CONCRETE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION MAGAZINE SUMMER 2012 EDITION

University of Alabama Roberta Alison Baumgardner Tennis Facility

FACILITY

ROBERTA ALISON BAL

GARDNER

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CONCRETE FINISHES FIRST

One of the most famous sports venues in the country turned to concrete to complete a major renovation.

TAG ON TOP

TAG/The Architects Group in Mobile snagged the ACIA's 2012 Top Block Award for its impressive use of concrete block in Spring Hill College's new Student Center.



THE LITTLE STORE THAT COULD The Store, a gas station in Mc-

Calla, proves that you don't have to be big to think big.

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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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Keri Ward, Art Director & Editor John Sorrell, Editor Jennifer Kornegay, Writer

ROBERTA ALISON BAUMGARDNER TENNIS FACILITY: LOVE ALL

Architects, Inc. used CMU to achieve just the right look for a stylish new sports facility at the University of Alabama that's already earned the admiration of players and fans.



ARCHITECT SPOTLIGHT- JAY JENKINS

Solving problems is no problem for Anniston architect Jay Jenkins.

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hen the Talladega Superspeedway embarked on a major renovation of its grandstand areas, including a massive amount of surfaces to be paved, it looked for a material that had it all, a true competitor. Concrete blew past other choices, winning the race and coming in first as the major material.

The reserved grandstands are on both the east and west sides of the Superspeedway's Tri-Oval track and were more than ready for a facelift. In 2009, work began on the two-phase \$13-million project that was completed in May 2012, just in time for the first race of the

season, and replaced all the grandstand seating with larger seats and wider aisles, as well as all new paving under the stands. "It's really exciting for our fans," said Grant Lynch, Track President. "It's a great upgrade that makes things a lot more comfortable. We've torn out all of these 40-year-old seats and added poured-in-place concrete seating that's bigger and better."

In the lower grandstands, the seats have expanded from 18-inches wide to 21-inches wide with a good bit more knee room as well as armrests and cup-holders. In the towers, the seats are now 22-inches wide.

Below all this fancy new seating is an equally appealing concourse that's clean and uniform, thanks to concrete paving. "Before, it was all piece-mill asphalt," Lynch said. "Now, we've got this new concreted concourse from end to end in one, smooth, bright material that makes



this place look great and operate great; we've now got the nicest grandstand seats in motorsports." All in all, the project has used 1,500 cubic feet of concrete, enough concrete to pour the foundations for over 300 single-family homes.

At the course considered by many to be NASCAR's most competitive and iconic to NASCAR's devoted fans, aesthetics certainly matter; the Superspeedway should look as big-league as it is. But with thousands of people descending in droves on the facility each year alone, long-term strength is every bit as important. "When you put in enough concrete and rebar,

thanks to concrete's strength, we can bring in all our heavy equipment that we need for events and not be concerned about damaging our



brand-new surface. It just holds up so much better than asphalt that might give way," Lynch said. "And it looks better too."

He went on to tout the other benefits concrete brought to the project. "It is a much more durable surface as far as standing up to the running water that will be coming down from the new dripshields under the seating," he said. "Also, it is a much easier surface for the water to run off of, creating cleaner runoff since it won't pick up as much on its journey; then the water goes underground, under the concrete."

Concrete's lighter color causes pitchblack asphalt to pale in comparison when it comes to heat absorption and a more illuminating appearance, which can



enhance security. Since the majority of the concrete paving is under the shade of the grandstands, its heat reflection ability is not as key in this case, but its ability to reflect more light is. "It just brightens it all up under there," Lynch said.

Jay Howard with Webb Concrete, the material supplier for the project, agreed. "By contributing to more light under the grandstands, the concrete paving makes things safer," he said. "It is also a much longer-term product than asphalt and will better withstand the pressure and weight of the heavy trucks that need to be in that area."

Before this renovation, there was not very much concrete to be found at the Superspeedway, so going in this direction has been a big change. "I think they realized that in the long run, this choice is more cost-effective and will be little or no maintenance," Howard said.

"When you add up the better aesthetics of the concrete, its longevity and the fact that we do not have to worry about messing it up with our trucks, we see a real cost savings," Lynch said. "This is much better for our operations than what we had in the past."

