

Queens Municipal Garage and Community Space Honored with DBIA National Award for Design-Build Excellence

The Queens Borough Hall Municipal Garage and Community Space in New York, NY, USA, received the Design-Build Institute of America's 2024 National Award of Merit. The project team included the client NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC), Hunter Roberts Construction Group, Urbahn Architects, Marvel Designs, Thornton Tomasetti, AECOM-Hill Joint Venture, and Leni Schwendinger Light Projects. The garage is New York City's first municipal project contracted as a design-build construction undertaking under the recently authorized NYC design-build legislation. The project illustrates a carefully executed design-build approach to meet a community's multifaceted needs. The 80.5 million USD initiative was designed to replace an existing surface parking lot essential for the nearby Queens Borough Hall and Queens County Criminal Court. The new facility houses a Parksmart Bronze-certified public garage with 600 spaces and includes a 25,000 ft² (2323 m²) LEED Gold-certified community space, addressing the city's goals for both functionality and sustainability. Through collaboration with the DDC and the designers, the project was completed within the 25-month timeline. The project also enhances the civic center campus by incorporating public spaces, such as a stair leading to a terrace overlooking the park. The design integrates the garage with the surrounding community, ensuring the facility serves functional needs and meets aesthetic goals.



Exterior of the Queens Borough Hall Municipal Garage and Community Space (photo by Michael Worthington)

Government of Canada Invests in Giatec Scientific Inc.

François-Philippe Champagne, Canadian Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry (now Minister of Finance),

announced a 17.5 million CAD investment in Giatec® Scientific Inc. This investment will support the company's 65.8 million CAD project to develop sensor technologies using artificial intelligence (AI) to optimize concrete mixtures, resulting in a reduced carbon footprint while improving the quality of building materials used for Canadian infrastructure. With this investment, Giatec Scientific Inc. will develop a smart concrete demonstration plant, which will operate using its SmartMix™ technology, for companies and universities to advance innovation in the construction ecosystem. This plant will be based in Ottawa, ON, Canada, and is estimated to create 160 jobs.

CarbonCure, Abdullah Abdin, and Gulf Cryo Collaborate for Carbon Capture and Utilization Project

Convened by the Saudi Arabia Ministry of Energy, CarbonCure Technologies Inc., Abdullah Abdin, and Gulf Cryo have announced new agreements to integrate carbon capture and utilization technologies for construction in NEOM's development. The agreements build on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Ministry of Energy and NEOM. Together, CarbonCure, Abdullah Abdin, and Gulf Cryo will collaborate to produce high-quality, lower-carbon concrete that uses carbon dioxide (CO₂) and follows circular carbon economy principles. With CarbonCure's technologies, Abdullah Abdin will use captured CO₂ in its concrete products. Gulf Cryo will supply CO₂ recovered from its carbon capture technologies to be injected by CarbonCure. Upon injection, this CO₂ immediately mineralizes and becomes permanently embedded. Even if the concrete is later demolished, CO₂ will not return to the atmosphere. CarbonCure's technologies have been installed at Abdullah Abdin's plants in NEOM, in northwest Saudi Arabia, with implementation procedures now underway across multiple projects.

S.T. Wooten Acquires Capital Ready Mix Concrete

S.T. Wooten Corporation of Wilson, NC, USA, announced its acquisition of Capital Ready Mix Concrete of Pittsboro, NC. The acquisition includes Capital's employees, four ready mixed concrete plants, and trucks at two locations in Pittsboro and Knightdale, NC. These additional locations, trucks, and drivers will join with S.T. Wooten's current network of 16 ready mixed concrete plants and will work to benefit customers. The acquisition will increase S.T. Wooten's efficiency by reducing time between load deliveries and expanding the company's capacity to serve customers across growing markets, including Chatham County and eastern Wake County in North Carolina.

Alcrete Acquires Benton Precast

Alcrete LLC has acquired Benton Precast LLC. This strategic move, which includes Benton Precast's production operations and manufacturing site, will allow Alcrete to expand its reach and serve new geographic markets. Based in Conway, SC, USA, Benton Precast began operations 5 years ago as a subsidiary of Benton Concrete & Utilities LLC. This acquisition includes all of Benton Precast's production facilities and equipment. Alcrete will also retain Benton's skilled workforce, which will allow the company to increase its production capabilities and competitiveness within the precast concrete market.

APA 2024 Awards for Excellence in Design, Manufacturing, and Craftsmanship

The Architectural Precast Association (APA) Awards for Excellence program annually recognizes excellence in design, manufacturing, and craftsmanship of architectural precast concrete. In 2024, 71 award entries were received, with 14 awards being granted: 10 in Design and Manufacturing and four in Craftsmanship. The awards were presented during the APA 2024 Annual Convention in Park City, UT, USA.

Design and Manufacturing Award winners included:

- Block 216, Portland, OR, USA, Northwest Precast;
- Virginia Tech Data and Decision Sciences Building, Blacksburg, VA, USA, Arban, Carosi & Diana Precast, LLC;
- The Catholic University of America – Garvey Dining Hall, Washington, DC, USA, Southside Precast Products;
- Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland, OH, USA, Advanced Architectural Stone;
- 66 Galen Street, Watertown, MA, USA, Northern Design;
- Winthrop Center, Boston, MA, Northern Design;
- Washington DC Department of General Services Headquarters, Washington, DC, Arban, Carosi & Diana Precast, LLC;
- Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine, Oklahoma City, OK, USA, Advanced Architectural Stone;
- Dallas Country Club – Sport Building, Dallas, TX, USA, Advanced Architectural Stone; and
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Plano, TX, Advanced Architectural Stone.

Craftsmanship Award winners included:

- SMU Moody Hall, University Park, TX, Advanced Architectural Stone;
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Plano, TX, Advanced Architectural Stone;
- Redmond Technology Station Pedestrian Bridge, Redmond, WA, USA, QCP Corporation; and
- University of Notre Dame – Raclin Murphy Museum of Art, South Bend, IN, USA, Southside Precast Products.



Virginia Tech Data and Decision Sciences Building in Blacksburg, VA



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Plano, TX

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