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ConcreteWorks is a publication of the **Alabama Concrete Industries Association** and features articles and photographs pertaining to product applications, educational opportunities, as well as innovative construction techniques impacting the industry.

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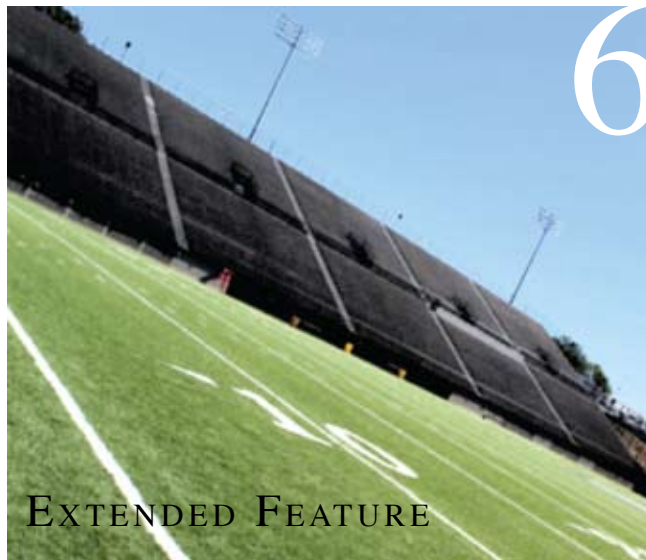
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ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL?

As fans pack football facilities around Alabama this autumn, what they may never even notice — the yards and yards of concrete in all its various forms — are exactly what's keeping their favorite stadium a safe, functional place where they can cheer their team to victory.

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WHAT LIES *Within*

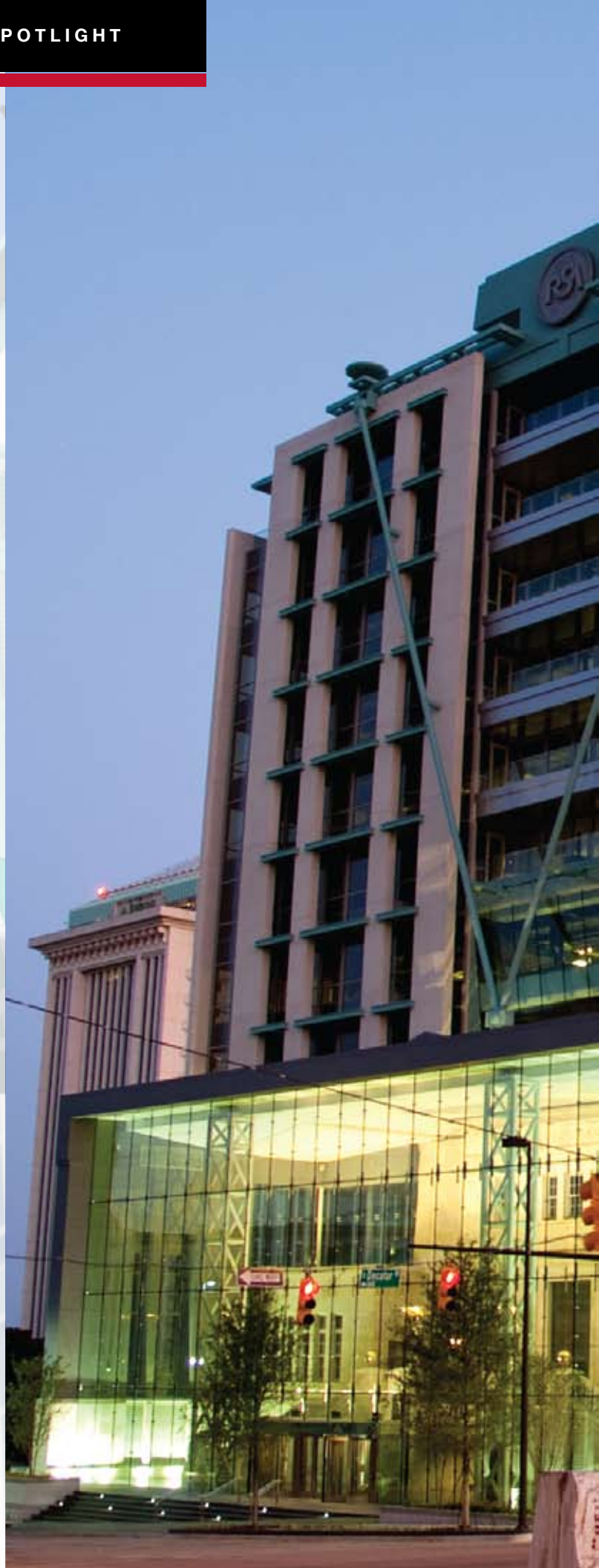
If you're in downtown Montgomery, and you look up Dexter Avenue towards the majestic white dome of the state capitol building, you're attention will undoubtedly be drawn to an impressive new structure on the left adding some real weight to the skyline. The RSA Dexter Avenue Building is nearing completion after five years in the making, and stands out for several reasons, the predominant one being its truly unique façade.

