



Variations on a Theme

John S. Dick, *Executive Editor*

Photo: Ted Lacey Photography.

Once again, you'll find a wealth of interesting reading on innovative bridge designs nationwide in this issue. Among the project reports are two major structures, two pedestrian bridges, and a short-span conventional bridge . . . but with a twist.

This issue reports on bridges in 14 states across the country including state-, county-, and city-owned structures. The projects are located coast to coast and border to border. It is always exciting to discover these projects located in every section of the country. Each presents unique challenges faced by the owners and designers.

All five projects took full advantage of the capabilities provided by concrete. Four combined precast with cast-in-place concrete; a trend that appears to be increasing. The two construction methods work well together, with each offering specific benefits that can be used together to create aesthetically pleasing, cost-effective, and quickly constructed bridges.

Rehabilitation of older bridges is growing in importance, as owners and engineers acknowledge the need to stretch scarce maintenance and construction dollars. Finding effective ways to save graceful and cherished landmarks has become a focus for everyone in the bridge community. Three beautiful arch bridges given new life are described in articles in the Concrete Bridge Preservation section that begins on page 47. Two of them also combine cast-in-place with precast concrete solutions.

With debate raging over funding of a new transportation bill, the Pennsylvania secretary of transportation, Barry Schoch, challenges the public to consider the cost of their wireless service and other

utilities and compare those to the cost and value of the transportation infrastructure. This issue's Perspective is on page 10. Oklahoma has risen to that challenge by committing additional funds to its infrastructure, with the intent to nearly wipe out all of its deficient bridges in an ambitious program starting this year. The report on their plans begins on page 40.

The wide range of topics continues with a look at how bridge lighting can be used as a triple asset to enhance aesthetics, safety, and security (see page 46).

What can be better than avoiding waste by finding a new use for old products? In Arizona, a "bridge" was built with discarded beams over the Central Arizona Project canal to house six giant pumps to withdraw water from the canal. This article is on page 34.

Congratulations to the design and construction firms responsible for all of the projects in this issue. We will continue to scour the country looking for innovative concrete applications of all kinds, and we expect we will find them as engineers and contractors continue to create new ways to push concrete's limits. If you have a project you would like considered for publication, please visit www.aspirebridge.org and select "Contact Us." We look forward to hearing from you.

Finally, many readers tell us how much they look forward to each new issue of *ASPIRE*.™ The most often heard comment is, "It's the only magazine I read cover-to-cover." If you like *ASPIRE*, take a moment to go to the website mentioned above and let us know. We'll select some responses and print them in the Reader Response section of the next issue.

Best wishes to all of our readers and sponsors as we embark on a new year of innovation and creativity.

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