A non-fluoride accelerator was added to ensure that the concrete set up in the shade, and Howard is proud of the way concrete thanks to concrete's strength, we can bring in all our heavy equipment that we need for events and not be concerned about damaging our brand-new surface. It just holds up so much better..

performed during the installation process, living up to its "ease of installation" praise even in some tough tight spots. "There were a lot of columns and some low-overhead areas that made it hard to reach some places," he said. "We couldn't access all points, so we pumped it in a line pump, and in some places, we pumped it as far as 400 feet. That's a very long way to pump concrete, but it worked well. I was very pleased with that."

The crowds of energetic race fans are sure to enjoy all the high-speed action at the Superspeedway and are no doubt pleased with the results as well.





TAG ON TOP

Every year, ACIA encourages architects to submit their projects that use concrete block for consideration in the Top Block Award contest. Top Block recognizes architects and their designs that make great use of this strong, versatile material that has been the product of choice for decade after decade and is still heavily relied upon today. TAG in Mobile was honored with the 2012 Top Block award at the AIA State Awards Banquet for its design of the new Student Center at Spring Hill College. Dan Borcicky, AIA, principal and director of design at TAG, was project architect and according to him, the new structure was badly needed to replace the existing Student Center that was getting up there in years and definitely showing its age. The expanding student population also called for more space. "We initially did some analysis to see about renovating the old building, but when it came down to it, there were too many problems, pipes were bad, etc., and it would have cost the same to fully renovate as it did to start over," Borcicky said.





So the college decided to tear the original center down and begin again with a brand new building. Starting from scratch created an opportunity to give the center some sorely needed additional space and functionality. "The old place didn't have many meeting rooms or good spaces for gathering," Borcicky said. "Now the new building offers meeting spaces and comfortable lounges for hanging out and studying." The \$9.3 million, 65,000-sqare-foot, two-level structure also has expanded food service capabilities as well as a new bookstore and administrative offices.

Borcicky and his associates actually let students participate in the beginning of the design process, since they are the people most often using the center. "Because of what it is, we knew that students would be using this facility far more than any other group on campus, so we definitely wanted to hear their thoughts on what they wanted and needed in their building," he said.

Borcicky was careful to create something that met the students' and the college administrations' needs but that also blended nicely with everything around it; therefore the other structures on campus

TOP<u>BLOCK</u>AWARD last three year

GOLDSMITH SCHIFFMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2011 Hunstville, AL Chapman Sisson Architects

OPELIKA SPORTSPLEX AQUATICS CENTER

2010 Opelika, AL Barge, Waggoner, Sumner, Cannon Architects

HELENA MIDDLE SCHOOL



Helena, AL Lathan Associates Architects, P.C.



dictated some aspects of the new center's design. "I knew we needed to match the look of the campus, so nothing too modern would work," he said. "I often like to use larger scale block for the base, so with two levels and with this building being so big, I used larger modules at the bottom and then medium in the middle, tapering down in size as we went up the walls."

The result is a building composed of concrete block, topped with brick, and then stucco, and the design took full advantage of block's versatility, using colored split-face block to tie into the existing look of the campus. "The split-face block gives it a large and impressive texture at the bottom; it really anchors the entire concept," he said. "And the different scales and different textures of the different products moving up the building turned out great." A concrete sill on top of the block was also used, running all the way around as a band, separating the block from the brick. Concrete components can be found in columns and some of the interior walls as well.

Borcicky's choices met the Top Block requirement of creative masonry design, and his use of block highlights the flexibility of masonry products, which is what led Borcicky to enter it for the award in the first place. "We knew it had a good use of block, and we believed it was a pretty nice looking building too," he said.





6 6 The concrete earned us points since it has better insulation and energy efficiency and is a recyclable material



But concrete block has more than its rugged good looks going for it, as architects and others in the industry have known for many years and as Borcicky reiterated. "Concrete block's low and easy maintenance played into our choice here too," he said. "We didn't have to paint it, and it will last for decades to come."

It's a perfect choice for the lower portion for the building, the part that can be reached and touched. "We have outside patios on two sides of the center where people will be right up next to building, and we know that the block at the bottom will really hold up; it really can't be hurt like stucco could," he said. Using concrete also helped the center achieve LEED-Silver Certification. "The concrete earned us points since it has better insulation and energy efficiency and is a recyclable material," Borcicky said.

Even more important than an honor like the Top Block Award is the feedback from the end user, and the campus center has garnered plenty of accolades in this respect too. "The college loves it," Borcicky said. "It is just such a big difference from what they had and so much better. We've done a lot for them through the years, so they knew what to expect from us, and we know what to expect from concrete."