When the Retirement Systems of Alabama (RSA) decided to create a massive new office facility on the site, the CEO of RSA, Dr. David Bronner, made the decision to keep the existing building intact and simply build around it, a choice that may seem odd, until you learn more about the existing building. The State of Alabama Judicial Building has occupied the lot at 445 Dexter Avenue for over 80 years and includes the historic state Supreme Court chamber, yet it has been vacant since the early 1990s.

Today, the new structure is 12 stories tall, housing commercial office spaces of all sizes and offering sweeping views of Montgomery's downtown, the Alabama riverfront and the state capitol building from

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PHOTOGRAPHY OF ROBERT FOUTS





its landscaped terraces and private executive balconies. But the highlight of the building is the fully restored Alabama Judicial Building encased inside the 50-foot-high glazed glass grand vestibule with its columns and entire front exterior visible from the Dexter Avenue frontage.

Conserving and highlighting the Judicial Building was a major motivation behind the new building's design, as Montgomery architect Mike Watson, AIA, principal of 2WR / JMR Architects, explained. "The original focus of the design was first to preserve and showcase the old, abandoned Supreme Court building, and that drove design of the Dexter exterior and the use of the structural glass wall," he said. "Another priority was to provide as many net-leasable square feet as possible to recover the leasable space required to maintain and preserve the old building inside it, and finally, to create a building that reacts to its various exposures through facades that relate to



PHOTOGRAPHY OF ROBERT FOUTS





their environment and to create an architecturally interesting office building with maximum windows and terraces and other amenities desirable to corporate tenants.”

Creating a space that fulfilled and balanced so many needs was a challenge, but one that Watson and second principal in the firm, Mike Rutland, were happy to take on and were able to surmount, thanks to the many beneficial properties of concrete. “The finished product is a realization of Dr. Bronner’s vision,” Watson said. “And in every place and application that it was utilized, concrete was chosen for its fortitude, stability and durability,”

The building’s structural makeup has approximately 50 percent of the 12-story structure’s frame as concrete, and the other 50 percent is steel. The steel structure spans the original Judicial Building with a two-floor, 28-foot-deep truss configuration that was erected utilizing the concrete frame once its installation reached the 7th floor level. The total amount of poured in place concrete in this building structure and other site work components is almost 3,000 cubic yards.

The concrete frame is a post-tensioned reinforced structure that occupies the north tower of the building. This frame also supports all of the roof structure and penthouse structures at the north end of the facility.

Watson pointed to a significant use of concrete, where its unequalled strength comes into play. “Also unique with regards to this project was the installation of the post-grouted reinforced concrete piers, a very specialized deep foundation engineering design that allowed single pier installation under each building column location, which resulted in a very efficient foundation design,” Watson said.

Other concrete products used at the facility include the hardscape and landscape concrete pavers utilized at grade level and at green roofs and terraces on the upper levels of the structure. The entire skin of the facility is enclosed with precast concrete wall panels and specialized curtain wall systems.

Adjacent to the building is a concrete parking garage that has been there for about 20 years, exemplifying concrete’s staying power. “The pre-cast, pre-stressed concrete deck has lasted for decades and will be used for additional parking for the RSA Dexter Building’s tenants and guest,” Watson said.

2WR / JMR’s innovative design for the RSA Dexter Building has created a harmony between old and new and between modern and more traditional aesthetics, and perhaps most importantly, preserved a piece of our state’s heritage in a truly unique way. And thanks to the extensive use of concrete and its proven longevity, both structures should be around for the use and enjoyment of many generations to come.

ARE
YOU
READY
FOR
SOME



FOOTBALL?

Fall
in Alabama
means several things.

We finally get some relief from our state's sweltering summer heat. School is back in full swing, bringing with it a busy schedule of activities and events. But for many of us, the true highlight of autumn is football. Whether it's to watch the high school or college version of this favorite sport, fans in droves pack stadiums of all sizes and shapes all across the state on Friday nights and Saturday afternoons.

One common denominator at most of these games — in addition to an abundance of school spirit — is the major material that makes up the stadium and its adjacent facilities. While those in attendance are much more interested in the action down on the field, the structures surrounding them and supporting all their enthusiasm often contain massive amounts of concrete. It is the first choice for such projects for multiple reasons.



