
SPECIAL MENTION AWARD

Brooklyn Botanic Garden Brooklyn, New York

Following the master plan devised by Frederick Law Olmsted in the early part of this century, and maintaining compatibility with the existing Beaux Art architecture of the Italianate administration building designed by McKim, Mead & White in 1918, Davis, Brody & Associates, the current architects, designed a 90,000 square foot expansion to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden that respects the landscape, the architecture and the delicate openness of the Garden itself.

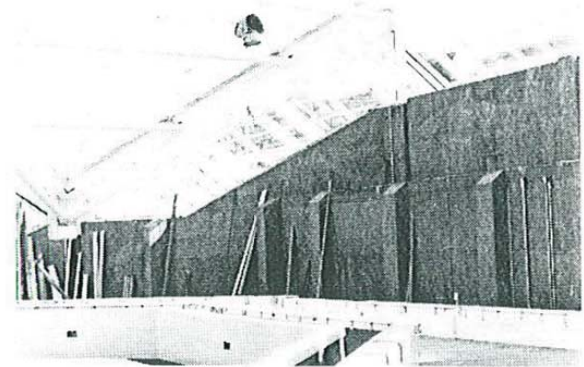
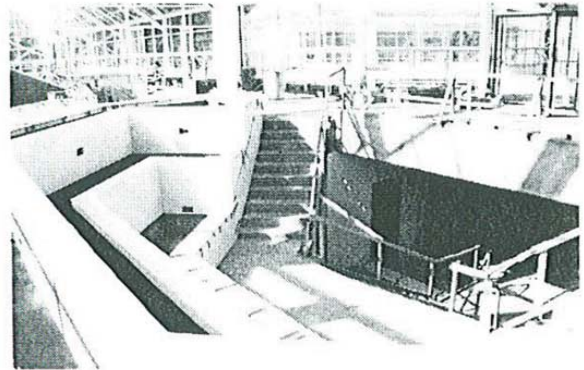
To accomplish this, the building structures are sited along the edge of the garden, with exhibit and circulation space at or below the grade level of the area, and with reinforced concrete used as the material to make the transitions possible. The main plaza itself, the central space between the exhibit structures, is the top surface of a waffle slab, the underside of which is exposed and utilized for dramatic cave effect.

The project is being honored by The Concrete Industry Board 1987 Awards Program with a Special Mention Award. Sharing in the honor, along with the architects, are Goldreich, Page & Thropp, the structural engineers, The DeMatteis Organization, the general contractor, as well as the owner, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and the concrete contractors, Acme-Ace Foundations, Inc., and Rokmin Concrete Corp.

The project is dominated by the steel and glass superstructure but the concrete construction in place far exceeds that which would normally be foundation and slab work for a steel building. Concrete in spread footings, massive piers, retaining walls, aquatic growth pools, waterfalls and grand stairs will be the backdrop for fern gardens, bonsai collections, water plantlife, as well as separate pavilions for tropic, arid, and temperate plant species.

Changes in exterior grade across the site required retaining walls of continually varying heights and the octagonal shape of the steel frame superstructure caused a never ending series of crooks and corners in the concrete foundation work.

The complexity of the layout, the nuances of formwork, and the intricacies of framing were a distinct challenge and much credit must be given to the patience of the carpenters and the skill of the reinforcing bar detailers in the office, and the lathers in the field, for the successful and thorough conformance to the architectural and structural design. It must be noted that the preassembled units of the steel superstructure frame fit upon the preset anchor bolts like gloves on a hand.



OWNER:
Brooklyn Botanic Garden
ARCHITECT:
Davis, Brody & Associates
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Goldreich, Page & Thropp

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
The DeMatteis Organization
CONCRETE CONTRACTORS:
Acme-Ace Foundations, Inc.
Rokmin Concrete Corp.

TESTING LABORATORY/IES:
Testwell Craig Lab
R/M CONCRETE SUPPLIER:
Paterno Concrete Co.
CONCRETE ADDITIVE/S:
Daravair
AGGREGATE:
L.I. Sand; Tilcon Tomasso (course)
CEMENT (Type & Brand):
Atlantic Type II
REINFORCING STEEL SUPPLIERS:
CFS Steel Co.
RE-BARS:
CFS Steel Co.
MESH:

CFS Steel Co.
RE-BAR DETAILER:
CFS Steel Co.
RE-BAR ACCESSORIES:
CFS Steel Co.
RE-BAR PLACEMENT:
Acme Ace Foundation Co.
FORM LUMBER:
Yankee Lumber
FORM HARDWARE:
Delmar Specialties
FORM SUPPLIER:
Acme Ace Foundation Co.

Jury comments:

Well designed and executed concrete foundations to achieve complicated interface with other building elements.
