

BRITISH PRECAST

Press release

28th May 2009

Members scoop best practice awards

Five Full Members of British Precast have won Best Practice 2009 Awards after submitting outstanding entries into our annual competition, which comprises the categories health and safety, innovation, sustainability and best project.

Marshalls Plc and Aggregate Industries, both with two winning entries, Decomo, Ecoratio and Tarmac Building Products all scooped first prizes at a ceremony at British Precast's Annual Conference and Expo in Leicester on 12th May.

In addition, several member companies were awarded High Commendations and Honourable Mentions for their entries.

British Precast holds the annual award scheme to recognise the excellent work carried out by its members and provides another way of sharing best practice within the membership.

Martin Clarke, Chief Executive of British Precast, said: "I am delighted with the high standard of entries in all categories this year. I congratulate the winners and all entrants. Competition between members to win our awards is intense and makes a major contribution to our improvement agenda."

The winners

Project Award – sponsored by Grace Construction Products

WINNER: Decomo

PROJECT: One Coleman Street, London

No 1 Coleman Street, a 20,000m² commercial development in the City of London, has an exterior appearance that exploits the unique characteristics of the building's form. The scheme uses polished precast concrete cladding panels configured in a geometric arrangement derived from the curvature of the building's floor plate but expressed through a series of interlocking and alternating triangulated surfaces. In the design and construction of the façade, the complex geometric structure posed many significant challenges to Decomo, the precast concrete manufacturers, and led to many variations in the cladding details.

HIGH COMMENDATION: Thorp Precast
PROJECT: Five Piccadilly Place, Manchester

Manchester's Five Piccadilly Place is an entirely precast structure incorporating shear walls, twinwall, precast staircases, solid wall lift shafts and fair-faced architectural sandwich cladding panels. The structure and precast cladding was completed on a floor-by-floor basis, allowing tradesmen to progress with their work underneath. White Portland reconstituted stone vertical panels including curved horizontal fascias and sparkly black granite mix creates a visually striking building that forms an important landmark in Argent's Piccadilly Place development.

HIGH COMMENDATION: Thorp Precast
PROJECT: North Kent Police Station

Visually striking white precast concrete panels, fins and columns were designed and specified as a main feature of this new £30m state-of-the-art police headquarters in Gravesend, Kent. The elegant framework and cladding, contrasting with the dark curtain walling system, creates a landmark building for the nearby residents of Gravesend and for the Home Office under the Government's campaign for Better Public Buildings. The 11,500m² 'super station', which achieves BREEAM Excellent rating, is heated and cooled using a ground source heat pump system, one of the largest such installations in the UK.

HIGH COMMENDATION: Trent Concrete
PROJECT: Barton Square

Stunning state-of-the-art precast concrete has been used in an architecturally unique style to dramatic effect at the 19,000m² extension to the Trafford Centre, Manchester. Barton Square comprises four L-shaped blocks arranged to form a central square, mall and colonnade. The architecture, based on an Italian square, includes a central coliseum with a large fountain and campanile tower. Faced in granite with a curved cornice top, it creates a special feature in the mall. Buff reconstructed stone precast cladding, structures and features were used throughout.

SHORTLISTED: Forticrete
PROJECT: The Nova Building

The use of a combination of some 745 bespoke and thousands of standard cast stone products has given the Nova Building in Bournemouth the impact and visual appeal necessary for a prime site in the town at an affordable cost. The mixed-use building, erected on the former C&A site, utilises almost every available metre, resulting in a complex and challenging shape. The focal point is a tower above the main entrance with a rebated 'panel' at parapet level, which provides decorative appeal in an art deco style to match nearby existing buildings, such as the 1930's Maples building.

SHORTLISTED: Structherm
PROJECT: Park Central, Birmingham

Park Central is a mixed use, mixed tenure development located in central Birmingham in an area that was once a 'no-go' housing estate where properties were impossible to let. Now, a 13-year regeneration is set to provide the local community with a highly desirable area that contributes significantly to the local economy. Structherm has built five apartment blocks on the site using its Fastbuild system, which has a proven record of offering benefits such as quality, flexibility, speed of construction, value for money and sustainability. This project is considered to exemplify the Egan principles of partnering.

