

On the Level

Precision Wins ACI Low-Rise Award



Precision received first place in ACI's Low Rise Category for our amazing work on the Mercedes-Benz USA Headquarters.

In October of 2016, construction broke ground for the new US headquarters for Mercedes-Benz in Sandy Springs, GA. This 200,000 sf facility houses nearly 1,000 Mercedes-Benz employees and is part of a larger development at the intersection of GA-400 and Abernathy Rd. The building consists of north and south "work bars" that are each 3 stories tall and contain open air offices and work spaces for the North American sales and marketing staff. The project also has many unique features such as a roof top bar, restaurant-quality café, coffee bar, and a 500-car parking deck.

Precision Concrete worked with Skanska to build this high profile project. Working with 4 foundation and wall crews through an extremely tough winter and rainy season, the concrete foundations, basement walls, and four 50-ft tall shear-wall cans were constructed in just under 4 ½ months to get ready for the steel building to be erected, calling for roughly 7,500 CY of concrete to be placed. This tight schedule required daily coordination with cranes, contractors, and site access. The remainder of the project consisted of the upper floors of the building which were concrete slabs on steel decks and the 500-car

parking deck which was a pre-cast deck constructed by Metromont on cast-in place foundations. In total, there was 14,400 CY of concrete and 550 TNS of rebar.

While this project features many of the unique and luxurious aspects of the Mercedes brand, it also features many of the unique aspects of concrete and its multi-facet uses. The concrete on this project has all the high-performance attributes and sleek design of the sports cars it houses. To display concrete's strength and high capacity performance, the design of the building had 4 shear wall cans that were 50 ft. tall. These shearwalls were an integral part of the structural design as they housed the stairwells of the building and were key structural supports for the building. These walls remained exposed on the inside and were required to maintain a Class A finish. This was not an easy task considering the speed at which they needed to be built. The building was also supported by a perimeter concrete retaining wall that created the basement and loading dock area. The perimeter retaining wall was cast with a board formed form-liner to create the architectural feature the design team was after. The design was based on the idea that this trendy steel and glass building would set on a strong and prominent concrete base. Every detail of the board form pattern was coordinated and debated upon, down to the spacing of the control joints to line up with the glass mullions above.

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Another key architectural feature to this building is the colored concrete floor and monumental stair case in the heart of the building, making them the first things you see in the building when you walk in the front door and truly personify the high-quality standards of Mercedes-Benz. The color was tested with many mock ups and had multiple placements to ensure the quality was kept to the highest standard. While the upper floors of the building did not have colored concrete, they did receive a concrete polish finish which made them shine like a brand-new car.

The use of concrete for the new Mercedes-Benz USA headquarters shows that concrete is useful for more than just hard foundations or driveways. Mercedes-Benz is proud to say that their brand is "Unlike Any Other". Now they can say the same about their new US Headquarters, especially the concrete.



GTA Cyber Innovation & Training Center



Precision paired with New South Construction to build the brand new GTA Cyber Innovations & Training Center for the Georgia Technology Authority. This project received ACI's 1st place award in the Mid-Rise Category. This 5-Story office/classroom building is fully equipped with an auditorium and a parking deck. Located in Augusta, Georgia, Precision helped bring The Cyber Center designed by Gensler to life. To date, the Georgia Cyber Center is the single largest investment in a cybersecurity facility by a state government at more than \$100 million. The center is addressing the growing demand of highly trained cybersecurity professionals by connecting academic programs, established technology companies, GBI's newly created Cyber Crime Unit, start-up cybersecurity companies, and research and development. It also houses Augusta University's School of Computer and Cyber Sciences and Cyber Institute. This building is a place to advance the field of information security with research on vulnerability that will help ensure a reliable workforce and infrastructure, a necessity to protect our nation from cyber threats.

The building is approximately 160,000 square feet and includes a separate pre-cast parking deck accommodating approximately 750 vehicles. The building is located in downtown Augusta, backing up to the Savannah River. Large spread footings and connecting grade beams were installed, some as large as 17' square by 39" thick. Reinforced concrete grade beams that connected the large interior spread footings also helped to support the building's steel frame. These beams received a precast façade of concrete and brick veneer. The building has large glass windows to take in the beautiful Savannah River and Riverwalk views.

One of the complicated aspects of constructing the building was the grade beam that needed to turn down to the elevator pit spread footing that was five feet below the adjacent footing. This grade beam needed to be built around the structural steel column, and it wasn't scheduled to be installed until after the slab on grade was finished. The steel column wasn't available when we were building the foundation, so we weren't able to complete the grade beam installation. Precision's solution to this problem was to leave out a section of the grade beam and install threaded couplers into the footing so it could be poured later, after the column was erected. Elevator pit walls were changed so that they would create an isolation around where the column would be installed. This allowed Precision Concrete to pour the entire slab on grade except for the isolations, which wouldn't get poured back until the columns were installed.

At the building auditorium, tiered seating was created with large blocks of EPS foam and steel edge forms. A #89 stone mix was used in the topping slab that poured onto the built-up foam. The small stone allowed the concrete to convey through the small 3" pump line. This was needed because the concrete pump hose system was not able to touch the foam or edge forms because it could damage the thin gauge metal edge forms and foam.

New South Construction had a tight schedule. Precision was able to pour all the foundations and slab on grade in 6 weeks. Foundations for the building started the last week in July, and the building's roof concrete was poured in mid-December. By the time the building and parking deck foundations and slabs were finished, Precision had poured approximately 8,600 cubic yards of concrete. Precision's great work helped earn yet another ACI award.



Construction Fun Fact

Today, concrete is the world's most popular man-made building product. More than 7 billion cubic meters of concrete are produced each year. That's one cubic meter for every person on the planet! And concrete is used by engineers and professional builders around the globe for an almost endless list of projects.

New Crane Standards

A new crane standard has been issued. Moving forward, the following documentation must be provided on all Precision Concrete Projects:

- Operator's certification from a recognized entity (CIC, NCCCO, NCCER)
- A pre-lift plan that does not exceed 75% of the crane's rated chart
- Three most recent monthly inspections
- A 3rd party inspection performed on site
- An annual inspection performed by the crane owner's authorized competent person

For operators who were hired by the crane company after December 9th, 2018, employers must have the following documentation:

1. Evaluator's Name
2. Evaluation Date
3. Operator's Name and Signature
4. Make of Equipment
5. Model of Equipment
6. Configuration of the Equipment (main boom, jib section, parts of line, etc.)

For operators who were hired prior to December 9th, 2018, employers can provide the following instead:

1. Date of Employer's Determination of Operator's Abilities
2. Make of Equipment
3. Model of Equipment
4. Configuration of the Equipment