

MARCH 2025

concrete drawings

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF 



**The
Daring
Preservation of
Keith Haring's Mural** **A**
**High-Stakes
Operation**



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KELLIE KIMBALL
CSDA President



Hello All, and Farewell!

As my time as President comes to a close, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone. This has been an incredible journey, and while it's been full of adventure, I am thrilled to pass the torch to Mark DeSchepper. Over the past two years, the CSDA Board and Committees have accomplished a great deal, laying the foundation for continued success in 2025 and beyond. The strategic plan we've put in place will ensure a diverse range of services for our members, including training, education, and business practices that will help support our small business members even more effectively.

Looking ahead to 2025, we've already scheduled several key events. We have CSDA 101 Introductory Training planned for October at Husqvarna in Olathe, KS, followed by the 201 Certified Operator Training in Clearwater, Florida in November. Members also have the option to schedule training at their own facilities. The CSDA trainers, craft and GPR, will travel to your location to deliver both the introductory and advanced courses. For more information on how to schedule these courses for your team, please reach out to our office at info@csla.org.

Our Fall Meeting and Member Golf Outing is currently being finalized, so be sure to check our website for further details.

The best way to maximize the value of your membership is by participating in our meetings, either in person or virtually. These meetings not only foster business growth but also provide opportunities for personal development. With our new strategic plan, we'll be aligning working groups around specific tasks for defined periods. Whether you have time for smaller or larger tasks, there will be opportunities to volunteer that fit your schedule. We'll be posting sign-ups for volunteer opportunities this Spring, so please visit our website for more information.

Once again, thank you for allowing me the honor of serving as your President. It has been a privilege to follow in the footsteps of both my parents, who served before me.

Warm regards,
Kellie Kimball

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CONCRETE CASES



**The Daring
Preservation of
Keith Haring's
Mural:
A High-Stakes
Operation**

**Miami Landmark
Demolition
Showcases
ScanTek's
Precision**



**The Evolution
of Concrete
Cutting and
Demolition:
The Role of the
Worker**

CONCRETE OPENINGS MAGAZINE

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On the cover:

A Book Full of Fun, Keith Haring (American, 1958–1990),
1989, acrylic on plywood, 107" W x 71" H x 1 ¾" D.

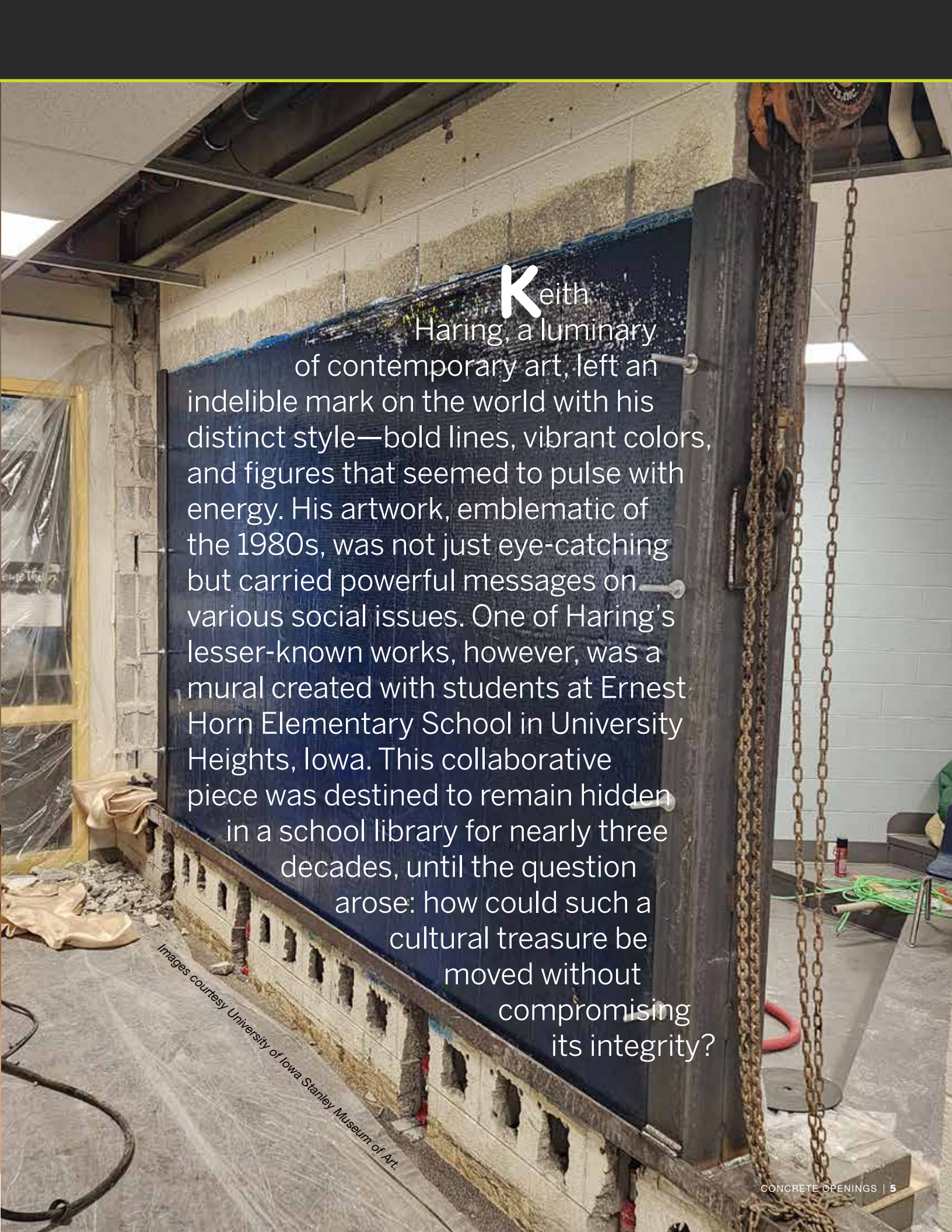
© Keith Haring Foundation.



The Daring Preservation of Keith Haring's Mural:



A High-Stakes
Operation



Keith Haring, a luminary of contemporary art, left an indelible mark on the world with his distinct style—bold lines, vibrant colors, and figures that seemed to pulse with energy. His artwork, emblematic of the 1980s, was not just eye-catching but carried powerful messages on various social issues. One of Haring's lesser-known works, however, was a mural created with students at Ernest Horn Elementary School in University Heights, Iowa. This collaborative piece was destined to remain hidden in a school library for nearly three decades, until the question arose: how could such a cultural treasure be moved without compromising its integrity?

Images courtesy University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art.

In 1986, Haring worked with students at Ernest Horn Elementary School to create a mural on the school's library wall. This mural, measuring approximately 5' by 9', was painted on three large sheets of plywood. It became a cherished part of the school's history, an iconic work that reflected Haring's artistic vision while connecting deeply with the students who contributed to it.

When it came time to remodel the school, the principal recognized the importance of preserving the mural and decided to take action. The idea was to remove the mural, restore it if necessary, and bring it to the University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art for public display. The mural had become much more than just a piece of art; it had evolved into a symbol of Haring's commitment to education and advocacy, and its removal would be a challenging, high-stakes operation.

The university's museum curators, along with a team of art conservation experts from Maine and New Hampshire, set out to find a solution. However, they soon realized that removing the mural wasn't going to be as simple as detaching it from the wall.

The mural was originally fastened to the wall with plywood and bolts, but the task of removing it was fraught with complications. The initial plan was to use wire sawing to cut through the bolts behind the plywood, but this presented several issues. The diamond wire, was too thick, and using it would likely have damaged the artwork. The seams in the plywood were hidden beneath the layers of paint, making it difficult to discern the natural divisions in the structure. Breaking the mural into pieces was out of the question—such

a drastic measure could ruin the integrity of the piece.

The art preservationists had one option left – cut the entire wall to keep the mural intact. That's when Iowa Wall Sawing, Inc. (IWS) was brought in to handle this delicate operation. Known for their precision and expertise in concrete cutting, IWS would face an unprecedented challenge – cut this one-of-a-kind mural out of the wall without damaging the art.

As the project unfolded, the IWS team worked hand in hand with the art conservation experts and museum curators to ensure that every step of the process was executed with precision. The expertise of IWS in concrete cutting, combined with the knowledge of art conservationists, allowed for the safe removal of the mural.

The mural was mounted to a block wall; initially it was unclear whether the block wall was filled with solid material or was hollow. A key component of the project involved determining the wall's structure to avoid destabilizing it during the removal process.

The team used a Hilti PS 1000 GPR scanner to detect the structure of the wall only to discover the wall was hollow. This was unfortunate as hollow blocks can be extremely unstable, especially when trying to keep a heavy, valuable structure like the mural intact during removal. The wall itself was unstable enough to pose a risk, but the mural's value made the situation all the more critical.

Once the IWS team assessed the structure and understood the gravity of the task, they hatched a plan to preserve both the wall and the mural. Carbon fiber reinforcement was strategically wrapped around the unstable



block to provide additional support during the removal process. Using Hilti TS20 wall saws, Hilti DSH600-22 battery hand saws, Hilti 6A hammer drill/ chipping hammer and more, the wall around the mural was carefully cut. IWS's skilled welders then crafted a sturdy steel frame that would surround the wall and give it the strength to be lifted and transported without compromising the painting's safety.

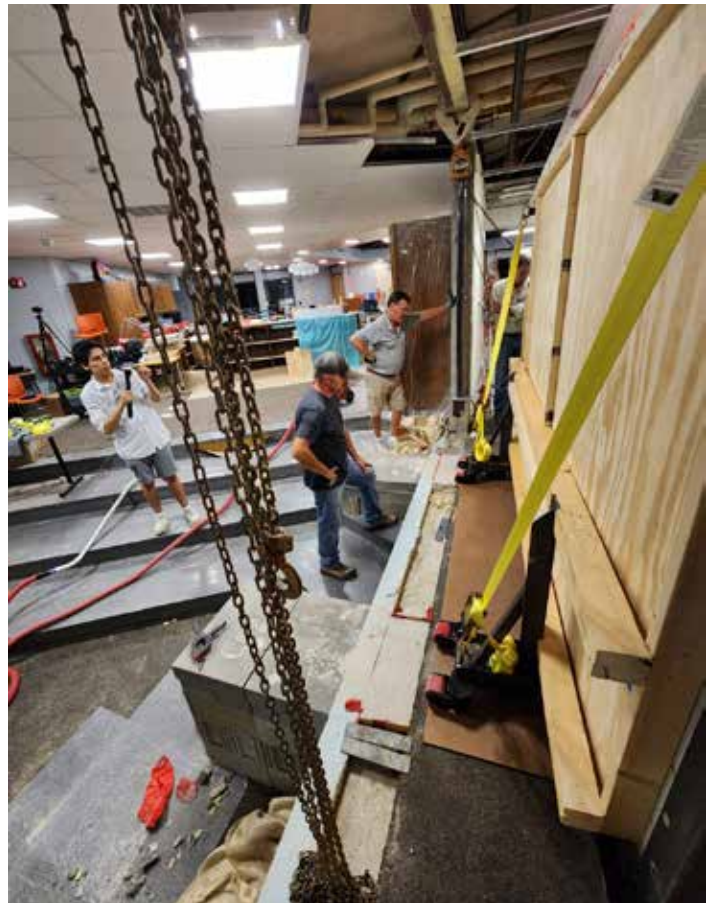
Meticulous preparation required installation of steel angle iron across the bottom of the wall to provide additional stability. This would allow the structure to hold its shape even as portions of the block wall were removed. Multiple bottle jacks were placed beneath the frame to keep the structure steady as the cutting process began.

