

New Product Development Team at Wells

Wells Concrete has assembled a new team specifically dedicated to streamlining the development of new products through all phases of fabrication for precast buildings: design, testing, sales, production, delivery, and erection.

When the New Product Development team is integrated into the project during the design stage, one of our new precast wall systems can be utilized to meet the client's ideas and budget needs. Early collaboration brings our product specialists into the project's design and construction team, which helps promote the overall project success. Implementing the total enclosure system at the beginning of a project reduces schedule inefficiencies and ensures quality results.

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Total Precast Concrete Solutions

Total precast concrete building systems, where architectural and structural precast/prestressed concrete components are combined to create the entire building, are becoming the format of choice for many construction teams. Combining architectural and structural functions creates advantages that include speed, flexibility and aesthetics.

Precast structural systems have the inherent ability to resist heavier loads than originally planned; for instance, a total precast structure can withstand more severe storms than its original design. Precast systems have been known to withstand the heavy, wet snows in the Midwest much better than other structural systems, and some owners with total precast systems have enjoyed lower insurance rates as a result.

This design approach can take several forms, including precast columns and beams with panelized cladding, or load-bearing precast walls with double-tee or hollowcore flooring. In any format, the advantages benefit every member of the construction team — especially the owner, whose goals are always paramount.

In addition to helping to meet all of the building owner's goals, total precast concrete systems provide specific advantages to architects that make the design process smoother. General contractors find precast concrete components make their job easier at the job-site, ensuring a smooth process for the owner and designer in both the short and long terms.

And structural engineers report no difficulty in learning to design with total precast concrete systems. They also benefit from the material's ease of use and efficiency.



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Project Showcase: Total Precast Concrete

Wells has manufactured and erected more than 6,000,000 sq. ft. of total precast concrete projects in the past three years alone, a few examples include:

Element Hotel - Bloomington, MN: Another hospitality project is coming soon to hotel-rich Bloomington with a 144-room extended stay hotel. The seven-story, 90,800-square-foot Element by Westin Hotel will include a lounge, an indoor pool, a fitness facility, a meeting room and an outdoor plaza area.

Wells produced and erected more than 100,000 sq. ft. of precast for this new hotel. A unique system used on the site is the ER Post Truss, a patented design that provides the answer to the age-old problem of designing mixed-use buildings. Long span trusses allow for parking, retail and living to be combined in one building with easy transitions from each. These spans provide complete flexibility in exterior cladding. Many possibilities in architectural precast cladding as well as full height glass exteriors are made possible with this system. They also provide open area in tight floor-to-floor heights and as a fire resistant product, the system is ideal for mixed-use and hospitality.

The truss system supports two levels of hollowcore plank or double tees. For this project alone, we have produced and are currently erecting more than 600 members of hollowcore, in addition to nearly 100 pieces of structural insulated and solid wall panels.

169 Inverness - Englewood, CO: This 4-story, 120,000-sq. ft. building offers 10-ft. ceilings and on-site parking as well as covered executive parking. Due to the tuck under parking, there are five supported levels of precast including the roof.

Architectural formliner was used on the interior elevator core walls. The exterior load bearing precast spandrels featured three colors - black, white, and grey. The Level 2 spandrels on the north and west elevations, were supported by two piece, exterior, architectural round columns with an acid etch finish on all sides. The Level 2 architectural spandrels incorporated a 2'-9 soffit return.



Education Opportunities

Schedule your next Plant Tour or Lunch & Learn today. Wells Concrete is committed to keeping the design community up-to-date on new precast technologies and innovations while continuing to develop interest in designing sustainable structures. Clients, designers, association groups, and students can register for continuing education presentations or educational plant tours by [clicking here](#).



Blogs

Have you been following our Blog posts? [Subscribe](#) today to receive updates every week. Recent topics include:

- [Supporting Student Education](#)
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- [Total precast structures in the urban environment](#)
- [Create Tall, Open Interior Spaces with Precast Concrete](#)
- [The 5 step guide to the production process for making Prestressed Insulated Wall Panels](#)

Upcoming Events

We invite you to participate in any of the events below to learn more about Wells Concrete and trends in the precast concrete industry. Click here for more details on our on-line calendar.

- AWC Golf Sponsor: June 14
- ACEC Golf Sponsor: June 17
- Facades+AM: July 24
- AIA MN Golf Event Sponsor: July 29
- Dig-In Open House: September 7 - EARN CE Credits. INVITATION coming soon.