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Basketball Facility Features Precast Panels

Midland, VA-based *Smith-Midland Corporation* provided the architectural precast concrete panels for the construction of the Virginia Tech Basketball Facility in Blacksburg, VA. The \$20M, 59,000-sq.-ft. practice facility will house the men's and women's basketball programs.

The new basketball facility has been designed to complement the architecture of the Virginia Tech campus. The part of the facility housing the basketball courts will be clad with the precast panels.

Manufactured at Smith-Midland's facility, the entire project features 538 pieces, and of those there are 160 large panels. The largest panel weighs 34,000 lbs. and is 34 ft. long and 11 ft. wide. The panels are

six-in. thick, steel reinforced, with a buff limestone finish. In total, Smith-Midland has manufactured 30,125 sq. ft. of architectural precast panels for the project.

The panels feature several basketball imprints and the Virginia Tech logo on the exterior of the facility. Ashley Smith, president and COO, says that Smith-Midland worked with architect Canon Design and general contractor Whiting-Turner early on in order to develop "dramatic precast panels that would also be cost-effective."

Smith points out that the designs were built into the form of the panel: they were not embossed or pressed. "Our form builders are really artists; their work is so fine and detailed."

The color and texture of the panels



Smith-Midland Corporation provided dramatic and cost-effective precast panels for Virginia Tech's new basketball facility.

simulates smooth Indiana limestone and complements the Hokie stone used on the rest of the building and throughout the Virginia Tech campus.

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