Beyond the structural challenges, there were several other factors complicating the operation. The area in which the mural was located, known as the library "reading well," had uneven floor surfaces and narrow doorways. The mural needed to be carefully maneuvered through tight spaces while remaining stable on uneven terrain. To tackle this, IWS mounded the mural on a large, heavy structure and created a custom dolly system that allowed the artwork to be transported through the school and onto a transport trailer. Additionally, the team installed self-leveling technology to adjust for the floor's uneven surfaces.

The mural's transportation was an operation in itself. Once the wall was secured to the dolly system, a Sherpa mini skid loader was used to drag the massive structure out of the school. The artwork's value—estimated between six to ten million dollars—made it imperative to ensure its safety during transit. Even after the mural was secured on a truck, a police escort was arranged to follow the convoy, giving the mural secure passage through the streets of Iowa City on its way to the University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art.

Once the mural safely reached the museum, it was carefully lifted into its new space, a gallery dedicated to showcasing Keith Haring's work. The museum's curators were elated, and the IWS team was deeply proud to have played a part in preserving this remarkable piece of cultural history. It had been a long, demanding process, but it paid off—Keith Haring's mural would now be preserved for future generations to enjoy.

The successful removal and transportation of the mural was not just a triumph for IWS; it was a significant moment for the entire art conservation community. This operation exemplified how different sectors—concrete cutting,





welding, art preservation, and even law enforcement—could collaborate to ensure the safety and longevity of a cultural artifact. The success of the operation was a collective achievement. Haring’s mural, a powerful reminder of his creativity, activism, and the spirit of collaboration, was now positioned to inspire new audiences in an entirely new context.

IWS’s reputation for being the “clean” concrete cutting company in the area played a significant role in securing their involvement in this groundbreaking project. Their ability to work with precision and their commitment to safety made them the ideal choice for handling a job as delicate and high-profile as this one. And, as the team reflected on the successful relocation of the mural, they knew that this was a unique and extraordinary project that would remain etched in their memories for years to come.

The intersection of concrete cutting and art preservation is not something many people would think

about, but it is a crucial aspect of maintaining cultural history. The process of cutting through concrete walls, securing artworks, and preserving fragile pieces requires a combination of technical expertise, careful planning, and an unwavering respect for the artwork itself. In this case, IWS demonstrated how their specialized skills could be adapted to safeguard a masterpiece. The successful relocation of Keith Haring’s mural is just one example of how these skills can be harnessed to ensure that art, history, and culture are preserved for generations to come.

In the end, the safe removal of Haring’s mural was more than just a technical achievement—it was a celebration of collaboration, dedication, and the unwavering belief in the power of art to inspire, unite, and change the world. The mural now lives on, a testament to the enduring legacy of Keith Haring and the many hands that worked to protect it.



COMPANY PROFILE

Whether it’s concrete cutting or core drilling, Iowa Wall Sawing has been the place to turn for all your concrete needs for the past 35 years. We’ve seen it all and can accommodate any industrial, residential or commercial needs with excellent customer service. We are a family-run business that takes great pride in our work. IWS employees are an extension of the owner whose care for the customer has always come first. You’re not just another job to us; your project is important to our whole family. Originally established as a concrete pouring company, Iowa Wall Sawing has evolved into Iowa’s premier company for concrete cutting, grinding, lifting and other essential services that help move projects efficiently to the next step. We make even the most challenging projects look easy so our customers can quickly move to the next step of the project. Our mission is to exceed our customer expectations while efficiently and effectively achieving project goals.

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Website: www.iowawallsawing.com

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World of Concrete 2025: Industry Innovation and Connections at Their Best



The World of Concrete (WOC) 2025, held from January 21-23 at the Las Vegas Convention Center, reaffirmed its position as the leading event for concrete and masonry professionals. With over 1,500 exhibitors, the show highlighted cutting-edge innovations and emerging trends in the industry, drawing an impressive 57,908 registered professionals eager to stay ahead of the curve.

The Concrete Sawing & Drilling Association (CSDA) made a strong presence in the Central Hall, welcoming both members and new faces to their booth. It served as a prime location for networking, answering questions, and learning about the value of working with a CSDA member. Contractors who stopped by had the opportunity to explore how these connections can be pivotal to business success.

One of the greatest advantages of attending WOC is the opportunity to engage with industry peers. CSDA's booth was a hub for conversation, offering an ideal setting to exchange ideas, tackle challenges, and forge new partnerships. This year's WOC also featured CSDA's annual membership event at the Davidoff Cigar Bar, providing a relaxed atmosphere for members to connect and unwind.

Education is a key component of the show and WOC 2025 delivered with over 180 informative sessions. These covered essential topics such as business strategy, project management, and digital construction technologies, helping professionals enhance their skills and adapt to the industry's ever-evolving landscape. For those seeking a deeper dive, the event offered half- and full-day workshops in specialty areas.

Education is also a cornerstone of CSDA's mission and WOC is a great venue for two of their popular courses. CSDA's How to Prepare Estimates that Win Jobs is a two-day course focused on crafting competitive and accurate project estimates in the concrete cutting industry. Multiple instructors, a detailed workbook, and real life examples created a comprehensive and enhanced learning environment.

CSDA's GPR Methods & Theory workshop provided an in-depth look into ground-penetrating radar technology, complete with live demonstrations from GPR equipment manufacturers.

As always, Concrete Openings, the official magazine of CSDA, hosted its annual awards ceremony at the CSDA booth, recognizing excellence in concrete cutting and renovation. The event also marked the exciting digital transformation of the magazine, as it steps into the future with a fresh format.



The following standout projects were honored with awards:

- **Building Construction:** D-Drill & Sawing for Building Success: D-Drill's Role in Cardiff's New Horizons (December 2024 issue)
- **Industrial Renovation:** Lombardo Diamond Core Drilling Co. Inc. for From Cutting-Edge to Crumbling: The End of an Iconic Incinerator (September 2024 issue)
- **Infrastructure Renovation:** Holes Incorporated for Port of Progress: Charting New Waters for the Galveston Cruise Industry (June 2024 issue)
- **Infrastructure Renovation:** Diamond Concrete Sawing for Precision Under Pressure: Powering Through Detroit Airport's Massive Concrete Overhaul (December 2024 issue)
- **Roads, Bridges & Airports:** Austin Enterprise for Bridging the Future: Inside Sacramento's Major Infrastructure Project (September 2024 issue)
- **Roads, Bridges & Airports:** IDS Concrete Cutting for From Sally's Wrath to Scenic Path: The Pensacola Bay Bridge Story (June 2024 issue)

These honorees exemplified the innovation, precision, and expertise that are the hallmarks of the concrete cutting industry.

Over thirty CSDA members also had booths at WOC, showcasing their latest products, conducting live demonstrations, and creating valuable business opportunities. With its dynamic blend of networking, education, and innovation, World of Concrete 2025 was a resounding success, and CSDA looks forward to welcoming even more professionals in the years to come.





From the Ground Up:

Finding My Place in the Industry

| Kait Burds



"I bet you didn't know you'd be sweeping up in the industry, did you?" an older worker joked as I swept rock and dirt off the concrete aprons during the Aspen Hospital expansion in 2015. The irony? Now, I actually feel like I am.

After nearly a decade in construction, it is incredible to see how much has changed—yet, in many ways, how much has stayed the same. The job itself remains familiar, but I am not the same person I was when I started. I never set out to join this industry; it found me. It was thanks to an observant and patient supervisor, Chuck Davis of Heyl Construction, that I was invited to work a summer job between my winter stints as a snowcat operator. That invitation set me on a path I never expected but wouldn't trade for anything.

Recognizing my eagerness to learn and commitment to quality, Chuck played a huge role in my development—not just as a snowcat operator at the prestigious Beaver Creek in Colorado, but eventually as a dirt hand on my first real construction job in Aspen. If it had been up to me, I would've jumped straight into the operator's seat, proving I could run any machine on-site. But reality had other plans.

I started at the bottom—greasing, sweeping, shoveling, running errands, and grade-checking for a tight-knit crew. Talk about culture shock. I was in a new town, working at a job I barely understood, surrounded by people I hardly knew. I kept my head down, listened to weekend stories, and tried to blend in. At first, my goal was to be seen but not heard—to avoid making waves. That didn't last long.

Finding my voice was a hard lesson I had to learn more than once in those early years. The memories of my time with the Heyl crew are distant but fond. Over time, I earned new opportunities and, eventually, their respect. There were tough days, arguments, but more often than not, we were a solid team.

As I gained experience, I realized I needed more. More growth, more challenges, and a bigger network. It was time to take a leap into something larger.

Going into these jobs, taking the leap to new companies, it's all very scary. I still get nervous. I want people to like me and most importantly, I want to do a good job. My work ethic is something that I know no one can take away from me. I know that I can't control how I'm received on the jobsite, but I can control the impression I make. Keeping my head down, asking questions and performing with effort has been the simplest way



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that I have earned respect from some of the most hardened craft workers. It is through advancement into more leadership roles that I have had to acknowledge that my gender can be a burden for me and a hurdle for others. Some people will never come around to fully respect me on the job and I have learned to be okay with that

Again, through hard lessons I have learned taking care of myself is the only way I can be most effective in my job. I wish I had learned earlier in life the power of saying "no" and setting clear boundaries and expectations. This skill has been invaluable both personally and professionally. When living on the road full-time, the line between those two worlds can easily blur. Keeping my mind, body and spirit safe has become my upmost priority.

Among the countless hours of window time my career allows me to have, it provides plenty of time for reflection. The job is the same, but I continue to change. This last year was a whirlwind year for change, and this year feels even more pivotal than the last. I find myself in a new space, a space where I can influence and be the change. The opportunity to attend the Women's skills challenge by Caterpillar was lifechanging. The same nerves that plague me on new jobs crept in for the event, but in my new age of self-empowerment it was a space that I knew I deserved to be in. Regardless of the outcome I was going to win by showing up for myself and be the best representation of Kait Burds I could be, all while staying true to myself. I did that and more having won both a challenge and the entire event.