FAST TO THE FINISH

Speed is always an asset in football, and according to Yann Cowart, AIA, LEED AP, vice president of Montgomery-based Infinity Architecture, it was ease-of-use and therefore, quick installation, that drove the choice of concrete via architectural precast panels for the recently completed Auburn Athletics Football Practice Facility at Auburn University. "Concrete was chosen for a lot of reasons, but really, the biggest thing here was the scheduling, and concrete let us get this done fast," he said. "We couldn't start until after the last home football game of the 2010 season and needed to have it done before the team reported for fall camp of the 2011 season. It was pretty challenging, but concrete helped us overcome those challenges and get it done and done right."

The indoor facility allows Auburn football, baseball, softball, soccer and track teams to practice indoors during inclement weather. Concrete is present in several different places in several different forms on the \$11.5 million, 91,000-square-foot multi-purpose building that houses a full football field with a 20-foot perimeter around the edges. The most visible use is on the outside of the main building. From ground level up to 28 feet on all sides, the building's exterior skin is composed of a combination of thin-set brick precast concrete panels and conventional precast panels designed to fit with the campus architecture. "There were two major reasons we chose precast brick panels," Cowart said. "One: This project was constructed

on a very tight site and on a very tight schedule, so lay down and delivery were big considerations, and concrete precast panels gave us the ability to erect the exterior skin in an expeditious manner without scaffolding. Two: We had to meet the image and character standards for the university, which requires a brick look."

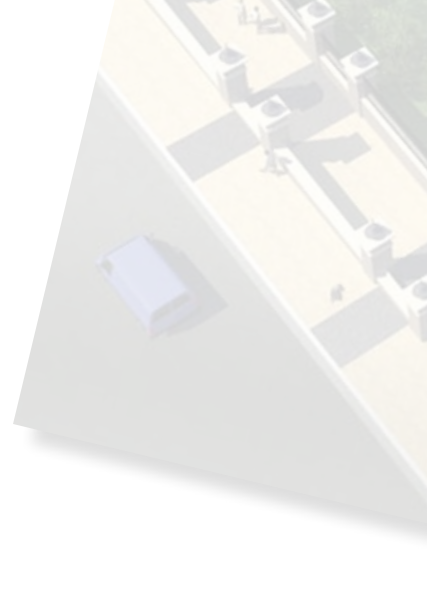
But because of the sheer volume of material needed and the real possibility for movement in the building since it is a pre-engineered metal frame, it was just not practical to use traditional built-up masonry. "The pre-cast panels helped us with the lateral forces that the metal building has to withstand; traditional masonry would not have been able to do that in an economical way," Cowart said.

Cowart also praised the good looks of the pre-cast panels and how well they match the aesthetic of the surrounding campus. "They really came out well, and using the brick look broke down the scale of this huge building. Everyone was really pleased with the outcome and the overall aesthetic." And finally, as it often does, concrete fit nicely in the budget. "Of course, it helped us meet our budgetary constraints," Cowart said.

Other uses of concrete at the facility include some solid precast panels, and the foundation is also concrete. Colored concrete was used for paving around the apron and the exterior service areas. Finally, a massive poured-in-place concrete retaining wall along Samford Street allowed the building to fit within the tight constraints.

COMPLETED PROJECT PHOTOS COURTESY OF
INFINITY ARCHITECTURE





An aerial photograph of the Cramton Bowl stadium in Montgomery, Alabama. The stadium is a large, multi-tiered concrete structure with a green field in the center. Surrounding the stadium are parking lots filled with cars, a press box building, and other stadium facilities. The image is used as a background for the article.

STILL STANDING

While Montgomery's Cramton Bowl was in dire need of some rehabilitation the stadium was still standing, just like some of college football's most legendary old coaches. Most notably was its tiered concrete seating, which is now over 90 years old. "The fact that the seating did not need to be redone is a great testament to concrete's enduring strength and durability," said Walter McKee president of McKee & Associates Architecture and Interior Design, the Montgomery firm tasked with updating and revitalizing the historic facility for the city. "There have been some repairs made through the years, but the concrete frame structure that is the structural system of west side stands is pretty much still intact," he said. "Cramton Bowl was originally built in 1922, so seeing those rows of seats still there and usable speaks volumes."

The over-\$8 million update project was completed late this summer and consisted of three distinct parts: 1) rebuilding the west concourse with new concessions stands and restrooms and eliminating what has been called the "red bank," an ugly pile of earth that had been causing drainage issues; 2) adding a new pedestrian plaza and entrance on the north side and opening up the visibility of the field along Madison Avenue; and 3) constructing a new press box.

McKee elaborated on each part. "Getting rid of the 'red bank' was important first because it was really unsightly, and we had to fix the drainage problems," he said. "The north plaza improvements provided much more pedestrian space during game time and before and after, and the improved visibility allows people walking into the stadium from the north to observe the activity inside the stadium. The press box has three levels; the lower floor is used by coaches and game management, the second floor is for media and the filming of the games, and the third floor has a VIP suite available for rent or for use by teams and institutions using the facility."