LITTLE STOR

When you think of your neighborhood gas station and super stop, it may call to mind your favorite fruit slushie or slightly stale donuts, but it's doubtful that you pay much attention to its design or imagine it to be anything on the cutting edge. Yet The Store, a newly opened gas station and food shop in little McCalla, Alabama, is just that, earning the honor of being the first building of its kind to pursue — and very probably achieve — LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification, the thirdparty badge of approval issued to environmentally friendly building projects.

It's a notable distinction, and one that its owner is thrilled to be working toward. "I'm so proud to be the first one doing this in our state," said Jim Wadsworth, owner of Wadsworth Oil, which owns The Store. He decided to build it using LEED criteria as a way to do his part in protecting Alabama's natural beauty. "I've served on the board of Nature Conservancy of Alabama for several years, and through that, I've become more and more aware of the environment and how fragile it is, so I wanted this project to have the smallest impact possible," Wadsworth said. "That was one driving force."

Another key contributing factor was the financial savings that came thanks to the high level of energy efficiency inherent in LEED-designed buildings. "I'd always been conscious of energy use, so I wanted to build this one this way, and compare the power bill with our other stores that I own," he said. "Then I can see, in a definite way, how it really works."

Most LEED-certified buildings are large projects, much bigger in scale than The Store, but the folks at RLS Design Group in Homewood agreed with Wadsworth that the underlying principals and methods should work just as well, and maybe even





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better, in a space with less square footage. "At 3,420 square feet, going for LEED in this property is pretty unique," said Caitlin Kent LEED AP (accredited professional) with RLS Design Group and project administrator on this job. "When we first did the LEED research with Jim, we knew it might cost a bit more at first, but it will save money in the long run. And Jim knew from the beginning that he wanted to pursue LEED."

"So we decided to give it a try and see," Wadsworth added.

"Going green" in this case did add about a 10 percent increase to the structure's cost, but its lower operating costs will offset that. The Store opened in February 2012 and is currently about halfway through the process of receiving LEED certification. Wadsworth has been nothing but pleased with the outcome. "All the cooler lights in the drink areas are LED lights, which will last longer and conserve energy, but they also make the product look better because they are brighter. The new kinds of doors we used on the coolers mean we don't have to use heat strips (to keep the glass from fogging) like we used to, and that's another energy saver. The level on insulation is keeping the store very comfortable in terms of temperature. The whole thing just turned out looking really nice," he said. "Plus, it was very interesting learning about it, going through it all with the architects and contractors."

And despite some very specific protocols and rules required to gain LEED certification, Wadsworth was shocked by the array of choices he had. "Once we got into it, we were surprised how many choices there were," he said.

Concrete's role in this "first," is an integral one, as Lamar Myrick, the project manager explained. "Concrete block is typical of these types of stores for many reasons: strength, versatility, readily available and easy installation. It goes up quick, meaning the whole project moves along faster, and is always very durable. It's always been a good go-to product," he said. "But its use is different here. We filled each cell with insulation, and this significantly cuts down on air escape and keeps the amount of heating and air conditioning needed down to a minimum." They also added an inch and a half of insulation on metal hat channels.

Other uses of concrete include all of the paving for the parking lot and areas around the gas pumps. "That's an added environmentallyfriendly factor as concrete paving is a reachable material," Myrick said. Like the building's white metal roof, the lighter-colored paving also helps reflect heat instead of absorb it.

Using easily available materials those than are recycled or can be recycled throughout the construction of "The Store" will prove key in



the LEED certification process. The natural stone on the façade came from a quarry in nearby Oneonta. "In general, we tried to source regional materials and recycled materials, including concrete," Kent said. "It is important to LEED for materials to come from 500 miles or less of the project site because it supports local business and reduces transport costs."

Wadsworth echoed Kent's thoughts. "When I was first starting this idea, I looked at a metal building versus concrete block, but the



WHY build green?

primary energy use

72% electricity consumption

39% CO2 emissions

13% potable water consumptiuon

65% waste output

architects felt like the concrete had a real cost advantage over the metal," he said. "And my contractor shared that every time he tried to do a metal building for someone, they ended up having to wait on the steel. The consensus was that concrete is cheaper, much easier to use and leads to a lot quicker construction time. Most of my other buildings are concrete, and I have always been happy with them, so they didn't have to sell me on it."

Other LEED elements in this project include counters and

cabinets made of recycled materials, the use of low-VOC materials, which reduce air pollution, and a design that created plenty of daylighting. "Right when you walk in, the abundance of natural light is very noticeable, and the space is so-well insulated that it is really selfsustaining when it comes to interior climate control."