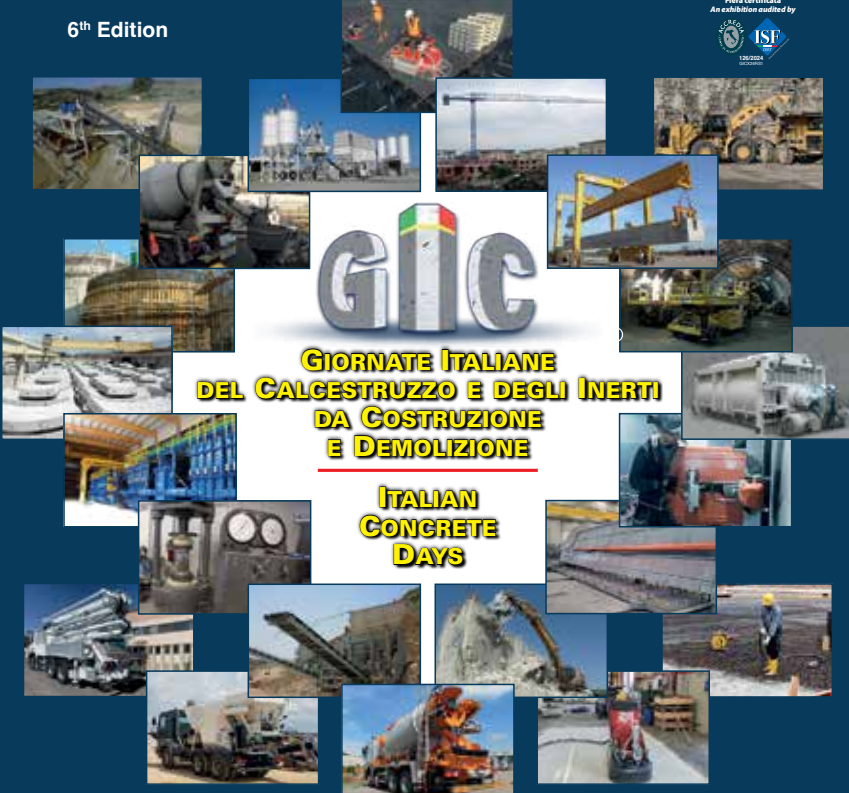
My purpose in this industry feels clearer now than it ever has before with my success. Every moment moving forward I see as an opportunity to not only represent me but the women that rock this industry every day. If someone can see a version of themselves in me maybe they too can be inspired to take the untraditional path. I've been incredibly fortunate to have a strong support system from the start, but I never had someone in the trades to relate to. I hope to be that person for anyone who needs it. To walk away winning was more than a win for me, it was a win for all the women out there. However, it never would have happened if I hadn't shown up. No matter what you do, show up, work hard and keep an open mind. Be so good that those who doubt you, that they can't help but support you. Get knocked down and get back up and be the WOMAN that looks behind you to uplift others.

*Get knocked down
and get back up and
be the WOMAN that
looks behind you to
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Miami Landmark Demolition Showcases ScanTek's Precision



ScanTek GPR recently completed a key phase in the demolition of the 17-story Aman Hotel, a Miami Beach landmark that had stood proudly on Collins Avenue for decades. This large-scale demolition project presented a unique set of challenges, particularly as it required preserving the hotel's iconic facade while systematically dismantling every element of the structure. The project, which involved cutting over 17,000 linear feet of concrete slabs, more than 1,400 columns, and 970 beams, required precise planning, technical expertise, and a commitment to safety.

ScanTek's role in the demolition was to meticulously plan every concrete cut, ensuring that each piece—whether a slab, beam, column, or stair—was safely removed without compromising the surrounding structure. The team's approach involved detailed calculations of weight and cut sequences, with each concrete section carefully cut into manageable pieces that could be lifted safely by crane. This level of precision was crucial to ensure that no damage was done to the facade, which had to remain intact.

To accomplish this, ScanTek employed the method of concrete wire sawing, a technique that provided clean, precise cuts essential for non-destructive sawing. Wire sawing is particularly valuable in sensitive demolition projects, as it reduces vibrations that could potentially destabilize the structure. Unlike traditional methods, which can create excessive noise, dust, and debris, wire sawing offered a quieter and more controlled solution, minimizing disruption while preserving the integrity of the building's facade.

Other demolition methods, such as robotic demolition or chipping, were also considered for the job but were ultimately ruled out. These techniques posed a risk to the facade and would not have provided the level of control required to maintain structural integrity. The decision to use wire sawing was based on its ability to create clean cuts with precision, ensuring the safe removal of concrete without damaging the surrounding structure.

The demolition process itself was a complex, step-by-step operation. First, the team tackled the beams, using a Diamond Product WS30-XLE wire saw to cut 1,444 columns and 970 beams. Each beam was cut at a precise 5-degree angle, a necessary step to prevent the sections from pinching or wedging during the removal process. This precision was vital, as any miscalculation

could have delayed the project and posed a safety risk.

The slab cutting was no less intricate. The project required over 17,000 linear feet of concrete slab cutting across all 17 floors of the hotel. The slabs, weighing more than 4,000 tons in total, were divided into approximately 835 sections. As with the beams, each slab was cut at a 5-degree angle to ensure smooth, bind-free removal. After the cuts were made, each section was carefully flown down by crane, a process that demanded the highest level of coordination and safety.

However, the project wasn't without its challenges. Florida's summer weather, known for its intense heat, sudden rain showers, and strong winds, added a layer of difficulty. The team faced extreme heat while cutting the concrete, and strong winds made the crane lifts particularly challenging. Miscalculations during this phase could have jeopardized both safety and the project timeline. To mitigate these challenges, ScanTek's team received enhanced training to handle the weather conditions, and additional safety measures were implemented.

With no elevator access in the building, the crew had to rely on stairs and the crane to move both personnel and equipment between the building's 17 floors. This lack of vertical access required careful planning and

adaptability, particularly in emergency scenarios. To prepare for any unforeseen situations, ScanTek conducted specialized safety drills, ensuring that the team would be able to evacuate injured personnel safely in the event of an emergency.

Safety remained the top priority throughout the project. To protect workers from the extreme heat, the team was provided with shaded rest areas and hydration stations. Daily staff meetings were held to review tasks and adjust safety protocols as necessary. Personal protective equipment (PPE) was mandatory, including



hard hats, safety vests, gloves, and steel-toed boots. Fall protection protocols were strictly followed, and safety railings were installed and inspected as the demolition progressed to protect workers from any exposed hazards.

In terms of equipment, ScanTek utilized some of the most advanced tools in the industry. Among the key equipment used were the Diamond Product 480-powered WS30-XLE wire saw, the CC3700 480 slab saw, the CC6571 diesel slab saw, Titan hand saws, and ICS chainsaws. These specialized tools were essential for cutting through heavily reinforced concrete and ensuring the precision needed for such a high-stakes demolition.

The project was completed successfully within the projected timeline, taking just under seven months. Not only did ScanTek meet the deadline, but the project also came in under budget. This achievement was a direct result of the team's commitment to quality, efficiency, and safety. As a result of this success, ScanTek was awarded Phase 2 of the Aman Hotel project, a testament to the high level of trust and satisfaction the client had in the company's work.

Looking back on the project, the team at ScanTek is proud of the outcome. The collaboration between ScanTek and the other contractors, including Suffolk and SBR, was seamless, and the job was completed without any injuries, despite the numerous challenges faced. "We are very satisfied with the outcome," said Adolfo DaRocha of ScanTek. "Our team worked exceptionally well together, and the project was a success because of that collaboration."

ScanTek's selection for this project was no accident. With a long history of executing high-profile, specialized demolition jobs, the company's reputation for precision, safety, and reliability made them the perfect choice for such a high-profile job. The company's commitment to hiring skilled professionals, rather than simply filling positions to meet demand, ensured that this complex demolition was handled by experts from start to finish.

By executing this demolition with precision and care, ScanTek GPR not only preserved a piece of Miami Beach's architectural history but also reinforced its position as a leader in the field of concrete cutting and demolition. As Phase 2 of the project moves forward, ScanTek looks forward to continuing its track record of excellence in construction and demolition.



COMPANY BIO

Founded in 2018, Scantek has quickly become a key player in the field of GPR scanning, concrete cutting, and core drilling. Backed by years of industry experience, the company operates with a fleet of 14 trucks and a team of 17 skilled operators, serving Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach County. Known for its commitment to safety and precision, Scantek provides essential support to construction, renovation, and infrastructure projects. With a focus on reliability and expert service, the company continues to be a trusted name in the industry.

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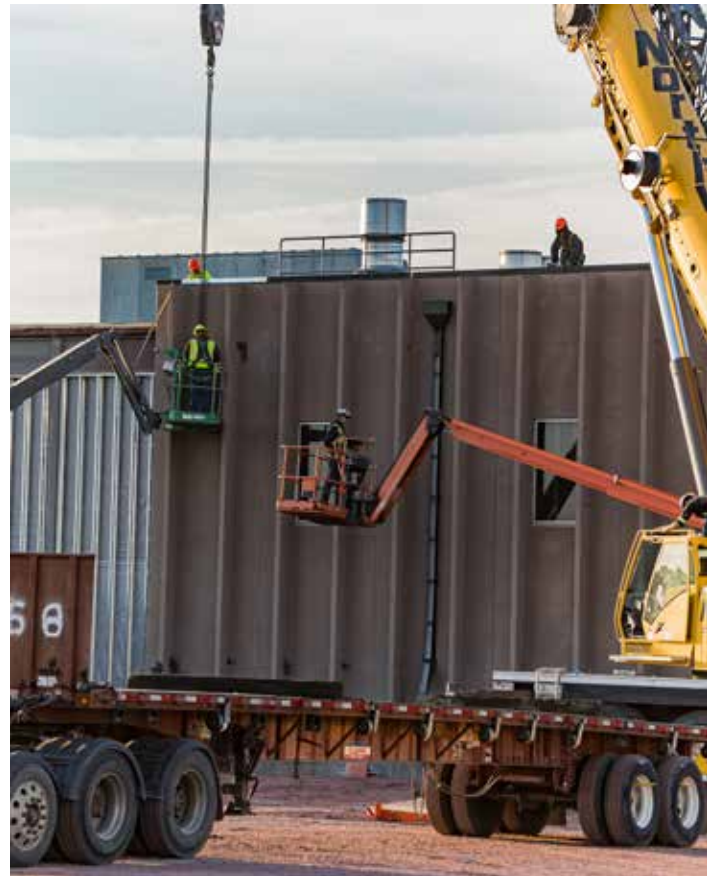


THE EVOLUTION OF CONCRETE CUTTING AND DEMOLITION:

The Role of the Worker

While other sectors have seen rapid advancements in AI, technology, and automation, the concrete cutting and demolition industry has evolved at a slower pace over the last decade. Despite the introduction of new tools, the role of the worker remains essential. At Northwest Corp, a worker-centric philosophy, paired with larger equipment, allows them to accomplish more with fewer people.