For the north plaza improvements, the predominant material was concrete. It was used for the walkways and steps. To enhance the appearance of this brand new section of Cramton Bowl, McKee recommended a checkerboard design with stamped edges for the walkways. "The city was willing to go for the higher aesthetic that this created," McKee said. "They made the extra investment

because they know from experience that it will last and will serve the city well for the next 50 years and beyond." Poured concrete floors will also be underfoot in the new press box.

McKee praised the city for its decision to preserve and improve Cramton Bowl. "The benefit of the revitalized facility is that now we have a safe and clean environment for Montgomery City Schools' football programs to call home, and with the added amenities, these schools will attract larger crowds to games," he said. The updated stadium should also have a large and positive effect on Montgomery's economy as the Montgomery Sports Commission works to bring outside sporting events to the stadium and the adjacent multi-purpose sports facility. The Coaches Classic, put on by the Alabama Athletic Association, was held at Cramton Bowl in August, and the Alabama -Mississippi All Star Football Classic game will be played in the stadium starting this December.

BIGGER & BETTER

After Jacksonville State University's (JSU) football team enjoyed several recent winning seasons, the university was ready to add more seats to Burgess-Snow Field at the JSU Stadium to accommodate the Gamecock's happy fans. The stadium was originally opened in 1947 and expanded twice (in 1965 and 1978) before the expansion that took place in 2010 and was completed just in time for that season's opening game. The most recent addition took the facility's capacity up to 24,000 seats.

Walter McKee with Montgomery's McKee & Associates oversaw the project and outlined the role concrete played. "The new seats were constructed of pre-stressed concrete and pre-stressed columns and raker beams," he said. "Pre-stressed concrete was an easy material to recommend because of its value in economical construction as well as its ability to match up with the existing stadium construction."

The work also included a 900-seat "stadium club" on the fifth floor of a new building and a press box and 32 luxury suites located on the sixth and seventh floors.

A 400-bed student housing building was also part of the project. "One of the things the university insisted on in the housing was a rigid, solid floor and a composite steel and concrete structure was the answer to provide that rigidity as well as the safety and durability that they required," McKee said. "Also, concrete masonry units provided the durable and attractive finish for the restrooms and concessions that were integral parts of the stadium project. As in any football stadium, durability is key, so concrete becomes the obvious solution. It is what will allow for true longevity."

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF
MCKEE & ASSOCIATES







BEST ON A BUDGET

When G.W Carver High School in Birmingham was built over a decade ago, it was completed without a football stadium. Two years ago, Adams Design Associates, also in Birmingham, was selected to design a stadium for the Rams, which was completed in September 2010. The budget for the project was a lean one, and Tom Hunt, president of the firm and principal in charge of this project, outlined how concrete allowed his team to meet all the school's needs and still keep costs in check. "Low initial cost and low maintenance costs were critical requirements. Concrete's flexibility allowed us to work on smaller budget and still get a look that works and that everyone is very happy with," he said.

The stadium complex includes a competition field for football and soccer as well as an eight-lane running track surrounding the field. The grandstands contain 4,500 seats, with 3,000 seats on the home side and 1,500 seats on the visitors' side. Each side also has a building that contains bathrooms, team meeting rooms and concessions. "The buildings are pretty much the same, but the home side building is twice the size, just like the seating on the home side is bigger," Hunt said.

Providing two very distinct and separate areas for the opposing teams was a priority for the school to address safety concerns, so Hunt's design used sidewalks that split and lead to each side as soon as people come through the gate. Hunt explained the other factors that make this facility a little different from other high school stadiums. "The common way to do it is to tuck the concessions building underneath the grandstands," he said. "Thanks to some available space, we were able to actually separate the buildings and grandstands by some distance and add a pedestrian mall area and a sidewalk. The result is a very pleasant arrangement that has worked out really well. It cuts down on congestion and makes everything easier."

Hunt wanted to keep his design in accordance with the campus master plan, and so the construction detailing is forthright and expresses the simplicity and economy of the structure. "The buildings are thin and long, and so they look bigger than they actually are," he said. "They really have an impressive appearance, that was by design so they would not be dwarfed by the huge grandstands and field."

But the school was constructed with concrete block with masonry facing, and the budget would not allow for that material in this case. Hunt's solution was to employ another type of concrete, simple single-wythe colored concrete block. "The budget constraints sort-of forced us into that kind of construction as opposed to more conventional concrete block with clay masonry facing," he said.

