

Universal Building Products Acquires Two WESTMINSTER, CALIF.

Universal Building Products has acquired Accubrace Shoring LLC and Atlas Anchoring LLC, both based in Howard Lake, Minn. The two companies will operate as **Accubrace Inc.** and will continue doing business as usual, the company says. The companies focus on soil-anchor installations and heavy shoring and will supplement Universal's existing line of concrete accessories.

Holcim Receives Award THEODORE, ALA.

The Holcim (U.S.) Inc. cement plant received the Environmental Performance Award from the Portland Cement Association and *Cement Americas* magazine as part of the 2008 Cement Industry Energy & Environmental Awards. The awards recognize facilities that take steps beyond those required by environmental laws and regulations to minimize their impact on the environment. To reduce its impact, the plant developed programs to respond to air, water, and solid-waste emissions.



Correction

The photo depicted with the Project Spotlight on the American Family Insurance Regional Headquarters in the **Barber Architecture** profile in the Spring 2008 issue showed the incorrect building. The Spotlight showed a different view of the Starz Encore project depicted in another Spotlight.



Wachovia Tower Features Double Tees CHARLOTTE, N.C.

The 50-story Wachovia Tower office building under construction is using precast concrete double tees for its flooring system, an unusual design that architects say helped speed up construction and provide design flexibility for office layouts. Dropped ceilings will be provided on each level, covering the double-tee stems and creating a plenum above each level's ceiling.

The double tees, typically 12 ft wide, are being produced and erected by **Prestress of the Carolinas** in Charlotte. The double tees are being used to span 45 ft from the core to the perimeter to create open floors on the office floors (consisting

of all but the top three floors) of the 1.4 million ft² project, explains Tommy Hagood, principal and division manager for TRC Worldwide Engineering Inc. in Sarasota, Fla. In some cases, double tees will be created as long as 60 ft for special applications.

The architect of record on the project is **Thompson, Ventulett, Stainback & Associates** in Atlanta, Ga. Batson Cook Co. in West Point, Ga., is serving as general contractor, while Rutledge & Sons in Woodstock, Ga., erected the precast concrete components. The project is scheduled for completion in late fall of 2009.

The double tees are supported by a 70 ft x 70 ft concrete core at the building's center and by a cast-in-place tube frame along the perimeter. Each double tee spans this distance, with cast-in-place brackets providing support at each edge. "Pinwheel girders" were used to allow for a change in direction of the girders at each corner of the building, Hagood notes.

The double tees are providing fast erection of the project, eliminating any need for shoring or falsework, as would be required for a cast-in-place structure, he says. A variety of structural systems were investigated before deciding on the double tees as the best solution. "We worked closely with the architect, contractor, and precaster to ensure the scheduling would run smoothly and that we could efficiently create the spans we needed."

September Is Precast Concrete Month CHICAGO, ILL.

The **Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute** will celebrate Precast Month again this September with plant tours at participating Producer Member sites. This year's programs will focus on using precast concrete components to achieve sustainable design.

Details of the programs in each area are being posted at PCI's website, www.pci.org, and at individual members' sites. The programs typically include a plant tour and seminar program about precast concrete's applications. Each program, however, is produced by the local plant and may differ in its specifics.

The programs qualify for AIA/CES Learning Units, and a certificate is provided at the site at the end of the program.