A prime example of this approach came when Northwest Corp partnered with Journey Construction in Harrisburg, South Dakota, to perform selective demolition on a 312-foot-long exterior pre-cast wall for a local cabinet manufacturer. The manufacturer was expanding its operations by 94,000 square feet.

With a team of just seven people, Northwest Corp completed the four-week project a remarkable three and a half weeks ahead of schedule. Owner Landon Lueders attributes this success not to automation or advanced technology but to careful planning and, as he puts it, “HARD WORK.”

“The demolition industry isn’t glamorous, but it’s projects like these that give people a sense of

accomplishment and success,” Lueders said.

The industry has long recognized that early involvement in the design phase can drastically increase the chances of project success. In this case, Journey Construction reached out to Northwest Corp seven months before the building permit was granted. During this time, they gathered critical information to ensure the field staff would have the highest likelihood of success—and that’s exactly what they achieved.

Northwest Corp’s onsite superintendent played an active role during the design phase, setting expectations for teamwork, professionalism, and productivity. The project involved complex tasks such as 312 feet of 10-inch-

thick wall sawing, 156 2-inch core-drilled holes, breaking 312 steel connections, and removing 19 24-foot-tall double-tee precast panels and 20 30-foot-tall double-tee precast panels. Additionally, there were 1,110 feet of joint cutting to be completed. Effective communication was essential, and Northwest’s collaborative approach included working closely with Soukup Construction, Sands Drywall, and Guarantee Roofing—all under the general contractor Journey Construction. During the design phase, the owner made it clear that there would be no lost days, and the team delivered on that commitment.

In planning the pull and phasing of the project, all subcontractors understood the challenges of the



demolition scope. After discussing the potential obstacles, they collectively agreed on a four-week production timeline.

Before Northwest's crew arrived, a temporary wall was built inside the pre-cast wall to maintain a weather-tight enclosure for the ongoing cabinet manufacturing process. Northwest worked closely with Guarantee Roofing to ensure that a temporary watertight roofing structure would be in place as demolition commenced.

In late September 2024, Northwest Corp made the decision to mobilize early, on the Friday before demolition operations were set to begin. The following Monday, a meeting took place where the seven-man crew underwent site orientation,

reviewed a pre-task plan, and set clear expectations. At this meeting, the field staff was informed that this would be the safest, cleanest, and most productive site yet.

One unique safety challenge was the fire hazard posed by working near active cabinet production with highly flammable materials. To mitigate this risk, all demolition work was carried out from the exterior side of the building, within a weather-tight temporary wall that was insulated and sheeted on both sides. Fire extinguishers were stationed throughout the site, and a 45-minute fire watch was conducted at the end of each day.

The plan for the demolition involved using a 175-ton crane and a 55-ton crane to assist in unloading

the panels, with three semi-trucks making round trips for 10 hours per day. The field team took a proactive approach during mobilization, and by the end of the day, the crew had the crane mobilized and ready for action. They didn't stop there. By the end of the first day, they had also set up 110 feet of Husqvarna wall saw track and completed 20 2-inch core-drilled holes using Hilti's DD150s for picking points. When demolition operations began that Monday, the team was ready to hit the ground running.

At 10 a.m. on the first day, the crew was aligned, motivated, and ready to start. Demolition operations began after the morning orientation, pre-task briefing, and expectations meeting. As soon as the meeting adjourned, the team went to work,

firing on all cylinders. There was no hesitation—everyone worked together toward the common goal. The phrase “that’s not my job” was never heard. By the end of day one, the team had successfully cut, removed, hauled away (with Soukup Construction’s assistance), and unloaded 12 19-foot-tall double-tee precast panels. Even with such strong progress, the team wasn’t satisfied and came together to brainstorm ways to improve.

On day two, the team, motivated by their progress, exceeded all expectations. Lueders, who visited the site around 10 a.m., was impressed by the dedication of the crew. “Do you remember eight or nine years ago when you visited a job site and saw everyone working—not on their phones, not with a few people working while others watched? That’s exactly what was happening. The field crew of Northwest Corp was truly working together, and everyone had smiles on their faces.”

Lueders continued, “It was a breath of fresh air. I stood there watching from a distance, and I didn’t even make it past the fence. That was when I knew the project was going to exceed all expectations.”

By the end of day two, the team had removed 26 panels in just 10 hours—further proof that hard work and collaboration yield exceptional results. Exhausted but inspired, the team was determined to maintain this momentum on day three.

Their goal for day three was to finish the demolition, clean up, and demobilize all by the end of the day. And they did just that. By 4:30 p.m., the Northwest field team had cut, rigged, lifted, loaded, hauled (with Soukup Construction), and unloaded the final panels. Cleanup and demobilization were also completed. In just three days, they moved over 1,000,000 pounds of concrete without a single incident.

This project serves as a powerful reminder that the real drivers of success in the construction industry are the people on the ground—those who get dirty and do the hard work. Despite the rise of AI and automation, the workers in the trenches are irreplaceable. As an industry, it is the people in the field that matter most.



The team (from left to right):

Ethan Avina, concrete cutting apprentice; Jesse Raley, ground operations; Marty Rye, working superintendent; Robert Erickson & Jerome Shaw, wall sawing operations; Landon Fickbohm, elevated operations; Aaron Volesky, lead crane operator; Jeremy Nelson & Simon Miller, rigging operations. (not pictured: Parker Levitz, crane operator.)

COMPANY BIO

Northwest Corporation is the premier provider of crane and rigging and concrete cutting services in Sioux Falls, SD. Since 1981, Northwest Corp. has been a family owned and operated small business servicing residential customers and commercial contractors in the Midwest Region. Northwest Corp handle jobs of all sizes from service work to multi-million dollar projects. Our skilled team specializes in a comprehensive range of techniques including core drilling, hand sawing, slab sawing, wall sawing, and wire sawing.

RESOURCES

General Contractor

Journey Construction

CSDA Contractor

Northwest Corp

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Against the gender-biased mindset: An industry for all.

"Throughout centuries, women had a particular difficulty accessing certain industries. The concrete drilling and sawing industry was no exception."

DOUGLAS H. WALKER
IACDS President



This is how IACDS presents its annual campaign to promote women's voices and testimonials during March, and those two sentences summarize one of the biggest problematic in the industry until this day: In 2020, only the 11% of the construction employees were women.

Sadly, this industry is not the only one facing this issue. The whole labor market is biased upon gender, tipping the scales depending on what the public opinion defines as masculine or feminine, but never taking in count the real abilities of the individuals.

As March becomes closer in time, all kinds of campaigns are launched, giving visibility to women and turning them into the main characters of the companies' communications during a whole month. Out of all of these efforts have come set aside goals for having women owned companies getting a guaranteed percentage of the job, sometimes even up to 30% of the entire project. Similar are quotas and goals of women in the field with a certain percentage of the workforce be women. These programs have worked in some ways and failed miserably in others with companies running shell companies and improper ownership only to take advantage of a quota system. The same issues are with women in the field, the requirement to have a percentage of women in the field where there may be some physical limitations of some field positions. This is becoming a smaller percentage in our industry with the advent of new equipment, more automatized, easier to handle equipment, therefore extending in field careers and hopefully leading to a higher supervisory positions and above.

We, as companies, as employers, as colleagues, must tend our hand to female workers, giving them opportunities such as better training to get to higher levels of the pay scale. The ability to achieve a change in society and in the gender-biased mindset is in each one of us.

Throughout my career, as well as being the IACDS president for 3 years, I have had the amazing opportunity to be in contact with a lot of intelligent and capable women..., Kellie Kimble from Holes in Houston, Veronica Conti from Southeast Scan and Core in Atlanta, Julie White from Diamond Drilling in the UK, and have learned a lot from all of them.

That's one of the reasons that, in the association, we support the female talent and we want to give them visibility in a permanent way, showing with pride all the testimonials sent by our dearest colleagues.

I believe (and, moreover, I hope) that the communicative labor from the association to share this content could be inspiring to other women: Inspiring to the women who have not considered the construction industry (or the concrete drilling and sawing industry) as a career path yet. Inspiring to those younger girls who are not sure about their futures but still must choose a path.

There is room for all of us, let's celebrate progress together. Working hand in hand.



How to Attract 1 Million More Women to the Construction Industry

Governments, trade organizations, construction companies, and industry groups have to work together to ensure we successfully attract groups who have historically been more hesitant to consider a career in construction into the industry.

If companies can put their female employees at the forefront of these efforts, women will more easily see themselves in the open roles.

The construction industry is grappling with an unprecedented labor crisis. Despite construction spending being at an all-time high, the U.S. labor force is currently missing over half a million workers needed to build essential housing and upgrade our nation's infrastructure. This shortage is exacerbated by an aging workforce and a lack of new entrants into the industry, particularly from underrepresented groups such as women.

Today, women make up a mere 11% of the construction industry. When it comes to skilled trades, this number plummets by almost three times: women represent just 4% of the US workforce.

Women constitute over half of the U.S. population: there is an immense, untapped potential to mitigate the labor crisis by actively recruiting more women into the construction industry.

This shift would not only address the workforce gap but also offer women across the country access to higher wages. Construction has the highest industry average hourly earnings for workers without a bachelor's degree and is among the top in gender pay equity.

This article covers the nationwide initiatives paving the way, as well as the most effective strategies construction companies can implement to attract more women into the industry. The faster we can multiply these, the faster we'll solve the labor crisis we're facing.

INITIATIVES LEADING THE WAY

There are inspiring initiatives being run all over the U.S. by groups ranging from trade associations to local governments.

Groups such as Chicago Women in Trades offer free training programs with robust curriculums that prepare women to build careers in the manufacturing, welding, and metalworking trades.

National organizations such as the National Association of Women in Construction run leadership academies and scholarship programs to help remove barriers to women entering and progressing in the construction industry.

*Reprinted with permission from For Construction Pros
Written by Maria Davidson November 12th, 2024 from Kojo
www.forconstructionpros.com*

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In Maine, Governor Mills signed an Executive Order to improve the recruitment, training, and retention of women in Maine's construction industry. In California, the Los Angeles metro launched a website dedicated to giving women information about joining apprenticeship readiness training programs. In Arizona, the Arizona Builders Alliance runs a Women in Leadership program to support continued advancement in leadership.

Now, it is our collective responsibility to ensure we increase the number of these initiatives.

