Focus of this Issue: Sound Walls and Miscellaneous

Exposed brown aggregate noise wall, Route I-84, Newburgh

Adjacent to I-84 on the Newburgh approach to the Newburgh Beacon Bridge, design credit for this attractive exposed aggregate noise reduction wall belongs to New York State Department of Transportation Region 8, Landscape Design. The wall serves the residential neighborhood as a barrier to interstate noise, and will be long lived and maintenance free, requiring no periodic re-staining or waterproofing.

Noise wall posts were supported by shallow precast bases that minimized the depth of post penetration and enabled a continuous wall construction process.

Owner: NYSDOT Region 8; Contractor: Thalle Construction Co; Precast Manufacturer: The Fort Miller Company

Precaut Noise wall serves as a barrier to Interstate Route I-84.

Redi-Rock Walls, Many Applications

Recent site work revisions and improvements at the Buffalo Veterans Administration Hospital, performed by Strock Paving, extensively utilized the Redi Rock system manufactured by Kistner Concrete Products. These versatile concrete units are specially formed to look like large stone blocks, can be made in various lengths, and can include finishing cap stone pieces. Primarily used for retaining walls, this project also included security walls and the matching, whimsical sign post shown at left.

Redi Rock “sign post”.

Force protection system walls. Photos by Kistner.
Prefabricated Brick Walls

Precaster Roman Stone is offering a new prefabricated concrete wall system for fast but simple installation. The panel pictured is 14’ x 9’ tall x 4” thick. The completed building will be 14 x 14, and can be erected on a field poured floor in a little more than 2 hours. The walls get bolted together; the roof will be constructed using ordinary wood framing and shingles. The veneer is made with the 1/4” Scott snap brick system, supplied by PCANY Associate Member AL Patterson.

These bolt together buildings are intended for jobsites which are burdened by limited access for the contractor. Utilizing precast panels can save labor and reduce the on-site construction time significantly. The brick comes in a variety of colors — check it out on the PCANY website, under Newsletters, to see all the pictures in color.

Double Sided Monolithic Noise Barrier

Hanson Pipe and Products supplied more than 650 pieces — approximately 1.5 miles — of double-sided monolithic noise barrier along Interstate 278 to the recently completed improvements on Staten Island. These units featured a wood board finish on the highway side shown, and a finned finish on the residential side. The wall units were cast with a finishing band at the top. El Sol Contracting did the work for Region 11, New York State Department of Transportation.

The Endless Design Possibilities with Precast Concrete...

This project, in Washington, DC for the Cianbro Corporation, features 5 different colors of concrete blocks monolithically poured as a 4” concrete panel. Hanson Pipe and Products had to carefully produce 4 different patterns of block sizes and shapes and colors to create the walls as intended.

The product was primarily used to form median barrier, although some were used to make bridge barriers. Two textured panels were field placed back to back to form a 3-4’ wide median barrier for a divided highway. The inside face of each panel contained threaded inserts for connecting tie steel. The precast “cut stone” caps were similarly anchored into the field pour.

(You are encouraged to visit our website, www.pcany.org, to see this project and many others in full color, to more fully appreciate the finished texture and appearance of this beautiful work.)

Multi-tiered retaining wall. Copy & photo by The Fort Miller.

This terraced, multi-tiered retaining wall in Schenectady County, NY, was constructed using “exposed aggregate” T-Wall™ units. Plantings were added to the wall system to add texture and soften the look of this modular structure.

Owner: Schenectady County, D.P.W. Contractor: August Bohl Contracting Co., Inc. Designer Ingalls & Smart P.C.

(continued on page 3)
Fieldstone finish retaining wall. Copy & photo by The Fort Miller.

The T-Wall™ units shown above were manufactured with a random fieldstone form liner finish. An onsite subcontractor stained the concrete stone finish to match the “look and feel” of the intended design. This project, located in Herkimer County, NY, successfully achieved an aesthetically pleasing, modular approach to the construction of the retaining walls. T-Wall™ is available in a variety of finishes and shapes to accommodate a multitude of field applications.

Stone textured retaining wall. Copy & photo by The Fort Miller.

This aesthetically pleasing retaining wall along New Jersey’s Route 31 near Clinton, NJ exemplifies how standard economical precast concrete T-Wall® units can be custom fabricated to blend in with the surrounding environment. A unique form liner was used to create the stone texture shown above. The contractor hand-stained the wall to make it look like natural stone. The precast concrete T-Wall® system was a very cost-effective solution for this wall application.

Lock wall replacement. Copy & photo by The Fort Miller.

Deteriorated lock chamber wall surfaces were removed and replaced with high performance precast concrete panels. Anchor rods in the new panels and in the existing monolith were locked together with 7 in. of infill concrete. The new panels acted as stay-in-place forms for the infill concrete as well as a long-lasting cladding for the lock chamber. The project was completed in the 2001 and 2002 winter months while the canal was closed for the season.

Owner: New York State Canal Corporation

Professional Member Firm News
(from The Rochester Engineer)

The American Council of Engineering Companies of New York (ACECNY) awarded Erdman Anthony the following project awards in its 2006 Engineering Excellence competition: Gold Award, Transportation Engineering Category for I-490 Western Gateway Project in Rochester, NY; Silver Award, Special Project Category for Routes 31, 31A & 63 in Medina, NY; Silver Award, Structures Category for Wood Road Bridge over Cohocton River.

TVGA Consultants was awarded an ACECNY Diamond Award for the Tonawanda Creek Road Failure Project in Clarence, NY, and a Platinum Award for their participation in the aerial mapping and GIS pilot project at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, DC.

And congratulations to Clough Harbour & Associates, recently named one of E & R’s Top 20 Telecommunications Firms.

Associate Member Firm News

Spillman Company Chairman & CEO Ted Coons announced that Spillman is now the North American representative for Vollert/Weckenmann. Vollert Anlagenbau and Weckemann Anlagentechnik will now be marketing their products jointly; this cooperation will result in complete automated precast concrete factories that can be built the world over.

(continued on top)
Septic Tank Group Meeting May 11

Notes from the meeting and some pictures taken at the Nucor Steel Auburn plant tour are available on our website in the members only section. We again thank the folks at Nucor for showing us around, providing a delicious lunch, and letting us use their conference room all afternoon.

Steel Prices Are Likely to Jump: Wall Street Journal May 24, 2006

“Steel prices, which had been expected to taper off in the second half of the year, are now expected to rise nearly 19% from current levels in the third and fourth quarters to offset rising iron ore costs.”

“Moreover, steelmakers say demand from the construction and automotive markets is expected to be stronger in the second half than some had expected.”

The moral of this story is — use more precast and prestressed concrete members, since they require less steel than rolled steel shapes (...among many other advantages)

PCANY Website

All PCANY members now have access to the Members Only Page, where varied reports, communications, meeting notes, etc. will be posted. There is also a new category listing, Complimentary One Year Membership, which will be given to every attendee at a PCANY seminar or workshop; or it may be requested simply by visiting www.pcany.org.

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