Innovation Award – sponsored by Inditherm

JOINT WINNER: Aggregate Industries

PROJECT: Charcon Stone Master with Urban Surface Protection

This high quality landscaping product from Charcon is pre-treated with Urban Surface Protection (USP), a self-cleaning sealant that protects against day-to-day surface contamination within normal cleaning operations without the need of specialist cleaning companies. A revolutionary new range of flag paving and setts, Stonemaster has the inherent beauty of Yorkstone yet contains up to 50 per cent recycled content.

JOINT WINNER: Ecoratio

PROJECT: Betopro Emulsions

Betopro is a water-based emulsion used to prevent corrosion of steel moulds in precast plants. It is not flammable, has no smell and releases no harmful vapours, which have been shown to cause lung cancer and nerve and liver damage. Its inherent white colour makes it clearly visible and so reduces over application, and independent tests have shown it causes no skin irritations.

HIGH COMMENDATION: Aggregate Industries

PROJECT: Road-Pod

Charcon Road-Pod is a patented, sustainable, cost-effective precast concrete modular system for use as a traffic and pedestrian refuge island. Constructed off-site, it is an alternative to traditional on-site construction of traffic islands that take up to three days to complete. Reusable at the end of its life, Road-Pod can be repositioned should there be any changes to the road structure or traffic flow.

HIGH COMMENDATION: FP McCann

PROJECT: Easi-Base

Easi-Base is a precast concrete manhole base unit with a fully supported watertight polypropylene liner incorporating anti-slip benching, channel with fall to outlet and sealed pipe connections. The product provides a fast and economical method of constructing manhole bases on-site compared with traditional methods.

HIGH COMMENDATION: Beresford's Flooring

PROJECT: Core Bung

Core Bung is a quick, lightweight and simple system used to make the cores in hollowcore beams airtight, vastly reducing energy and heat loss and cutting sound transmission. To seal a core, the bung is pushed in, and a short burst of foam is injected through a hole. The foam is forced to the perimeter of the core, creating an airtight seal. The bung helps a structure comply with Part L and Part E of the building regulations.

Sustainability Award – sponsored by Hanson Cement

Corporate category

WINNER: Marshalls Plc

PROJECT: Carbon Labelling

From October 2008, all of Marshalls' 503 domestic landscaping products were carbon labelled using the Carbon Trust's official Carbon Reduction Label. The label indicates to consumers the amount of carbon dioxide equivalent emitted from extracting and processing the raw materials, and manufacturing, distributing, and disposing of the product at the end of its life. With its carbon labelling scheme, Marshalls now has the largest number of carbon-labelled products in the world.

SPECIAL JUDGES' AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNICATIONS:

Aggregate Industries

PROJECT: 10 Years 10 Places (10 Years of Improvement 1997-2007)

Aggregate Industries was presented with a special judge's award for Excellence in Communications for the *10 Years 10 Places* sustainability report, which features everyday stories of how Aggregate Industries' employees, community partners, contractors and customers have delivered sustained growth with reduced environmental effect. Broken down into four key sections - Where we work, The people around us, Where we do business and The world around us - the report highlights how the company plays a vital role in the sustainable future of its business and the wider world, considering not only the much publicised climate change and CO₂ debate, but also biodiversity, pollution control, waste, water and local nuisance. A 10-year summary report, it was designed to influence employees by making them aware of the significant progress made over 10 years in areas of turnover, production and employee headcount, and reduction in lost time injury, community complaints and in process energy consumption per tonne of production.

HIGH COMMENDATION: H+H UK

PROJECT: Energy Accreditation and Carbon Reduction Programme

After successfully reducing its carbon footprint on an absolute emissions basis by 2.5 per cent year-on-year for the preceding three years, H+H UK has become the first UK aircrete and precast concrete manufacturer to achieve accreditation under the Carbon Trust's Energy Efficiency Accreditation Scheme. H+H provided 38 pieces of evidence to the scheme assessor, who awarded the company a final mark of over 80 per cent for energy efficiency. Systems installed to achieve the carbon reduction include, among others, the reuse of waste steam and heat, invertors on electrical motors, the use of captured rain and canal water in place of mains water, and an ongoing planning application to install a wind turbine at one site.

Site category

JOINT WINNER: Aggregate Industries

PROJECT: Ashington Dry Grinding and Polishing

Aggregate Industries championed the concrete landscape products market by installing the first dry grinding/shot-blasting facility in the UK at its Ashington site in Northumberland. It has resulted in a reduction of 28 per cent in energy consumption, and both the slurry waste and the water use has reduced to zero. In addition, all waste is recycled. The scheme has helped to save 1,932 tonnes of virgin material, removed 154 HGV movements and improved working conditions, while also resulting in cost savings.