THE MOST IMPACTFUL STRATEGIES FOR COMPANIES TO PURSUE

Across the 500+ trade contractors we work with, these strategies have proven most effective in attracting more women into the construction industry:

1. Run targeted recruitment campaigns

Run targeted online recruitment campaigns that are focused on highlighting the opportunities available across the industry. Showcase successful women within construction companies, share their career progression stories, and emphasize the range of jobs available across field and office teams.

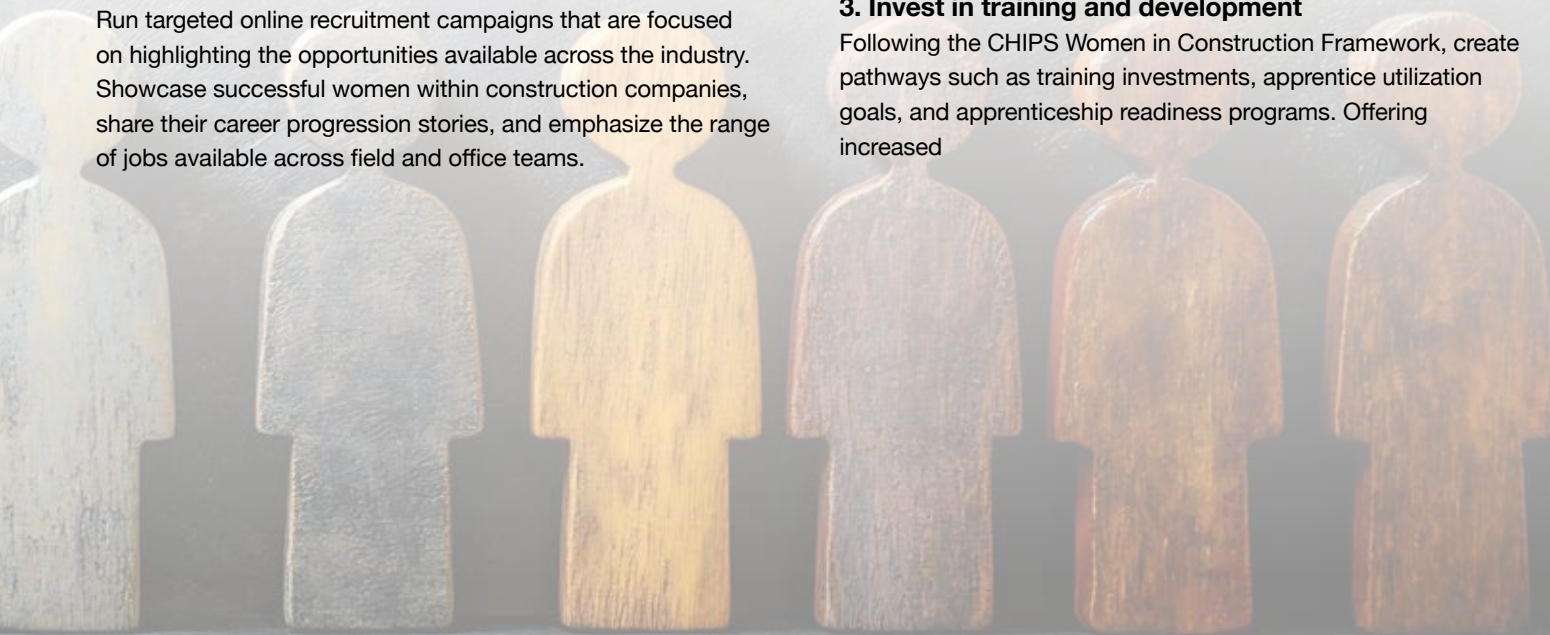
In general, recruitment efforts at many construction companies suffer when potential employees can't see that the industry is for them. This can be because it seems outdated, or simply because they don't see people like them in the roles they'd be hired into. The more companies can show candidates that they'll use modern tools, learn transferable skills, and solve challenging and rewarding problems, the more successful their recruiting efforts. If companies can put their female employees at the forefront of these efforts, women will more easily see themselves in the open roles.

2. Partner with educational institutions

Form partnerships with high schools, vocational schools, and universities to increase the exposure to careers in construction. Offering scholarships, internships, and apprenticeships specifically for women, as well as hosting targeted workshops and career fairs, are powerful ways to expand the candidate pool.

3. Invest in training and development

Following the CHIPS Women in Construction Framework, create pathways such as training investments, apprentice utilization goals, and apprenticeship readiness programs. Offering increased



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technical, leadership, and safety training can help position the construction industry as being more proactive in investing in women.

Offering scholarships, internships, and apprenticeships specifically for women, as well as hosting targeted workshops and career fairs, are powerful ways to expand the candidate pool.

4. Create a supportive work environment

Provide on-site childcare, flexible working hours, and robust anti-harassment policies to create a more welcoming environment. Other initiatives we've seen work well include creating mentorship programs where experienced female employees mentor new recruits, as well as promoting gender diversity in leadership positions.

5. Sign the Million Women in Construction Community Pledge

In May, the U.S. Department of Commerce launched the "Million Women in Construction Community Pledge" to encourage leading construction companies to demonstrate ongoing commitment to increasing women's access to training, jobs, and leadership opportunities.

Signing a pledge is just the beginning, but it's an important step in making the entire company aware that fixing the gender ratio in construction is something that matters.

Leading companies including Suffolk Construction, Power Design, Gilbane Building Company, and Turner Construction have already signed the pledge and begun running targeted recruitment, training, and mentorship programs for women.

WHY THIS NEEDS TO BE A TOP PRIORITY

The U.S. is on the verge of a major transformation.

We're reshoring manufacturing so we can make our supply chains more resilient. We're electrifying our infrastructure so we don't have to rely as much on fossil fuels. We're upgrading our grid system so we can handle increased demand for electricity. We're building more homes to reduce our 1.5 million home deficit. We're building data centers to power innovation and advancements in AI which are needed for us to maintain our global leadership position.

The timely completion of all of these is crucial, and it requires more workers. Taking the electrical industry as an example: current forecasts show we'll need over 80,000 more electricians entering the industry per year over the next 10 years to keep up with expected demand.

This moment in time requires us to invest heavily in developing our workforce. Governments, trade organizations, construction companies, and industry groups have to work together to ensure we successfully attract groups who have historically been more hesitant to consider a career in construction into the industry. The biggest of those groups is women.

By empowering women to enter and grow within the construction industry, we'll unlock a tremendously powerful force in helping us build more, faster.





Don't let the PRV raise your blood pressure.

| Mike Orzechowski
Engineering Manager, DITEQ Corp.

| Jeff Cox,
Production Manager, DITEQ Corp.



The hydraulic pressure relief valve (PRV) is an integral part of the hydraulic circuit, with high reliability it is often overlooked when diagnosing a performance problem with your hydraulic saws, breakers and drills.

When the tool loses power, there is an extensive list the mechanic will roll through trying to figure out why. It is usually a blown shaft seal or a low fluid level condition.

Hydraulic tools continue to be popular because of the high reliability, high performance (horsepower to weight ratio among the highest in the industry), safer to use in wet locations (including use underwater), safer for use in confined spaces, can frequently be classified as an explosion proof motor for dust and gas vapor hazards and are a closed system with cooling at the powerpack. However when something goes wrong with the performance of the tool, we tend to investigate many parts of the hydraulic circuit and the last place we check is usually the PRV. We submit to you that if it is a performance problem, the PRV should probably be the first place we investigate. Just like making sure something has fuel in it or is plugged in, so often the simplest fix is overlooked.

What is a PRV? In simple terms, it is a safety device to protect against overpressures in the hydraulic system. It protects the hydraulic components from damage. On hand tools like hydraulic handsaws, chipping hammers and handheld core drills, the PRV can be used in place of a clutch. The difference can be big for handheld core drills because if the torque on an electric drill exceeds the clutch setting it can slip to relieve the overtorque condition but then can nearly instantaneously re-establish the connection which could cause a snap action in the operator's arms, wrist and hands. Because of this fact, the electric handheld coredrill has very real limitations for safe operation including limiting the size of the bit to typically 5" or less depending on the drill model and clutch design and limiting the maximum usable

torque in handheld mode. The PRV system however can maintain the same torque by relieving the overpressure across the PRV and back to the tank, thus can usually deliver more usable torque to the bit and safely use larger diameter bits typically up to 8" diameter.

It is important to understand the PRV to properly diagnose it. There are different kinds of PRV's but in our industry the direct acting poppet valve with a spring is the most common. On a powerpack it is usually in the manifold right after the hydraulic pump in the circuit. In an overpressure situation the pressure exceeds the spring force and it opens a poppet valve and the excess pressure is diverted back to the hydraulic fluid tank. This is referred to as the cracking pressure. Once the overpressure is relieved, the poppet valve will close and the pressure in the system will be maintained at the operating pressure of the system.

The PRV can be adjusted to establish the operating pressure. The PRV in the tool is essentially the same thing except it might be adjusted to maintain a safe operating torque of the tool.

To check the PRV, a pressure gauge in the circuit can verify the operating pressure of the system. A low operating pressure directly relates to the power (and performance) of the tool. If you are cutting, chipping or coring and the performance is noticeably low then the operating pressure might be low. It can be caused by many things like seals, wear in the pump, or an obstruction in the oil flow, but perhaps the PRV should be considered early in the investigation.

The PRV usually fails in two different ways. The first is usually with a new tool or recently repaired tool, whereby the adjustment on the relief might be set to low. If it is a new tool, why isn't it working? (rhetorical question.) On some hydraulic hand tools, the hydraulic motor might be tight right out of the box. That is why the manufacturer has a run in sequence in the production

We submit to you that if it is a performance problem, the PRV should probably be the first place we investigate.

process. The machined tolerances on the inner working parts of the motor are so tight they need to be run-in. If a motor is replaced, depending on the motor manufacturer, it might not be sufficiently run-in. The best way to discern the problem is to put a pressure gauge on the pressure side. If the operating pressure is low, it is most likely an adjustment in the PRV that is needed. They are easy to adjust (following the manufacturers instructions). Most (if not all) PRV's have a locking nut or similar thing to lock in that setting. Keep in mind that there is a relief valve in the powerpack and most likely another one in the tool (some exceptions). To discern the source of the problem, one

can simply hook up a different tool to see if the problem is in the powerpack or the tool.

If an older saw suddenly loses power, it might be an obstruction in the relief. The hydraulic oil should be very clean however the filter on most systems is usually at the inlet of the return line to the tank, so debris can ride through the entire circuit prior to going through the filter. If the poppet on the PRV is closed, the debris usually goes on past and can be caught in the filter. If the filter is dirty and creates an excessive backpressure, most systems have a bypass around the filter to keep the backpressures reasonably low. Excessive backpressures can





blow the shaft seals. It is a good idea to periodically check the filter on the powerpack. A dirty filter allows debris to keep circulating in the system and if the pressure relief is ever open, that debris can get caught in that poppet.