Hunt got creative when it came to the surfaces, choosing to create an appearance that was similar and in keeping with the existing campus while not matching it exactly. "To enhance the look, we used some heavily textured split-face block and regular textured split-face block in two coordinating colors, and we were able to pick up on but not exactly match the original building." He went with a reddish and then a brownish brick color that mimics what is on the existing buildings, and installed them in an alternating arrangement that gave a stripe effect. "So our buildings really do look like they belong on that campus," he said. "We did great with what we had, and I'm proud of that. With a product that has a more limited palate and not as much versatility, we could not have produced such handsome buildings."

Knowing that the stadium and its buildings — like most anything on a school campus — will take quite a beating through the years, Hunt had concrete's durability on his mind too. "This project demanded tough building materials with few painted areas, and concrete is so durable," he said. "That is why people have used the standard gray block for decades in these cases, as utility is usually the first and foremost concern."

However, we went a step further and added some color and texture, and we did it without paying the premium that clay masonry would have cost us."



SOLID SURFACE

When most people arrive at their favorite Cracker Barrel, their eyes are focused on the deep porch and inviting rocking chairs, while their taste buds and tummies are honed in on the delicious country cooking waiting inside. The parking lot may as well not even exist. But at the Cracker Barrel in Pell City, everyone was noticing the parking lot. Even though it was only five years old, the asphalt surface was cracking, crumbling and generally sinking into the ground below it. "Basically, the parking lot failed," said Jay Howard, with Webb Concrete & Building Materials. "It had to be torn out and completely redone."

When Cracker Barrel picked the material for round two of their Pell City parking lot, they knew better than to go with asphalt again. They chose concrete instead.

The large 66,500-square-foot parking lot was completed in August 2011 after a six-week installation and required approximately 1,600 feet of concrete. Jeff





Conaway of J.C. Conaway & Co. Inc., who worked on the project with his brother's company Conaway Paving, explained why they went with concrete the second time around. "We used 4000 PSI no-fiber on two-foot grids with No. 4, ½-inch rebar," he said. "We originally bid the project with asphalt, but the reason we ultimately went with concrete was due to the soft ground at the site. Asphalt couldn't hold up." Concrete's strength meant it could and would remain a firm foundation for years to come.

Since it required very little in the way of preparation or additional work before hand, concrete also allowed the project to be finished in a fraction of the time and for a lower cost, as Conaway explained. "We were able to go right in with the concrete instead of doing all the site prep work we would have had to do to use asphalt," he said. "That meant a quick install, and concrete came in cheaper."

In some cases, asphalt has less initial cost than concrete, but even in these instances, concrete often ends up being more cost-effective for the long term. "Had the site been fine, asphalt would have been cheaper on the front end, but in the long run, concrete still usually comes out cheaper because it is much more durable and will last much longer," Conaway said. "The lack of required upkeep makes it cheaper too; there is no maintenance necessary like there is for asphalt."

According to Conaway, Cracker Barrel has been more than pleased with the end result, for all of the reasons above, but for one additional feature as well: concrete's lower environmental impact. "Concrete is a 'green' material. It doesn't contain petroleum like asphalt, can be easily recycled, and thanks to the light color in this project, reduces the parking lot's 'heat island' effect," Conaway said.

Rumor has it that this lot is the first concrete lot that Cracker Barrel has ever constructed out of its many locations across the country. With the long list of benefits the material brought to this project, it probably won't be the last.





MOTIVATED to Make It

Linda Snapp, AIA

Our parents, and their opinions, influence us in various ways. Often they are a source of wisdom that we use to direct our choices. But sometimes, it is their mistakes or misguided perceptions that we learn from or that motivate us the most. While architect Linda Snapp stressed her positive, close relationship with her father and that she benefited from his knowledge and guidance in many ways, she also pointed to his old-fashioned view on one particular subject as a main source of inspiration behind her decision to pursue a career in architecture. "My father was a factory rep and called on interior designers and architects, but he was old-school and thought that a woman's place was to stay home and take care of the house and the family," she said. "So as a challenge to him, I chose a profession that was, at that time, predominately male. I'll admit that I was rebelling a bit in doing that, but I've never had hard feelings toward my father for his views. I know that they are what drove me and really pushed me to succeed."

Today, in looking at her long career and multiple accomplishments, Snapp's father is proud of who his daughter has become, and she gives him ample credit. "He is a great man, and his views have changed," she said. "But I am honestly thankful for the way they were. I believe they played a positive role in who I am."

Growing up in Kentucky, Snapp knew early on that she wanted to prove that she could do and be anything she wanted, but her desire to become an architect was sparked by a school project. "In 8th grade, I had to make a career notebook that outlined everything about a specific job," she said. "I knew a little about architecture and it seemed



interesting, so I went with that. The more I learned, the more I became convinced that architecture was for me. From then on, I knew that was what I wanted to do."