While he's still waiting to see if he can officially call The Store a LEED property, he's already committed to use the methods for his future stores, whether he pursues the certification again or not. "I hope I'm setting an example that will motivate others to look into building this way," he said.

Roberta Alison Baumgardner Tennis Facility

The University of Alabama (UA) recently added an indoor tennis facility to its mix of athletic buildings. Completed in January 2012, the Roberta Alison Baumgardner Tennis Facility is adjacent to the Alabama Tennis Stadium and features six regulation NCAA hard courts that complement the existing 12 outdoor tennis courts within the athletic complex, in addition to a lobby and restrooms. For matches and general tournament play, elevated seating is provided for 150-plus spectators, and the space provides an unobstructed view of all six courts. The facility was created to provide a place for teams to practice and compete during bad weather, but it also increases the University's opportunities to host major tennis events. It is just one more in a long list of outstanding facilities on campus, and concrete block played a major role in the construction of the 54,750-square-foot facility.

Its exterior elevations are comprised of two colors of half-high concrete masonry units (CMU). To create a blended appearance and extra visual appeal for the exterior design, both split-face and smooth face materials were used. The red-range CMUs are a custom color created specifically to match the clay brick blend used on other UA facilities. All of the exterior walls are installed as a singlewythe CMU construction braced vertically with integrated steel wind beams, and the CMU cores are foam filled to provide an energy-efficient wall performance.

The facility was designed by the Ellis Architects team including Michael Ellis, Scott Burnett and Jake Bailey. According to Scott Burnett in the firm's Birmingham office, concrete block met the facility's needs on several levels, with











the structure's look and style being one of the most important. "The exterior appearance of this tennis facility was designed to blend with the existing neoclassical buildings and other athletic facilities of the UA campus. Its entrance provides a well-proportioned and inviting entrance for tennis events," he said. Built to continue the cohesive look of other athletic sports venues on campus as well as the adjacent multi-story residential structure, the scale and shape of the facility was created to complement and blend within its context. The exterior finishes of the building were chosen to fit in with the color and texture of the traditional red brick and limestone campus finishes. In addition, unique elements like the front entry, which is accented with concrete cast-stone detailing and translucent panels above them that flood the facility with natural light, give the building its own character

and further emulate the overall aesthetic of the University. "Cast stone was chosen to complement the building's design features and to replicate the limestone appearance prevalent throughout the campus," Burnett said. "The expression of the facility's masonry components and structural frame were also inspired by early 1900s industrial buildings," Bailey added.

Single-wythe half-high integrally pigmented CMU was chosen for its appearance, namely its ability to blend with the brick veneer of nearby campus buildings, but it also provided a cost-effective total wall construction system that could be completed within an efficient construction time. "It met all the program requirements for the facility, which included durability, speed of construction and exterior appearance," Burnett said. "Using the braced wall approach to



construct the walls provided a quick and integrally designed structural system for the facility."

The strength of CMUs was another key factor in the decision to use it, particularly in its pairing with the facility's metal frame. "The metal building structural frame is clear span with no intermediate columns," Burnett said. "With the CMU exterior wall design, the design integrated the two systems to create a rigid structural performance."

Aesthetic versatility and structural stability are hallmarks of concrete block, as is its cost effectiveness, and this third distinction becomes crucial in large projects where operating within a strict budget is of paramount importance. Burnett stressed its value in this regard. "The single-wythe CMU system proved to be an economical option while creating an aesthetical solution for the facility and the campus," he said.

He echoed those sentiments concerning the use of the cast stone. "The use of cast stone at the entry and window surroundings simulated a limestone appearance at a much lower cost. The resulting combination of materials created a blending palette by which the facility will complement the University's campus and excite the student athletes who play there," he said.

All of the concrete used in this project contributed to its lower environmental impact, a consideration that's becoming a higher and higher priority for public buildings all over the country and was definitely a factor here, as Jake Bailey explained. "The Indoor Tennis Facility was designed to utilize regionally available materials within energy efficient design principles. Translucent wall panels provide natural light to the interior while eliminating glare," he said. "Single-wythe CMU wall construction has a significantly lower carbon footprint than the conventional CMU with brick veneer wall construction. Regionally available materials minimized transportation costs for the project. Filling the CMU cores with foam enhances energy efficiency, and facility operations were analyzed to provide efficient and effective mechanical and lighting systems that reduced energy consumption."