If debris is caught in the PRV, it is usually something that can be repaired quickly. The type of debris can be easy to spot in the small orifice seal on the poppet valve. It just needs to be flushed out or cleaned out. Sometimes it is a small metal shaving and seems to get stuck in the spring-loaded valve. It might need to be extracted carefully so the PRV is not damaged.

Tech Talk is a regular feature of Concrete Openings magazine, focusing on equipment, maintenance and technical issues of interest to concrete cutting, polishing, and imaging contractors. Readers wishing to have a particular subject addressed can send their suggestions to editor@concreteopenings.com.

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Breaking Barriers: *A Woman's Journey in the Concrete Cutting Industry*



Kellie Kimball
Vice President, Holes, Inc

The construction industry has long been male-dominated, but women like Kellie Kimball, Vice president of Holes, Inc., are proving that perseverance, knowledge, and hard work can shatter any glass ceiling. From growing up around the family business to becoming a respected leader in her field, Kellie's journey is one of resilience, adaptability, and passion for her craft.

Kellie's story in the construction industry began before she even realized it. Born into the business, she was surrounded by concrete cutting from an early age. However, her path to leadership wasn't straightforward. After graduating from college, she started a family and moved to Mexico. When circumstances there forced her family to return to the United States, Kellie turned to the family business for stability.

"They welcomed me with open arms," she recalls. "But I never thought about working here until I had to move back."

Since then, Kellie has become an integral part of the company, working her way up by learning various aspects of the business—from marketing and safety to human resources and dispatching. This hands-on experience provided her with a comprehensive understanding of the industry and solidified her expertise.

When asked about her experience as a woman in construction, Kellie emphasizes the importance of knowledge and hard work.

"You need to know what you do. Whether it's accounting, marketing, or operations, staying informed and relevant is key," she explains. "I never wanted to be treated differently just because it's my family's business. I worked the same long hours, went to job sites, and earned my respect."

By proving her capabilities through dedication and effort, Kellie established herself as a respected leader, ensuring she was valued for her skills, not her last name. As a leader, she takes a hands-on, personal approach with her employees. With nearly 60 staff members across three companies, she makes it a priority to connect with them on a personal level.

"I want to know their spouses, hear about their kids, and understand their personal and professional goals," she says. "Building long-term relationships with employees is crucial to retaining talent and creating a positive work environment."

Beyond her leadership at Holes, Kellie has honed her skills through community and industry involvement. As the outgoing President of the Concrete Sawing & Drilling Association (CSDA), she reflects on her tenure with pride. The role has helped her grow personally and professionally, strengthening her confidence and decision-making abilities.

"I've learned to think quicker on my feet and make decisions with confidence," she says. "I'm proud of what we've accomplished as a team."

Over the years, Kellie has noticed an increase in female professionals in construction, particularly in project management, safety, and industrial roles. While there are still challenges in recruiting female operators due to the physical demands of the job, she believes apprenticeship programs could be a game-changer.

"There are women operators out there, but we need to reach out to high schools and tech schools to encourage more to join," she suggests. "A structured apprenticeship program could help bring more people, including women, into our industry."

As Kellie continues to lead and advocate for the industry, she hopes to inspire more women to consider careers in construction. “To any woman looking to join this industry, I say come and join us,” she encourages. “Construction offers stability, opportunity, and the chance to build something lasting.”

One of the most rewarding aspects of working in construction for Kellie is the job stability it offers. “Construction never stops. Even during COVID, we didn’t shut our doors or lay anyone off. That’s the kind of job security you don’t see in many industries,” she points out.

Her work has also led her to participate in many interesting projects. Her most memorable experience was a job at the Spires condominium in Houston, which required extensive concrete cutting and crane operations.

“That was the first job where I thought, ‘Wow, we do big stuff,’” she recalls. “It was an eye-opening experience to see the scale and precision of our work.”

Kellie’s journey is a testament to the power of perseverance, adaptability, and strong leadership. Through her work, she is not only shaping the future of her company but also paving the way for the next generation of women in construction.

To any woman looking to join this industry, I say come and join us, construction offers stability, opportunity, and the chance to build something lasting.





DITEQ Corporation Announces HYCON's NEW HHS20 Handsaw and Upgraded HCS20 Cut-off Saw for 2025

DITEQ Corporation, the exclusive distributor for HYCON in North America, is proud to announce the launch of HYCON's innovative NEW HHS20 20" Hydraulic Handsaw and the upgraded HCS20 20" Hydraulic Cut-off Saw for 2025. These cutting-edge tools are designed for professionals seeking high-performance hydraulic power tools that combine power, efficiency, and user comfort.

The NEW HHS20 Handsaw and the upgraded HCS20 Cut-off Saw are both powered by the revolutionary HYCON Power Drive, the only purpose-built hydraulic motor specifically designed for handheld hydraulic tools. Constructed from high-strength aluminum, this unique motor delivers maximum power while maintaining a lightweight profile. With the remarkable capability to manage up to 40 bars of return pressure—approximately three times higher than conventional hydraulic motors—these tools redefine performance standards in the industry. WE DON'T BLOW SEALS!

The NEW HHS20 Hydraulic Handsaw features lightweight plastic cast handles and a streamlined body, which significantly reduce operator fatigue during extended use. Its design ensures smooth, controlled cuts regardless of whether the operator is cutting vertically or horizontally, thanks to a durable skid plate and a replaceable rear splash guard. Additionally, operators will appreciate the integrated water activation feature located directly in the trigger, providing convenience and efficiency.

The upgraded HCS20 Hydraulic Cut-off Saw boasts a significant enhancement with the integration of the hydraulic motor and valve block into a single unit within the tool's body. This innovation eliminates the need for additional hoses and components, resulting in a lighter, more compact drive unit that is optimized for both functionality and portability. The tool's handle, also made of lightweight plastic cast material, enhances ease of handling, while the new design incorporates water activation directly into the tool's release trigger.

DITEQ Corporation is excited to offer these advanced tools, which are now available for purchase exclusively through our distribution channels in North America. For further information on product specifications, features, and to locate a local distributor, please visit our website at www.diteq.com.

Join us in experiencing the future of hydraulic power tools with HYCON's HHS20 20" Handsaw and HCS20 20" Cut-off Saw. We are committed to providing tools that not only enhance productivity but also prioritize user comfort and safety.



NEW HHS20 20" Hydraulic Handsaw

Part Number: Standard H00034

Part Number: Flush cut H00035



Updated HCS20 20" Hydraulic Cut-Off Saw

Part Number: Standard H00032

Part Number: Flush cut H00033

For More Information

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Email: mikeo@diteq.com

www.diteq.com

Construction Angels Scholarship Fund

Construction Angels, Inc. (CA) is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit charity that provides immediate financial assistance and grief counseling to the children and spouse left behind when a construction worker is involved in a work-related fatality. We offer construction scholarship opportunities to qualified applicants, and additional scholarships to surviving children of a fallen worker.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 11, 2025 Notifications will be by or before July 25th* 2 TYPES OF STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS:

1. Students who are seeking to further their education in the construction industry
2. Children who have lost a parent due to a construction related fatality can apply for any type of career

Purpose: Construction Angels, Inc. is accepting applications for the Construction Angels Scholarship Fund. This fund is accepting applications for: 1. Students seeking to further their education in the construction industry 2. For the sons and daughters who have lost a parent due to a construction related fatality, to pursue post-high school education within the construction industry. Scholarships are awarded annually. The Scholarship Fund program was launched in August 2018 through the Construction Angels charity.

Eligibility: Eligibility for applicants of the Construction Angels Scholarship Fund need to complete the application within the States Construction Angels operates (listed in Appendix A on Page 6) that are furthering their education in construction, or have lost their parent due to a construction related fatality. An Applicant who has lost a parent due to a construction related accident is able to apply towards any continuing education institution for financial aid.

For More Information

Contact:

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Email: Kristi@ConstructionAngels.us

www.constructionangels.us



Brokk Inc. named dealer for SHERPA mini loaders

Brokk Inc., the North American distributor for Brokk demolition robots and Aquajet Hydrodemolition equipment, is now a dealer for SHERPA mini loaders. Brokk offers two electric models, the SHERPA Z10 and Z20, which make perfect cleanup partners for electric Brokk robots. The mini loaders are a good addition to equipment fleets that require a compact, emission-free solution.

“We are pleased to offer SHERPA electric mini loaders to the North American market,” said Jeff Keeling, vice president of sales and marketing at Brokk Inc. “SHERPA is a well-established manufacturer that has offered innovative products for decades. Pairing a Brokk demolition robot with a SHERPA mini loader will benefit our customers by reducing manual labor and implementing electric solutions for the whole demolition process, from breaking to cleanup.”

Both models are 30 inches wide and easily fit through a standard doorway. The SHERPA Z10 features a 9.6 kWh lead-acid battery that can work up to six continuous hours. Weighing in at 2,072 pounds with standard tires, it is well suited for working on hard surfaces, such as concrete or stone.

For projects that require more power and less weight, Brokk Inc. offers the SHERPA Z20. The SHERPA Z20's 13.5 kWh lithium-ion battery reduces its weight to 1,730 pounds and can work continuously up to six hours — or eight if it's charged during a one-hour period, such as a lunch break. Its lower weight means it can be transported in an elevator and it is well suited for low floor loads.

Both models have two gears — higher speed for covering ground and lower speed for more precise maneuvering or when the operator needs to save battery or use extra lifting power.

The Z10 and Z20 are ergonomically optimized for worker health and safety. The operator stands in an ergonomic position with controls within hand's reach to prevent awkward stances that cause strain. Both models are equipped with an adjustable footplate and hip protection.

Like Brokk, the SHERPA mini loaders can be equipped with attachments, such as various standard bucket sizes, 4-in-1 bucket and pallet forks, for maximum versatility.



For More Information
Contact: Jeff Keeling
Tel: 800-621-7856
Email: Jeff.Keeling@brokkinc.com
www.brokk.com/us/

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DITEQ is proud to present HYCON's Premiere HPS12 Hydraulic Power Saw!

DITEQ Corporation, your source for Diamond Tools and Equipment is pleased to announce HYCON's NEW HPS12 Hydraulic Power Saw. HYCON is a global supplier and innovator of hydraulic power tools, such as hydraulic submersible pumps, hydraulic ring saws, breakers, core drills, and more.

In creating the HPS12 Hydraulic Power Saw, HYCON's goal was to redefine the hydraulic power saw by making it more ergonomic, lighter, and shorter than any other saw on the market. The new the HPS12 Hydraulic Power Saw meets these demands with its short body design, making it highly maneuverable and perfect for working in tight spaces. The HPS12 is an ideal tool for a variety of applications, including demolition, renovation, and utility works.

