



CFA Awards

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Pritt Residence

Category: Single Family over 5,000 square feet

The structure achieving the highest ranking and selected most visually intimidating by more than 50 percent of voters, is a 50,000-square-foot, two-story basement near the ocean in Corona Del Mar, California.

This project was submitted by Ekedal Masonry and Concrete, Inc. of Newport Beach, Calif., the foundation contractor on the project.

Caissons had to be used in rock because of geological conditions and lengthy shoring specifications. The cast-in-place walls had many angles with very intricate tops. A tunnel that led from the house to the ocean spawned additional challenges, which created a great deal of coordination. In addition to the tunnel, the house features several unique elements that required Ekedal Masonry and Concrete to create chases out of concrete for the waterslide, pool and many block-outs.

This home, currently the most expensive home on the market in the United States, is listed \$75 million and has a more than 4,000-square-foot mechanical room as well as a bowling alley below the pool.

Because of the significant exposure and total size of the job, precision was essential. Products for the job were being fabricated elsewhere and materials came from all over the world so there was no room for error. A full-time CAD operator was on-site everyday and actually printed out radiuses on paper that were glued down to plywood for templates. Ekedal's plan detailer spent two months on shop drawings for this job.

The Pritt Residence used 3,879 yards of concrete and 215 tons of steel in the walls. The job spanned 780 lineal feet with wall heights ranging from 4 feet to 45 feet tall. Wall thicknesses ranged from 8 inches to 36 inches.

“Even though projects like this are common to our company, we had to be aware that this home is surrounded by \$20 million homes and was very high profile,” said Ryan Ekedal, Vice President of Ekedal Masonry and Concrete. “We had to take extra precautions on everything from monitoring ground vibrations and shoring walls to overall liability concerns. We knew that because this job was receiving major exposure we were under the microscope and everyone had to give an added 100 percent to the work and concentration they were already applying to the project.”

Winning Contractor

Ekedal Masonry and Concrete, Inc.
Newport Beach, Calif

2007 Basement Awards

This year's competition is the largest in CFA history with 13 entries from across the country and marks the first year multiple categories were made available for submission. Contractors cast votes for Basement of the Year in the CFA booth at the 2007 World of Concrete trade show in Las Vegas, as well as online. The formal award presentation will be made at the Awards Banquet Luncheon during the CFA's Annual Summer Convention Aug. 8-11 at the Stoweflake Resort in Stowe, Vt.

Votes were cast by fellow concrete contractors based on their rating of how difficult the projects were to estimate and construct as well as the potential to make money. Project submissions included information such as material quantities, difficult features, the technology used and the problems that were overcome. This year contractors also displayed some of the most intriguing photography the competition has seen to date.

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