As part of the notebook project, Snapp had to prepare a list of colleges and universities that offered architecture degree programs. One that she included was close to her home. "The University of Cincinnati was nearby, so I applied there," she said.

While her first love was always architecture, Snapp also had a passion for dance. As a kind of "plan B," she

applied to the university's college conservatory of music in addition to the college of architecture. Fate stepped in to ensure that she stayed focused on "plan A." "The college of architecture admitted me first, so, of course, I went with that. And that's very fortunate," she said. "I don't think dance would have been a good career for me. There's no money in it, and I don't think I could have handled all the foot surgeries!"

She graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1975 and went back to Kentucky to work for the firm that had allowed her to do her co-op work during college. After that job, she went to work for Kentucky Fried Chicken in their corporate office where she designed KFC restaurants being built around the country. While working for the Colonel, Snapp was also attending the University of Louisville, studying mechanical engineering. She didn't end up finishing that degree, but she feels the classes have served her well. "I really wanted that training to add to my knowledge of architecture, and it has augmented my work," she said.

After getting married, Snapp moved to North Carolina, then South Carolina. Her first husband passed away, and five years later she remarried. After only three months, her husband was transferred to Mobile, and Snapp found a job at the engineering firm Clark Geer Latham & Associates, Inc., where she's been for 17 years and

is now Vice President of Architecture. "It is the longest I've worked for any firm, and I'm an officer in the company now," she said. The company does mostly structural and civil engineering, and Snapp is perfectly at home among all the engineers that make up her colleagues. "I've actually always worked for engineering firms," she said. "I've never worked for just an architectural firm."

All of her previous positions share another common thread as well: many of her projects require a lot of concrete. One of her recent projects, the corporate headquarters for Saunders Yachtworks in Orange Beach, Ala., utilized concrete in multiple ways. Completed in 2009, the two-story, 15,000-square-foot building located on the Intra-Coastal Waterway has a concrete foundation, but also took advantage of advances in the concrete industry that have led to a wide array of choices in split-face block. To stand up to possible severe weather the moist, salt air of the coastal environment; cut down on maintenance; and to add visual interest, both split-face block and colored split-face block were used on the exterior walls. The building also incorporates a combination of deck bond and running bond in addition to the split face. "The client wanted the building to be aesthetically pleasing, but it also has to withstand a lot of use and conform to hurricane codes, all within a set budget," Snapp said. "Concrete allowed us to meet all of those requirements." Stained and textured concrete floors inside the building gave it a stylish look that will last for decades



ArchitectUNCOVERED

Linda Snapp, AIA, Vice President of Architecture at Clark Geer Latham and Associates in Mobile, openly professes her love for her work, but with our “random Q&A,” ConcreteWorks has uncovered some of her other interests too, not the least of which is sharing some chicken chow mien with a certain dreamy celebrity.

WHAT WOULD YOU BE IF YOU WERE NOT AN ARCHITECT?

I guess I'm pretty tied to architecture because I think I'd be a landscape architect.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB?

I was a soda jerk at a drugstore when I was 16.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES?

Gardening and shopping. I love shopping!

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BUILDING FROM AN ARCHITECTURAL PERSPECTIVE?

I was fortunate enough to travel to Italy two years ago, and there were just so many churches and buildings there that I loved looking at. I can't name just one. I was captured by all of the intricate moldings and all the tiny details.

IF YOU COULD HAVE DINNER WITH ANYONE, DEAD OR ALIVE, WHO WOULD IT BE?

Brad Pitt

WHAT WAS THE LAST BOOK YOU READ?

A Lee Child's book, and I think it was actually a book on tape. I often listen to books on tape while driving to and from work.

WHAT'S THE ONE FOOD YOU COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT?

I have to have Chinese food.

