

PerformX

Cadman's "Sideways Slump" Product Fills the Bill for Special Applications



Seattle's Squire Building required renovation and seismic upgrades following a 2001 quake. The owner wanted to preserve the historic look and feel of the original non-reinforced brick. The tricky challenge was how to place concrete in one-sided forms (the brick being the other side) without using conventional vibration, and limit damage to the brick, while also mirroring the "wood-like" form liners. The answer was Cadman's PerformX.

This is a totally different type of concrete: a concrete with a "sideways" slump. (The conventional slump test measures the vertical drop of concrete placed into a twelve-inch tall cone). With this concrete, it's like measuring the spread of pancake batter on the griddle, rather than its height. Self-consolidating concrete (SCC) is an exciting innovation.

Self-consolidating concrete was developed several years ago in Japan and Europe. It's now gaining acceptance in Canada and the United States, and Cadman is one of the first ready-mix producers to offer PerformX in the Northwest. Cadman knew this would be an ideal application for PerformX. PerformX offered the customer a total solution: faster and easier placement, no vibration to compromise unique architectural detail, and high strengths for shear walls.

Bob Thompson, Bird Construction project manager, was thrilled with PerformX. He later discovered that fewer form liners were required for the project because the form liners lasted longer when they weren't subjected to mechanical vibration. Eliminating vibrators also resulted in a safer work environment: noise was reduced, and the lack of power cords resulted in fewer opportunities for trips and falls.

For the engineering community, PerformX allows structural design to be more daring because additional reinforcing steel may permit thinner walls with less clear spacing—yet the engineer and building officials can be assured of proper cover.

Today, PerformX is making concrete more flexible than steel. Cadman is excited to be leading the market with such a flexible, powerful and strong product. Look for PerformX to open new markets and new opportunities for years to come.



Simulated wood grain made possible with the use of PerformX.

Contractor: Bird Construction Inc.

Awards/Recognition: The Associated Builders & Contractors (ABC) of Western Washington honored Bird Construction's Squire Building project for Historical Restoration.

Awards/Recognition: Washington Aggregates and Concrete Association honored the Squire Building for its Excellence in the Use of Concrete-Special Applications Technical Merit.