JOINT WINNER: Marshalls Plc
PROJECT: Brookfoot Shotblast Dust Recycling Scheme

The Shotblast Dust Recycling Scheme is an engineering intervention that has reduced waste to landfill material and demand for aggregates by 1,350 tonnes a year. It has also reduced the requirement for pigment by 23,000kg, has increased the recycling of aggregate waste by 29 per cent on site and provided a business savings projected to be £63,000 a year. The system is managed and largely designed by Marshalls' own engineers and monitored by its own operators and environmental representatives. It has resulted in no transportation of unneeded aggregates from quarry to site, and no human contact with dust.

HIGH COMMENDATION: Aggregate Industries
PROJECT: Installation and Control of Water discharge into Bothlin Burn

In Chryston, all water used from the manufacturing process and all other sources has to be discharged into nearby Bothlin Burn, and all water that seeps into the ground hopper has to be pumped out and discharged. In order to comply with Scottish Environmental Protection Agency legislation, controls were installed at various points throughout the process that have resulted in proper water recycling and the introduction of a state-of-the-art telemetry system for monitoring, ensuring that abnormal conditions are detected immediately.

HIGH COMMENDATION: Marshalls Plc
PROJECT: Employee training at Marshalls Brookfoot

Marshalls launched a programme of competence training at its Brookfoot site that led to formal NVQ qualifications for 212 of its operators and has underpinned a number of performance improvements and employee participation. The results recorded include a declining trend in accidents and environmental incidents, an increase in recycled materials, and a year-on-year cost saving.

Health and Safety Award – sponsored by Lafarge Cement

WINNER: Tarmac Building Products
PROJECT: Tarmac Improvement Plan 2008

During 2008, Tarmac Building Product's Safety Improvement Plan comprised five elements including accountability, communication, SHE committees, SHE management systems and contractors. Systems implemented included one-to-one briefings explaining SHE accountability, personal objectives for the whole line management chain, a range of DVDs shown to staff, a safety climate survey, actions to make the SHE committees more effective, and a new training course covering risk assessment and safe systems of work.

RUNNER-UP: Marshalls Plc
PROJECT: Dynamic Risk Assessments

Since its implementation, Marshalls' Dynamic Risk Assessment (DRA) has reduced engineering-based accidents and incidents by 84 per cent at its Brookfoot site. The DRA is used by all contractors and Marshalls' own engineers, who complete a tick-box assessment that identifies risks such as asbestos, fumes and adverse weather, and prompts taking measures to lessen the risks. It is now used across the group.

HONOURABLE MENTION: Aggregate Industries
PROJECT: AIMS 5

Back in 2000 Aggregate Industries created AIMS, a project focused on raising the profile of health and safety across the entire workforce, by giving health and safety presentations. In 2008, AIMS 5 was designed to be more interactive, so was produced as a DVD featuring a cartoon character called Observant Safety Conscious Avoid Risks, or OSCAR for short! Along with an accompanying booklet, the presentation cost £50,000 to produce, but helped to exceed the company's targeted lost time injury reduction.

HONOURABLE MENTION: Aggregate Industries
PROJECT: Safety Management System

Along with a management restructure at Charcon Specialist Products' C factory, the entire safety management system was re-assessed. Interactive auditing, training, tool box talks, and projects such as MONTIE and AIMS contributed to improved health and safety. At the time of the award entry, the factory had seen 730 days since its last lost time injury, and the number of injuries reduced by 65 per cent on the previous year.

ENDS

Notes to editors

For more information or high resolution images of the winning projects or the award presentations please contact Chrissie Walton on 0116 222 9849 or email chrissie.walton@britishprecast.org. At the end of this document is a contact sheet with some examples of images.

About British Precast

The [British Precast Concrete Federation](http://www.britishprecast.org) (British Precast) is the trade association of UK precast concrete manufacturers. Tracing its roots back to 1918, the federation aims to promote precast concrete in the construction market, and to disseminate information through a range of industry representation and by shared knowledge, to add value to its member companies. Members' interests are continually developed through our team of dedicated professionals who have extensive connections with organisations in the UK and worldwide.

Further information

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Images

Below is just a very small example of the images we have available of the winning projects and award presentations. For high resolution versions or to find out if we have images to suit your article, contact [Chrissie Walton](mailto:Chrissie.Walton@britishprecast.co.uk) by email or on 0116 253 6161.

