

Why Concrete?

Precast/prestressed concrete construction is highly efficient and practical, and results in beautiful buildings at costs on par with even the most utilitarian industrial building. The following are just a few reasons why Wells Concrete is *Bringing Concrete to Life*.

Design-Build: The fast delivery system for a project, in which building construction proceeds while the design is developed, speeds completion. Concrete lends itself to this process because wall panel construction can proceed while the rest of the building is designed.

Aesthetically Pleasing: An unlimited array of colorings, textures and patterns can be added to the concrete mix or textured paints of any color may be used for beautiful effects.

Architectural Imagination: Architectural details such as copes, coves, dentil, and crowns that meet any period of construction can be cast integrally into Wall Panels or other precast components.

Environmentally Friendly: With concrete, exposure to manufactured wood products is greatly reduced, thereby minimizing exposure to harmful volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and offgassing, while mold resistance reduces health concerns. Concrete helps satisfy a growing public demand for sustainable architecture. Concrete uses no trees and is manufactured from abundant natural resources. Concrete also makes use of fly ash, a coal byproduct that would otherwise be put into landfills. Concrete buildings are more efficient, lessening energy use and leading to fewer greenhouse gasses and less dependence on overseas fuel sources.

Cost Savings: Concrete buildings can often use smaller, less costly mechanical systems. The thermal mass inherent in concrete reduces the heating and cooling peaks and loads. Insulation systems are available that enable the construction of integral sandwich walls or lightweight interior insulation. The national Energy Policy Act of 1992 mandates improved energy performance in commercial buildings, and recognizes the effect thermal mass contributes to reducing heating and cooling loads.

Structure: Concrete demonstrates significantly higher structural capacity and stiffness to resist shear forces than wood or steel frame structures.

Sound Control: Concrete has natural sound reduction properties because the mass absorbs the sound, rather than letting it through, as in wood or steel frame buildings. Perfect for noisy areas such as near an airport.

Element Resistant: Concrete resists damage from wind, fire, earthquakes, termites, rot, mold and mildew like no other building structure can. Not only does this result in lower maintenance and insurance costs, but risks to life and threats to business continuity are greatly diminished. Concrete structures hold their value for generations.

Maintenance: Concrete requires less maintenance. The exterior can be left unpainted with no damage from the elements. If painting is desired, it needs to be repainted only every five to ten years. Concrete interiors are less subject to damage, and easier to wash down.