When it opened, the Roberta Alison Baumgardner Tennis Facility welcomed standing-room-only crowds for its inaugural tennis match, and comments from players, spectators and University officials have been overwhelmingly positive. "Student athletes and tennis players have praised the facility for its attention to detail, exceptional spectator experience and its ease in tennis play within the facility," Mike Ellis said. "The University of Alabama has enthusiastically excelled the tennis opportunities of its student athletes and the community with this modern facility." With it already garnering so much praise, the project will prove to be a grand slam win for all involved.

A R C H I T E C T S P O T L I G H T

SOLVING PROBLEMS IS NO PROBLEM FOR ANNISTON ARCHITECT AY ENKINS

"I thrive on fixing the issues that inevitably crop up in the field, and I find that I'm at my very best when I'm presented with something that needs immediate attention"



Some people run from problems as fast and as far away as they can. Not Jay Jenkins. The Anniston architect, AIA, a partner in Munroe + Jenkins Architects, LLC, is at the top of his game when he's facing a crisis. And it's not just that the former swimmer has the capability and skill to stroke his way through the rough waters architectural projects sometimes stir up, he actually enjoys it. From little hiccups to large roadblocks, the search for the right solution fuels Jenkins' affection for his profession. "I love solving problems," he said. "I thrive on fixing the issues that inevitably crop up in the field, and I find that I'm at my very best when I'm presented with something that needs immediate attention."

He's even carried his passion for problem solving outside of his primary career, running for and winning a seat on the Anniston City Council. "In my role as a councilman, I get to be proactive and work towards solutions on a larger scale, solutions that affect many more people."

Maybe his tendency to throw himself into a dilemma instead of being rattled by it comes courtesy of the architecture that's in his blood. Jenkins' father was an architect; he helped found the firm where Jenkins works today. During high school, a young Jenkins spent a good part of his summers running prints and drawings around town and doing other little tasks for the firm. But becoming an architect himself had not yet entered his mind. "My dad certainly never pressed me," he said. "And I was a competitive swimmer at the time. That

was my main focus."

When it came time for college and the reality that there are no professional swimmers hit home, Jenkins fell back on the only other thing he really knew and then realized, he didn't know that much about it. "I knew I needed

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to choose a profession, and I grew up around the business, but I honestly walked into school not even knowing what a t-square was, so despite my exposure to it growing up, I had to pick up the basics pretty quick," he said.

Despite not stemming from some long-held aspiration, his choice was obviously the right one; Jenkins knows he was meant to be an architect. And his successes in his 25-plusyear career back up that sentiment, as do scores of satisfied clients. After graduation from Auburn University's architecture school, Jenkins moved to Denver, Colorado, and worked for two different firms there. "One specialized in resort homes in Aspen and Vail," he said. "That was really fun."

But before long, family called him back South. "My dad's firm got big enough that he needed help, so I came home and have been here ever since," he said. Today, Munroe Jenkins specializes in large-scale projects, with the bulk of its work in education. "Our firm has specialized in education buildings, everything from K-12 to universities," he said. "We've completed some projects at Auburn University and at Alabama State University as well as at a number of community colleges in the region."

Over the last few years, his firm has shifted its focus a bit; it is now doing more civic architecture and retail projects. "The economy has dictated that to some extent," Jenkins said.

As disparate as they may all look and function, many of these project types share a common thread; they often rely on concrete as a major component, making Jenkins' experience with the material vast. He praised its durability, flexibility and inherent strength. "Most of our education projects have involved a concrete frame, places like the new multipurpose building we just did for Jefferson State's Valleydale campus," he said. "That's a natural choice for several reasons: it is strong and costeffective," he said.

Another major project utilizing concrete block was recently completed for the City of Anniston, a new aquatic and fitness center that is an addition to an existing building. "For this project, we called on concrete in several instances. We used concrete block, hollow core concrete slabs as well as some pouredin-place concrete components," he said. "First, concrete is just so durable, and that is a huge advantage; it can really take a beating, particularly when you think of kids in a school and their mischievousness or crowds of people using a fitness center."

"Concrete is also a very safe material," he continued. "In educational buildings, we've always done corridors with hollow-core slabs and concrete block walls because this method generates a very safe environment, and there is a lot of comfort in that for the end user and for us as architects. We've been doing things that way for years."

He pointed to concrete's flexibility too, noting that its use in framing allows for extra room above ceilings that wouldn't be available otherwise. "So there are many reasons we like concrete for a lot of our work," he said.

