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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute Announces 2018 Sidney Freedman Craftsmanship Award Winner

CHICAGO, Nov. 12, 2018 – The Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute has announced the winner of the 2018 Sidney Freedman Craftsmanship Award. The annual award recognizes PCI-certified plants for excellence in manufacturing and craftsmanship of architectural precast and glass fiber-reinforced concrete (GFRC) structures and individual components. This year's award was presented at PCI Committee Days in Rosemont, Illinois, on October 12.

A panel of judges selected Coreslab Structures' (L.A.), Perris, California, for its work on USC Village at the University of Southern California as this year's winner. Judges evaluated projects on a variety of criteria the precast/prestressed concrete industry have identified as key measures of manufacturing excellence, including forming, overcoming obstacles to production, finishing, and the overall quality of the end-product. The award is named after retired PCI Director of Architectural Systems Sidney Freedman, who served as a leading voice in precast architectural design for more than 43 years with the organization.

"The sheer magnitude of the project and Coreslab's attention to every detail, such as 1 million linear feet of grout joints, set the USC Village ahead of all others," said Chris Fister, president, Fister Quarries Group Inc., who served as one of the judges. "Judging was very difficult, as all entries displayed superior workmanship and a true passion for their art."

The winning Oxford-inspired project is a multiple-building complex on the USC campus in Los Angeles that encompasses the many facets and intricate details of collegiate gothic architecture. The eye-catching, five-story buildings are clad with precast thin brick wall panels, said Coreslab Structures (L.A.) Vice President and General Manager Jon Clausen. Each erected panel includes several previously cast pieces inset into larger forms that included the various architectural features along with elastomeric thin brick forms. Typical pieces include separate window surrounds, cornices, medallions, and other design elements that were carefully coordinated and placed in the forms before the final pour. More than 1.5 million bricks were hand-placed into elastomeric liners to capture the individual bricks in highly controlled random patterns.

The project included erecting 1,050 wall panels; however, the total project included more than 3,000 precast pieces. Each erected panel encompassed several previously cast pieces that were inset into larger forms that included the various architectural features along with the elastomeric thin brick forms.

"This project was the largest individual development the school had ever tackled," said Clausen. "The volume of unique and challenging details, coupled with an extremely tight schedule, demanded a high level of commitment from every team member." For more on the winning project, visit https://www.coreslab.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Coreslab-LA_USC-Village-Final.pdf

About PCI

Founded in 1954, The Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI) is a technical institute for the precast concrete structures industry. PCI develops, maintains, and disseminates the body of knowledge for designing, fabricating, and constructing precast structures. PCI provides technical resources, certification for companies and individuals, continuing education, as well as conducts research and development projects, conventions, conferences, awards programs, and much more. PCI members include precast concrete manufacturers, companies that provide products and services to the industry, precast concrete erectors, and individual members such as architects, consultants, contractors, developers, educators, engineers, materials suppliers, service providers, and students. To learn more, visit www.pci.org, or email Tom Bagsarian at tbagsarian@pci.org.