 2019, in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.

ACI 562-19, “Code Requirements for Assessment, Repair and Rehabilitation of Existing Concrete Structures,” was also released in 2019. Developed to provide design professionals a code for the assessment of the damage and deterioration, and the design of appropriate repair and rehabilitation strategies, ACI 562-19 was specifically developed to work with the International Existing Building Code (IEBC) or to be adopted as a stand-alone code. Several states in the U.S. have adopted ACI 562 as part of their state building codes.
In 2019, thousands of concrete industry professionals attended the Institute’s Conventions in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada, and Cincinnati, Ohio, USA. Engineers, students, contractors, educators, manufacturers, and material representatives from around the world convened to collaborate on concrete codes, specifications, and practices. Technical and educational sessions provided attendees with the latest research, case studies, best practices, and the opportunity to earn Professional Development Hours.

ACI announced the winners of the 2019 Excellence in Concrete Construction Awards during the Convention in Cincinnati on October 21, 2019. The highest honor was presented to King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. Eleven additional global projects were recognized during a packed gala event.

Since the inception of the ACI Excellence in Concrete Construction Awards in 2015, the Institute has recognized 267 projects showcasing the leadership and ingenuity embodied throughout ACI’s network of chapters and global partners. This annual awards program and accompanying gala event have honored concrete innovation and excellence across the globe.

The Institute now has 642 Fellows—members who have been recognized for their outstanding contributions to the production or use of concrete materials, products, and structures in the areas of education, research, development, design, construction, or management. Six new Honorary Members have been named: Dean A. Browning, Gary J. Klein, Harald S. Müller, Genaro L. Salinas, Eldon G. Tipping, and James K. Wight. ACI Honorary Membership is the Institute’s highest honor, being a person of eminence in the field of the Institute’s interest, or one who has performed extraordinary meritorious service to the Institute.

Celebration

King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (ITHRA) – Dhahran, Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia; ACI Excellence in Concrete Construction Award Winner 2019.
The American Concrete Institute’s Annual Chapter Leadership Program, held on May 20-21, 2019, attracted representatives from chapters around the country and the world. Attendees were able to learn practical concepts and discover resources to improve chapter management. William R. Rushing, ACI Past President and Chair of the ACI Chapter Activities Committee, welcomed everyone and provided an overview of chapter activities.

ACI conducted its first Professors’ Workshop co-sponsored by the ACI Foundation and the PCA Education Foundation on July 22-26, 2019. The workshop provides instructors in civil engineering, architecture, architectural engineering, materials science, and construction management programs the tools to engage students in the latest developments in concrete materials, pavements, and structures.

The 2019 Chair Training Workshop was held on August 5-6, 2019, at ACI World Headquarters. There were technical, educational, and certification committee Chairs in attendance along with respective ACI staff.
Established in 1989, the ACI Foundation is a wholly owned and operated nonprofit subsidiary of the American Concrete Institute that promotes progress, innovation, and collaboration. The ACI Foundation relies on funding from the American Concrete Institute, ACI members, current partners, and new future partners to maximize industry impact. Learn more at ACIFoundation.org.

In 2019, the ACI Foundation provided more than $380,000 of concrete research and funded fellowships and scholarships for 18 students.

AOE is the trusted resource for more than 25 associations serving the greater concrete industry, plus a long list of architects, engineers, contractors, product suppliers, and more.

With roots dating back to 1990, Advancing Organizational Excellence (AOE), an ACI subsidiary, provides full-service association management expertise and service offerings ranging from business and operational to marketing and technical expertise. Learn more at aoeteam.com.
The American Concrete Institute (ACI) was founded in 1904, with world headquarters in Farmington Hills, MI, USA, and a regional office in Dubai, UAE. ACI is a leading authority and resource worldwide for the development, dissemination, and adoption of its consensus-based standards, technical resources, education and training programs, and certification programs, and provides knowledge resources for individuals and organizations involved in concrete design, construction, and materials, who share a commitment to pursuing the best use of concrete.

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