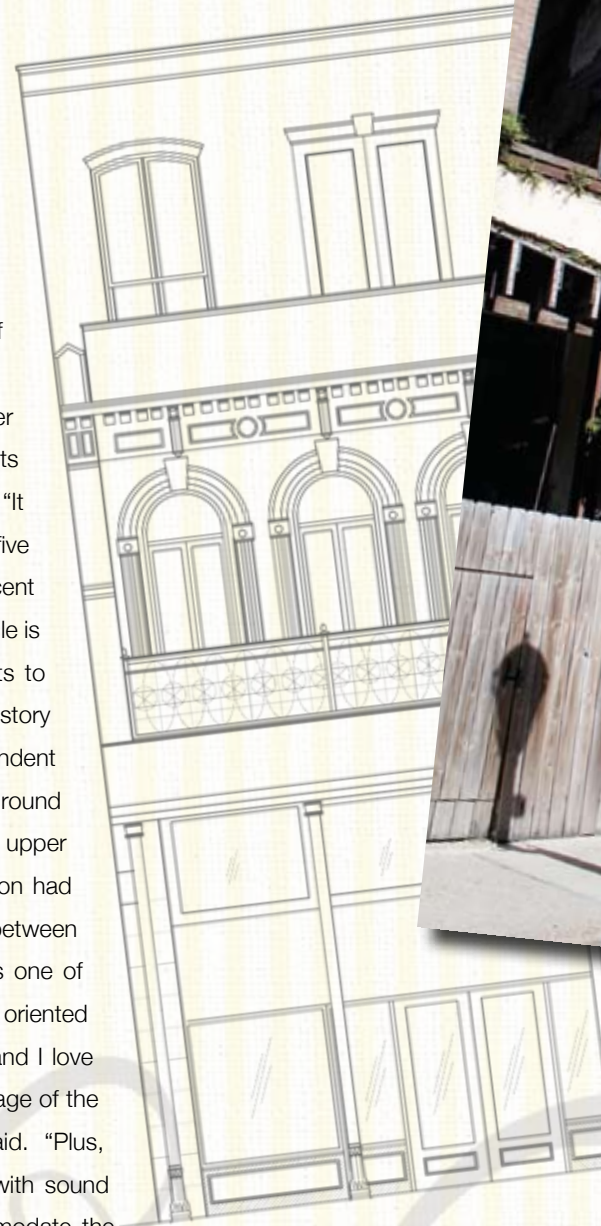
to come, being able to hold up under high foot traffic often carrying with it water, sand or salt as well as the weight of boats and spills of oil and gas that often occur in the work areas of the facility.

Now Snapp is working on the second phase of the Yachtworks project, a dry dock basin and boat repair yard. “The basin will require tons of concrete,” she said. The repair yard will have about an acre and a half of reinforced concrete to support the boat-lift, and the basin will have a reinforced concrete wharf with a cast-in-place channel to assist with drainage into the viaduct basin, with architectural stacked block

walls to enhance the appearance. “Concrete is the only choice for construction like this,” Snapp said. “It is very flexible, and can be shaped, molded and colored in a variety of ways.”

She pointed to another example that highlights concrete's versatility. “It was completed about five years ago, but the Crescent Theater in downtown Mobile is one of my favorite projects to date,” she said. The three-story building houses an independent movie theater on the ground floor with lofts on the upper two floors, and construction had to be sandwiched in between two existing walls. “It was one of the more architecturally oriented projects I've worked on, and I love the look of it and the heritage of the historic building,” she said. “Plus, the challenge of dealing with sound and fire codes to accommodate the theatre and the lofts was really neat and fun.” Snapp used concrete for the floors to provide needed sound dampening and helped achieve the necessary fire rating. “You can do so much more than most lay people think with concrete. It has so many uses and so many useful, beneficial qualities,” she said. “It is easily workable too, so it's great if you are under tight time constraints. And its durability can't be matched.”

Its strength and staying power are the characteristics most associated with





concrete,

but Snapp looks to concrete

for style and appearance considerations too,

often using stained concrete on projects.

"Many clients like the look we can achieve by going with stained concrete. The options are almost endless," she said. "But they also like how easy it is to clean and maintain. And from a cost standpoint, it is so much cheaper than tile."

Snapp also uses concrete to embellish her own home. "As a project in college, I had to design decorative concrete blocks," she said. "I've kept doing it since then. I've made some really nice stepping stones for my garden that add more individuality than

using those you can buy at your local garden center."

Participating in every facet of the process and finally seeing the end results of her work are the rewards that keep feeding Snapp's passion for her profession. "I love watching a project come up out of the ground. I love interaction with the clients and love watching their excitement as the project comes together," she said. "And I really love to see something I designed work for others and see others get use and enjoyment out of it."

With so much to love, it may seem that Snapp floats right through her days. But she does face challenges, and recently, smaller budgets have been hurdles she, and many others in her field, have had to learn how to jump over. "Working on a project and putting it out for bids, then having to go back and value-engineer to match the budget can be tough," she said. "Sometimes clients don't understand what something will cost until they see it in writing, and then we have to go back and find ways to cut it down, and that can be really frustrating."

During her over-30-year-long career, Snapp has seen her profession evolve quite a bit, with the dawn of the computer age taking some of the frustration out of the process by speeding things up. "Computers have brought the biggest changes to architecture," she said. "I'm sure any architect will tell you that. It revolutionized the way we do drawings. I began using t-squares and triangles and drew with ink. Sometimes, when it was late on a project, there would be three of us scattered on different sides of a drawing board finishing up. You never see that today."