Key features of the NEW HPS12 Power Saw include:

Powerful, Reliable Performance – equipped with HYCON Power Drive's high-quality, purpose-built motor that doesn't blow seals

Flush-cut Design – built for flush-cutting, letting you cut straight to the floor and use the full cutting depth.

Lightweight and Maneuverable – the compact body measures just 18.8" in length, making it 2.75" shorter than comparable models. The short body allows for easy navigation in tight or confined spaces. The handle is cast out of industrial plastic makes the tool

much lighter and easier to handle.

Ergonomic Design and Balance – comes with 6'6" feet whip hoses so the couplings can rest on the floor during the cut, removing the weight from the back of the saw. This means balanced weight distribution for optimal control, ensuring a comfortable grip and reducing strain on the user's hands and arms.

Uses Industry Standard Bars and Chains – 10", 15" 20", 25", 30" or 36" bar and chain

In North American, the HYCON HPS12 Hydraulic Power Saw is now available for purchase exclusively through DITEQ Corporation. For more information on the product specifications and to find a local distributor, please visit www.diteq.com.

HPS12 Power Saw (Powerhead Only) Part Number: 141938

For More Information
Contact: Mike Orzechowski
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Email: mikeo@diteq.com
www.diteq.com



Brokk Inc. named dealer for Ecovolve electric dumpers

Brokk Inc., the North American distributor for Brokk demolition robots and Aquajet Hydrodemolition equipment, is now a dealer for Ecovolve electric, high-tip dumpers. With low noise and a charge that lasts eight hours, a compact Ecovolve electric dumper is a perfect partner for debris clean-up during demolition with a Brokk robot. The electric dumpers are also an ideal solution for any type of debris removal where the user is interested in fuel and maintenance savings or requires low-noise, emission-free equipment.

"Like Brokk, Ecovolve products are electric and compact – perfectly suited for interior demolition or any situation where fumes and access are a concern," said Jeff Keeling, vice president of sales and marketing at Brokk Inc. "Adding this innovative equipment to our lineup provides customers the possibility of a fully electric demolition project, including clean-up."

Brokk Inc. carries the full line of Ecovolve's electric dumpers:

- The ED800 is Ecovolve's most compact electric dumper and is small enough to travel through a 31.5-inch doorway, making it ideal for interior demolition in constricted spaces. It improves productivity with its 1,763-pound load capacity and tipping height of up to 58 inches.
- The ED1000 is a popular workhorse due to its versatile size and capacity. Load up to 2,200 pounds in the skip and tip up to 58 inches.
- The ED1500 is for large loads, with a load capacity up to 3,300 pounds and high tipping up to 63 inches.

Ecovolve electric dumpers feature batteries that offer eight hours of continuous work. Running at 65 decibels, the noise level is comparable to normal conversation. The ED line also features a 63-inch turn radius, allowing the dumpers to work in a small footprint. Options include a remote control for even greater safety and the Ecochute attachment for pouring concrete.

The electric dumpers are also low maintenance compared to diesel equipment. Maintenance includes monthly greasing and a full charge/discharge of the power pack. They also feature maintenance-free tires, including a no-mark option.

Brokk will showcase Ecovolve's ED800 at World of Concrete 2025. Visit booth C4519 to see and learn more.

For More Information
Contact: Jeff Keeling
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www.brokk.com/us/



The Path to Profitability

Gain a competitive edge with efficient, state-of-the-art Hydrodemolition technology



Technology is constantly changing and at an accelerated pace. It no longer takes centuries or decades for new advancements; sometimes, technology is out of date in mere years or even months. Think of buying a new car, for example. Today's models have a list of new features, such as built-in wireless cellphone networks and automatic lane changing. These features weren't even thought of by the average consumer a few years ago.

The same holds true for Hydrodemolition equipment. Contractors are no longer going against jackhammers and hand lances, but rather the latest Hydrodemolition advancements. While older models still run and are faster and more effective than handheld tools, new Hydrodemolition technology offers far more functionality. And the benefits are anything but trivial. Recent advancements shave off time and provide better results, which ultimately gives contractors who adopt new technology a strategic opportunity for growth, innovation and improved results.

On the surface, it may not seem like significant changes have been made to new equipment, but what is the cost of not knowing? By embracing the latest Hydrodemolition technology, contractors can unlock a new level of productivity, precision and profit. Rather than just keeping up with the competition, they can

set the pace of their industry. Modern machines open the door to a superior standard of work, allowing contractors to confidently take on new projects.

EASE OF USE

Many contractors worry about making the leap to new technology, but with user-friendly features and an intuitive design, today's Hydrodemolition robots are easier than ever to operate. Dedicated support and training are also available to ensure the entire crew feels confident and capable. Older machines, which have fewer automated functions, tend to require more operator experience and intuitive understanding to initially get the settings right. Modern machines' settings paired with a supportive manufacturer make it far easier for an operator with basic training to confidently run equipment.

With a state-of-the-art operating system, users can set parameters tailored to the specifications in which they need to remove concrete and save those presets for future use. Storing these parameters also provides a good point of reference for reviewing the machine's production after a job and where potential adjustments could be made. Should the machine's



parameters require any tweaks, it can be as simple as fine-tuning the settings.

Implementing any change to an equipment fleet will have a learning curve, but thankfully, modern technology is designed to make the transition as seamless as possible. With user-friendly interfaces, preset parameters and easily accessible training materials, contractors and their teams can quickly adapt, turning the challenge into an opportunity for growth and development.

LANCE MOVEMENT

For most of the Hydrodemolition industry's 30-plus years, simply being able to execute Hydrodemolition was enough to qualify as cutting edge. Controlling a water jet through mechanical means was a safer, faster, more sophisticated way to remove concrete compared to a jackhammer or hand lance.

Fairly recently, manufacturers introduced robots with a new lance movement to the market. They harness the benefits of both the oscillating and rotating lance movements. The result is a water jet that moves back to front and right to left. If the lance was holding a pen rather than shooting water, it would create a figure 8, or infinity, pattern.

The infinity pattern creates constant oscillation speed that results in greater production. Furthermore, it creates a rough but even result and virtually eliminates pipe holes, leaving behind the ideal bonding surface. Creating the perfect profile for superior bonding strength results in repairs that can last up to three times longer. This will please project engineers and prevent the job from being held up by subpar results.

Contractors using equipment with an infinity pattern will typically increase efficiency by 15 to 20%, depending on the scope of the work. With the proper settings and depending what settings are changed, that number could increase to 50%.

This represents state-of-the-art engineering with precision and control previously thought unattainable. Contractors and their crews can take pride in knowing they are using the most advanced, efficient and powerful tools available to set a new standard in their industry.

IMPROVED COMPONENTS

Modern Hydrodemolition machine's components have more functionality for improved performance. For example, today's Hydrodemolition robots have a sensor in their hoist system to set the height of the hood, eliminating the need for operators to manually check. While some may think additional elements increase the likelihood of breakdowns, that isn't the case.

Components in new machines are designed to last and require less attention. Rollers, for example, had to be tightened daily on old machines. Today's rollers use more components, are preset and much more durable, allowing operators to approach them with a set-it-and-forget-it mentality.

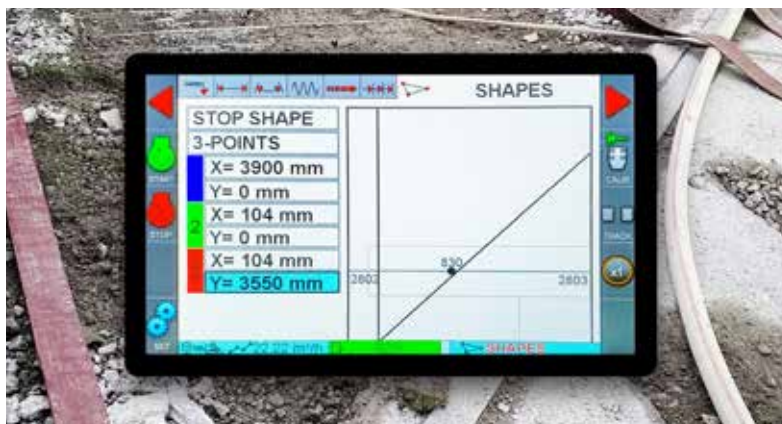
It took time for the sensors equipped on new Hydrodemolition robots to catch on and be more accepted, but they've made great strides in terms of reliability. They're well-sealed mechanisms and handle stress from operation well, meaning far less upkeep. Previously, if a sensor was tied to a cable and the cable needed to be replaced, the sensor did, as well. With optimized sensors, one can simply replace the cable and get back to work. New and improved components in today's equipment give contractors a competitive advantage by helping minimize downtime and keep projects on track.

Adopting new technology seems like a significant step, but it's important to consider the long-term benefits of reduced maintenance costs, more reliable equipment, faster project turnaround times and an easier route to profitability.

MODERN MACHINES PRODUCE OPTIMUM RESULTS

Investing in new technology can seem unnecessary if you have equipment that still gets the job done. But Hydrodemolition contractors are no longer competing with jackhammers and hand lances. They are competing with new Hydrodemolition technology that is rapidly building on yesterday's advancements, allowing those who invest to achieve better results faster and easier. Upgrading to today's equipment isn't just about staying with the pack, it's about paving the way and becoming a leader in the field. Contractors adopting the latest technology invest in their team's success and company's future by maximizing their potential.





About the Author

Keith Armishaw is the business development manager for Aquajet's North American subsidiary. He has more than 25 years of industry and leadership experience.

About Aquajet

Aquajet, which was acquired by Brokk AB in 2016, is known as the industry leader in Hydrodemolition machines and solutions, both in terms of quality and volume. The company's headquarters and production facilities are in Holsbybrunn, Sweden. Similar to Brokk, Aquajet sells globally.

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The Art of Cutting-Edge Blade Design

For nearly a decade, Danielle Planto has been making her mark in the construction and manufacturing industries, with almost four years dedicated to diamond tooling. From her early days at Makinex, a company specializing in small construction equipment, to her role as Marketing Director at Diamond Vantage, Planto has embraced innovation, creativity, and a passion for the industry.

With a background in studio art, art history, and marketing, Planto's journey into construction and manufacturing has been anything but conventional. After college, she co-founded a social media agency before entering the corporate world. This decision led her to Makinex, where she spent over four years before transitioning into the diamond tooling sector. Now, she combines her creative roots with technical expertise to push boundaries in product design and marketing. As she learned more about the industry, she also chose to get involved with the Concrete Sawing and Drilling Association (CSDA).