Jenkins does most of his work out in the field, so if you've been picturing him at a drafting desk toiling with pencils under a small halo of light, erase that image. He spends the majority of his time outside and on-site, and he wouldn't have it any other way. "I've always leaned that way," he said. "I love being outdoors; it's really very important to me, and doing field work for the firm gives me that chance to be outside. Plus, I like to get my hands dirty, to really get into the projects and all their aspects."

In addition to the fieldwork he so treasures, Jenkins also takes pleasure in some of the residential projects his firm does from time to time. "I really like collaborating and working with an individual client sometimes as opposed to a group; those projects are always exciting," he said.

But things are not always smooth and



rosy; as it is for other architects and just about everyone else, the recession and the slow climb out of it has adversely affected his business. "I think that the economy is something that has obviously impacted and truly changed the profession of architecture," he said.

True to form though, Jenkins has come up with some answers to aid in the issue. "Part of me believes that the economy has come back as much as it is going to," he said. "It may be that we all have to learn to function with less; here at the firm we'll need to make our office and operations more efficient. The downturn was really crushing to our profession though; there are many architects out of a job."

That could be a tragedy beyond the loss of a livelihood; it could be a problem for us all if we end up with fewer architects at work since they shape the look, feel and functionality of our homes and our communities, and very importantly, our schools. "There are multiple studies that show that the quality of the learning environment, the actual building, can effect the quality of the learning that goes on inside it," Jenkins said. "A poor environment yields poor results, but if it is good, it can improve student involvement, attitude and ultimately grades. It is proof that the physical can impact us emotionally and intellectually. So architecture is valuable and contributes a lot to society."

And it's so much more than just drawing a nice-looking picture. "After the inspiration, after the initial design draft, there is so much collaboration with so many entities to reach the end result," Jenkins said. "That's one of the coolest things about what we do."

Other cool things include opportunities to guide and teach children, something Jenkins thoroughly enjoys. "I take a very active role mentoring kids," he said. "The firm does a few annual things like teaching environmental architecture to fourth graders in Calhoun County. We are also active with a few private schools that do job shadow programs that put kids in the workforce for a week or two at a time; we take them around and show them the business." Often, one or two of the students that participated in the job shadowing weeks turn up as summer interns at the firm once they're in high school.

Staying involved and engaged outside of architecture is also important to Jenkins, as his role on the city council shows. He also serves on numerous boards in his community and was the construction coordinator for his area's Habitat for Humanity. With all this activity, no one would blame Jenkins for starting to wind things down a bit. Yet, he's got no plans to slow down anytime soon. "I've been practicing architecture for about a quarter of a century, but I've got a lot left to accomplish before I will be satisfied; there's much left to do, more problems to solve," he said.

THE LIKES AND LOVES OF JAY JENKINS

Anniston architect Jay Jenkins could be called a convergent thinker, someone who focuses on the problem as stated and works to synthesize information and knowledge to achieve a solution. And this is not just what he does in his job, it's what he loves about his job, a point he makes clear in his Architect Spotlight profile. So what else floats Jenkins' boat? *ConcreteWorks* asked a few additional questions to find out.

WHAT WOULD YOU BE IF YOU WERE NOT AN ARCHITECT?

Probably something that would put me working with youth sports or maybe in the political arena. I don't have any political aspirations beyond being a city councilman right now. I've got too much to do, and I want to stay in architecture; it is still my first love, and I'm not willing to give it up yet.

WHAT'S THE ONE THING YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT AT WORK?

My truck. I've got to get from point A to point B. And my cell phone; they are my two most prized possessions at this point.

WHAT'S THE ONE THING YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT IN YOUR LIFE?

My two children. I have a 13-year old daughter and an 11-year-old son.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES?

I play a lot of golf and coach soccer. My son likes to hike, so we do a lot of that. I was an avid skier at one point, but not so much anymore. I'm getting a little rickety for that. I really like almost any outdoor pursuit.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BUILDING FROM AN ARCHITECTURAL PERSPECTIVE?

There are so many greats out there, but when I visited Fallingwater [a home in Pennsylvania designed by Frank Lloyd Wright] with college friends, the experience was amazing. The beauty of the design, the way everything was so perfectly woven together, such harmony almost moves you to tears. Later, I went with my father to Chicago, and he had the same reaction to Wright's personal home.

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

Ernest Hemingway. "Old Man and the Sea" has always been one of my favorite books. I know we'd have plenty to drink and know it would be fascinating to sit and hear him tell the tales of his life.

What's your motto?

I work under the motto, "If you don't care who gets the credit, you'd be amazed what can be accomplished."

WHAT IS THE LAST BOOK YOU READ? "The Te of Piglet"

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