While most of the steps have been part of a march forward, she sees a few drawbacks too. "The computer age has been both good and bad for the industry, I think," Snapp said. "Most of the changes have been positive. We can e-mail drawings and do work all over the country. I'm now licensed in 22 states. But the kids today coming out of architecture school already think in terms of computers; many don't even sketch at all anymore, and that has taken some of the art out of architecture in my opinion."

Snapp's second husband is retired, but she keeps him busy with house projects, "in between his rounds of golf," she laughed. Yet, at age 59, she has no plans to retire anytime soon. "I plan on working at least 15 more years because I still love what I do," she said. "Before I would totally retire, I think I'd just cut back my days, but even that is years away."

Snapp's parents are still alive and living in Kentucky, and as a parent herself, Snapp can now experience what her parents feel. As Snapp talked about her 30-year-old son and his career managing parking facilities all over Atlanta, the pride in her voice was obvious. "I'm glad he's done what he wanted to do and gone his own way," she said. "Just like I did."

In Memoriam

BUTCH WYATT

It's not very often that someone so easily connects and bonds with others that they turn practically anyone they meet, from colleagues (and colleagues' families), to their neighbors and everyone in between, into instant friends. But that was the case with Butch Wyatt. Ask anyone who ever spent any amount of time with him, and they'll waste no time telling you how warm, open and real he always was.

Just a few months ago, Butch lost his two-year battle with lung cancer, passing away on September 5. He worked at ACIA for nearly 10 years as Masonry Director, and was a tireless advocate for the industry, consistently promoting the benefits of concrete and diligently working to help and support all who make, sell and use the material.

One of his favorite aspects of his job was interacting with architects and engineers. He counted many of them, scattered around the state's various firms, among his closest friends. He particularly liked to play golf with them, and so he began an annual golf tournament as a way to combine work and fun, something he did quite well.

In honor of Butch and all he meant to ACIA and so many others, the golf tournament he founded was renamed the Butch Wyatt Concrete Cup Invitational this year and was held on September 26 at the Inverness Country Club. Over 50 architects showed up to play and to reminisce about the good times – and there were many – that they had enjoyed in the company of their pal.

For this issue of ConcreteWorks, we wanted to include a tribute to Butch and decided the best way to share with others what he was all about was to let some of those who knew him best describe what he meant to them.

Mike Chapman, AIA, Principal of Chapman Sisson Architects Butch and I met on an AIA state council retreat, and I knew him about five years. We became immediate friends, and when my wife and I met his wife, we became fast friends with her as well. Losing Butch is a real tragedy for the profession of architecture. But it is much more than that for me. He was friend even more than professional colleague. I respected him for his strong faith, which was so evident in his final days. He was very comfortable and positive; it was amazing to see. I've never met anyone so much at peace with what was going on. And his sense of humor about it was great. His wife Nancy is a real card, and we were eating dinner with them about a month before he passed. He was sitting in his chair, and he asked Nancy to get him a drink from the kitchen. She said, "Get up and get it yourself." He replied, "But Nancy, I've got cancer." She said, "You don't have cancer in your legs." And they both laughed. I know he will be greatly missed by everyone he came in contact with.

Linda Snapp, AIA, Vice President at Clark Geer Latham & Associates, Inc. I met Butch about eight years ago and met him through state AIA chapter. He was actually the outgoing affiliate director the year that I was president. He was very active in AIA and loved what he did. He loved concrete, loved all the architects, and I loved him. When I gave a president's award, I gave it to him because I felt like he needed to be thanked for all the hard work he did for AIA. The last AIA convention that I went to, I was very surprised to see him. I had not been aware how ill he really was. My husband is a big golfer and always requested to be on Butch's team, along with his wife Nancy, at the convention golf tournament. This year their team won the tournament, and as Butch thanked everyone his comment was, "It is pretty amazing that we could win with an old man who is dying and old woman." He kept his sense of humor through it all, and that's just who he was.

Glenn Bishop, PE, SECB, FACEC, Senior Principal at LBYD Engineering It seems like I've known Butch forever, certainly ever since he was with ACIA. He was a real people person, and one of the things he was good at, was getting others together, whether it was to play golf or to talk about serious things in the industry. He was always willing to help you out. If you needed something done, and it could be done, he would do it. You could always count on him. He was also very loyal to the concrete industry and always trying to improve it. One of his key character traits was that whatever he took on, he put himself into it wholeheartedly.

Larry Vinson, Executive Director of the Alabama Council of AIA I had known Butch since I came to work with AIA in early 2000. He served twice on our executive committee. Butch was always been very special as professional affiliate. The thing I loved the most about him was that no matter what you asked or how last minute your request, he never said no. He would do whatever for you and was so positive about it. I got to travel with Butch for some conventions, and he was always so much fun. He was really the life of the group. It was not just business relationship that I had with him. He quickly became a friend too, and he was that way with everyone.

