

SOUTH MD COUNTIES AND VIRGINIA

From the National Precast Concrete Association (NPCA)

Smith-Midland Corp. receives CUP award for exclusive SLENDERWALL System

MIDLAND, VA — Smith-Midland was recently awarded the prestigious 2008 Creative Use of Precast (CUP) Award from the National Precast Concrete Association (NPCA) in the *Above Ground* category. The project, Jefferson at Inigo's Crossing in Rockville, MD, was awarded the honor for its use of the company's *SLENDERWALL* Architectural Precast Concrete Panel System. The CUP Awards Program is an annual competition for NPCA members recognizing projects promoting innovative and cost-saving advantages of

precast concrete over competing materials.

The ten-story, 274-unit luxury apartment residence was built with *SLENDERWALL* which reduced the cost and duration of the construction project while allowing the new structure to blend in with existing residential buildings located nearby. The *SLENDERWALL* system provides design flexibility, sound construction and speed of building erection all at an economical cost. The project was completed in March 2007 with a cost for the *SLENDERWALL* at \$3.5 million.

SLENDERWALL is designed to reduce building foundation and structure costs, shipping and installation costs, and thermal transfer. The design isolates the exterior precast concrete cladding from the structural stresses associated with wind loading, steel frame movement, expansion and contraction and seismic shock. *SLENDERWALL* allows the building frame to move independently of the exterior skin, preserving the structural integrity and water tightness of the wall system.

The owner also saved money

because it was not necessary to heat the building while setting the *SLENDERWALL* panels as it would have needed to be for hand-laid brick. The top floor *SLENDERWALL* panels are load bearing, and carry the perimeter roof truss loads, eliminating the need for a poured concrete roof deck.

In addition to the cost and time savings, the use of *SLENDERWALL* allowed for significantly upgraded architectural detailing at an economical price. The architect selected an architectural precast concrete brick Second Nature™

finish, and an architectural precast concrete limestone finish. This selection allowed the project to blend in with other pre-existing residential buildings already in the area. The highly intricate and articulated precast details match buildings in the area that feature real limestone accents. The only way that the level of architectural detailing was realized at an economical price was by integrating them into a precast concrete panel system.

The cost and time savings attained through the use of *SLENDERWALL*, as well as the extensive incorporation of custom design features showcased in this project, make it a must-see for architects and engineers. The durability, flexibility and aesthetic options available with this product, as applied in this urban apartment complex, demonstrate the ultimate design freedom now available when building with precast concrete.

Other projects in the Mid-Atlantic region that have used the *SLENDERWALL* system include the Marriott ExecuStay in New York City, the Bradley Hall Building at Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey, the BWI Corporate Center I in Linthicum, Maryland, and Seven Skyline in Falls Church, Virginia.

Additionally, *SLENDERWALL* is a LEED sensitive, compliant product and contributes points to LEED certification. LEED certification provides independent, third-party verification that a building project meets the highest green building and performance measures. All certified projects receive a LEED plaque, which is the nationally recognized symbol demonstrating that a building is environmentally responsible, profitable and a healthy place to live and work. *SLENDERWALL* is completely recyclable.

Smith-Midland develops, manufactures and sells a broad array of precast concrete products for use primarily in the construction, transportation and utilities industries. Easi-Set Industries, a wholly owned subsidiary of Smith-Midland Corporation, licenses the production of Smith-Midland developed products around the world. ■