

STRENGTHEN YOUR STRUCTURE

The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis



Project Description

Tarlton Corp. recently completed a technically challenging and aesthetically prominent project—the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis. A striking work of art in its own right, the new museum facility rightfully establishes itself as one of the defining visual and cultural elements of St. Louis' growing Grand Center Creative and Cultural District. Among its most arresting exterior features are huge expanses of exposed architecturally finished concrete. A huge curved wall and a roof with five different elevations add to the facility's visual impact. The contractor had to meet the architect's unique vision for the finish of the architectural exposed concrete, and its relationship with all other finishes, to a rarely applied level of detail. Another challenge was determining how to construct huge walls that required monolithic placement in a specific sequence within an extremely tight site. This challenge was complicated by the need for varying radius wall forms. To create the walls, the contractor built a panel frame form system using unusually large sheets of Wisa plastic-coated plywood and alumina beams. To handle the radius walls, the contractor used wedging in the gang forms. To achieve the softly textured finish on the concrete walls, the contractor used light sandblasting under carefully controlled conditions to maintain quality and consistency. To determine the right materials to achieve desired aesthetic and structural components, the contractor created a variety of mockups and models, sample concrete mixes and aggregate combinations, and trial casts.

Owner	The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis
Architect	Allied Works Architecture Inc.
Engineers	KPFF
General Contractor	Tarlton Corp.
Ready Mix Supplier	Five Star Concrete Company
Subcontractor	Vee-Jay Cement Contracting Company Lemay Concrete Block
QC / QA Firm	Geotechnology, Inc.

CONCRETE COUNCIL

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