

The National Precast Concrete Association's Creative Use of Precast (CUP) Awards program honors innovative projects that reflect the best qualities of precast concrete, including flexibility, durability, cost savings and aesthetics.

A resort casino, a village of precast modular buildings and a driver tunnel for one of NASCAR's most popular tracks are some of the standouts from this year's competition.

Entries are divided into two categories: Above Ground and Underground. The CUP judging panel was comprised of professionals in the precast industry and academia.

If you have an exciting project where precast concrete helped to provide the solution, send an e-mail to editor@precastsolutions.org.

THIRD PLACE

It Takes a Village

Project: Fort Story Iraqi Village Portable Training Units

Location: Virginia Beach, Va.

When officials at Fort Story decided to construct a replica of an Iraqi village in order to provide a realistic training environment for logistics troops there, they approached Smith-Midland Corp. for a single precast concrete building. In time, the original order grew to 35 buildings of various sizes, which were customized and configured to realistically depict what troops would find in a Middle East village – from smaller enclosures to the larger structures typically encountered there. Fort Story, located on the lower Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean in southeast Virginia, is a sub-installation of Fort Eustis, home of the U.S. Army's Transportation Corps. The two bases provide specialized training in land and sea transportation.

The existing mission of the installation plus the new U.S. military strategy that began to take shape in Iraq in late 2007 created an enhanced need for the realistic training of forces that

would be part of the "surge" of combat troops going into the country. Ultimately, the ability to make the environment as realistic as possible helps troops to train the way they would fight.

Various aspects of Smith-Midland's precast concrete buildings, the centerpiece of the village, enhanced this realism while helping the Army deliver the training on time and on budget.

The buildings meet bullet-resistance standards and are rated for wind loads of 130 mph, both of which are important considerations for live-fire training in the hurricane-prone Fort Story area.

The patented post-tensioned building system provides even greater weather tightness and impact resistance for the precast roof and floors.

The Easi-Set buildings cost substantially less than equivalent in-place construction, and they can be installed the same day they are delivered. Because of the precast "floating slab" foundation floor slab, no foundations or footings were required beyond level compacted sand or gravel.

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HONORABLE MENTION

Great View on Fairview
Project: 3120 Fairview Park Drive
Location: Falls Church, Va.

Architect Noritake Associates and owner Fairview Property Investments created a strong and cost-effective Class A office building located in the well-established Fairview Park South Office Park in Falls Church, Va. The eight-story office building was constructed with architectural precast concrete panels, which reduced the cost and duration of the construction project while allowing a broad range of architectural design concepts to be executed.

The 185,000-square-foot office building was clad with 27,840 square feet of architectural precast colored panels manufactured by Smith-Midland Corp. of Midland, Va. The panels incorporated a smooth acid-washed finish and a medium sandblast finish, and were faced with green reflective glass and accented with a granite wainscoting. The south facade and main entrance elevation is constructed on a radius and features an aluminum curtainwall system with green tinted glass. Color-matching aluminum metal panels and architectural precast concrete complete the elevation. The main building entrance is connected to a three-story parking structure with an arcade and covered walkway.

The precast panels were chosen largely because of their low maintenance requirements and the cost savings realized from shorter erection and construction time. The schedule for erecting 3120 Fairview Park was very tight at 10 weeks.

In addition to the time saving benefit,

the precast panels were made in a closed, factory-controlled environment that ensured a uniformly high-quality facade in the desired shapes, colors and textures. The panels are exceptionally resistant to impact, corrosion, weathering, abrasion and other ravages of time, making it virtually maintenance-free and resulting in preservation of the building's original look. Architects find that precast concrete panels provide unlimited opportunities allowing design concepts to be executed in a broad range of architectural styles, shapes, and sizes.

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