Planto's involvement with CSDA was pivotal in inspiring her work in blade design. She identified an opportunity to utilize her company's printing capabilities and outstanding team of designers to lead the effort to create visually striking, full-print blades for the CSDA



booth at the World of Concrete. Each year, Planto and her team design a blade that promotes CSDA's upcoming annual conference. These blades, printed directly on the blade by her company, highlight both functionality and brand identity.

"We disrupted the industry with our approach to printing on blades," Planto explains. "Before, companies relied on stickers or silk-screen printing. Our printers allow us to print directly

on metal, giving us vibrant, durable designs."

The innovation extended to segment printing—a feature Planto believes her company was among the first to implement in the industry. By strategically applying and omitting white background layers, they create striking visual effects that enhance branding without compromising blade performance.

Developing new products comes with its challenges. Each blade's graphics undergoes extensive trial and error before reaching the final design. "It typically takes two to three months from concept to completion," Planto notes. "We experiment with spot layers, cutouts, and different finishes to achieve the best results."

Despite the challenges, Planto finds joy in the creative process. "One of my favorite projects was the Nebula Blade series for our new Tile and Stone Technologies brand. I love everything about space, so I designed the

branding around celestial themes—Lunar, Nebula, Dark Matter. It was a chance to blend my artistic passion with product innovation.”

As a woman in a traditionally male-dominated industry, Planto has navigated unique challenges. Her leadership role at Diamond Vantage and active participation as a board member in the CSDA have positioned her as a respected voice in the field.

“Being in this industry has been an adventure,” she says. “I’ve had to prove myself, but I’ve also found a supportive community with amazing people I now call friends. Bringing fresh ideas and a different perspective has been an advantage in excelling in my role.”

Her artistic background has allowed her to approach product development from a unique angle, helping her company stand out in an industry that often prioritizes function over form.

With years of experience and a reputation for pushing creative boundaries, Planto continues to drive innovation in diamond tooling. Whether it’s developing new products, refining printing techniques, or taking a leadership role within CSDA, she remains



committed to shaping the future of blade and diamond tooling manufacturing.

From art history to high-performance diamond tools, Planto’s journey is a testament to the power of creativity, adaptability, and determination in an evolving industry.



OPERATOR CERTIFICATION

CSDA's Operator Certification is a comprehensive five-day program combining detailed classroom instruction with essential on-slab demonstrations and evaluations of advanced concrete cutting techniques. Safety, proper equipment use and efficiency are all emphasized.

CSDA certified operators are recognized industry-wide for their proficiency in the full range of sawing and drilling applications.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Successful completion of CSDA Cutting Edge, Slab Sawing & Drilling 101, Wall Sawing 101 or Wire Sawing 101
- Three years field experience (4,500 hours)
- Successful completion of 10-hour OSHA Construction Safety course
- No more than one lost-time injury within the last three years
- Unrestricted driver's license
- Negative drug test within 30 days of taking the course

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ACCREDITED COMPANIES

The CSDA Accredited Company Program is the first of its kind in the industry. This program has been created for cutting contractors to provide owners, architects, engineers, general contractors and government officials with a valuable pre-qualification tool that acknowledges sound business practices. It is available to all sawing and drilling contractors.

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- Has shown proficiency in performing scans and reading and interpreting results
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- Was issued a certification card upon completion of the class

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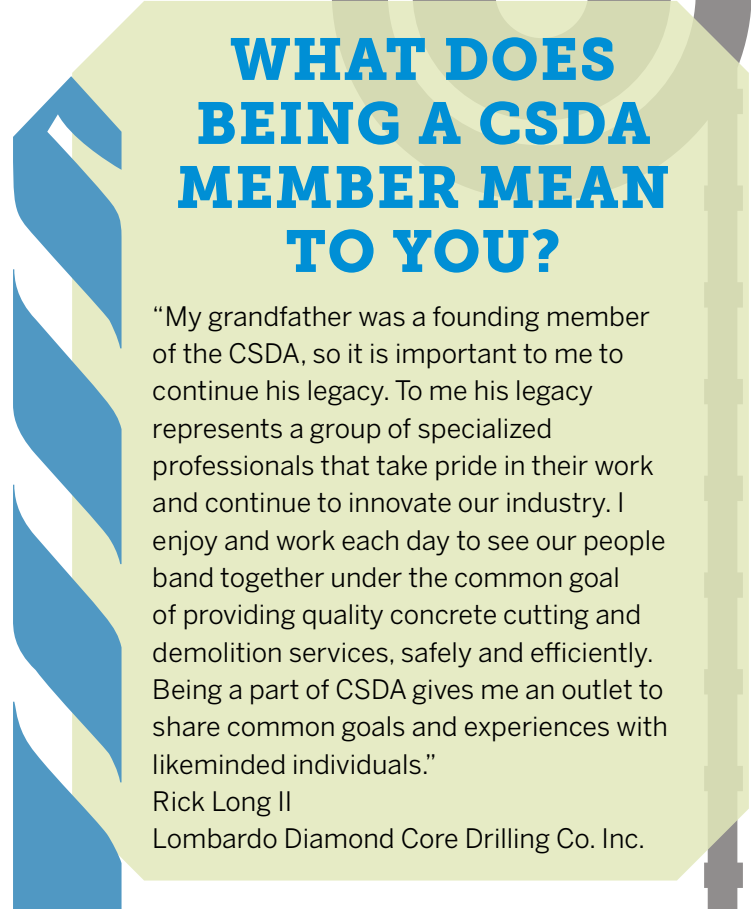
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WHAT DOES BEING A CSDA MEMBER MEAN TO YOU?

"My grandfather was a founding member of the CSDA, so it is important to me to continue his legacy. To me his legacy represents a group of specialized professionals that take pride in their work and continue to innovate our industry. I enjoy and work each day to see our people band together under the common goal of providing quality concrete cutting and demolition services, safely and efficiently. Being a part of CSDA gives me an outlet to share common goals and experiences with likeminded individuals."

Rick Long II
Lombardo Diamond Core Drilling Co. Inc.

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There is something for everyone when you become a member of the CSDA family!

Accelerate your business success through member support and networking, online and in-person training opportunities, company recognition through awards and accreditation, and business tools to create efficiencies and success. New members can take advantage of our mentorship opportunity and receive complimentary registration to our annual golf outing each Fall.

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\$1 – 2M	\$1,295	\$795	\$500
\$2 – 3M	\$1,995	\$1,595	\$500
\$3 – 5M	\$2,595	\$1,595	\$500
\$5 – 10M	\$3,295	\$1,595	\$500
> \$10M	\$4,150	\$1,595	\$500

ADDITIONAL BRANCH LOCATIONS

1-5 Branches	\$160 per location
6-10 Branches	\$110 per location
11-15 Branches	\$55 per location

Pricing: Manufacturers, Distributors & Affiliates

GROSS SALES	MANUFACTURER	DISTRIBUTOR	AFFILIATE*
\$0 – 1M	\$1,650	\$1,250	\$995
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\$2 – 3M	\$3,050	\$2,295	\$995
\$3 – 5M	\$4,900	\$3,625	\$995
\$5 – 10M	\$6,600	\$3,625	\$995
> \$10M	\$8,250	\$3,625	\$995

*Affiliate is a person, firm, corporation, society, government agency or other providing services to the concrete cutting, polishing and imaging industry

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For more information about CSDA membership, visit <https://csda.org/page/join>

concrete openings



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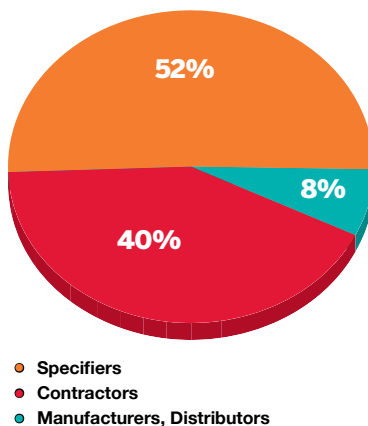
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Circulation

- 19,000+** minimum, per issue
- 12,000+** member and prospective member companies made up of contractors, manufacturers, distributors and affiliates
- 7,000+** general contractors, engineers, architects and government officials who specify cutting, polishing and imaging



Readership Per Issue

A poll of *Concrete Openings* subscribers revealed that 66% pass on their copy of the magazine to at least one other person, with almost 25% stating that the magazine is passed on to four or more people each issue. This translates to an average of four people reading each issue of the magazine for a total readership per year of approximately 60,000.



Concrete Openings Website

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Visit www.concreteopenings.com for more information.

Advertisers

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7 Ways You Know You Work in Concrete When...

Working in concrete cutting and drilling isn't just a job—it's a way of life. If any of the following sound familiar, congratulations! You're officially part of the concrete elite.



1 Your Clothes Have a Permanent Dust Pattern

It doesn't matter how much you wash them—your jeans and boots always have that signature concrete dust fade. Bonus points if your truck's interior looks like a cement factory exploded.



2 You Can Measure Anything by Eye—Except When Asked

You can tell if something is level just by looking at it... until someone hands you a tape measure, and suddenly you second-guess everything.



3 You've Used Your Lunch Break to Let Concrete Cure

Some people take breaks to relax. You take them to let the slurry settle and give your tools a breather. Efficiency is everything.

4 You Can Identify a Core Drill Size Just by the Hole

Other people see a hole in the ground. You see a 6-inch core, done with a diamond bit, using a wet cut method—probably on a Tuesday.



5 You've Mastered the Art of the "Concrete Tan"

Sunscreen? That's for amateurs. Your arms and face are a perfect contrast of sunburned skin and concrete dust, forming an instant SPF 100 barrier.

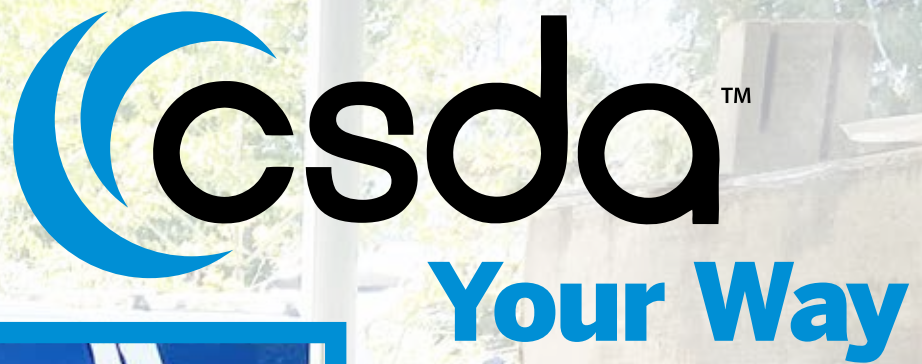
6 You've Explained at Least 1,000 Times That "Concrete" and "Cement" Aren't the Same Thing

No, Uncle Bob, cement is an ingredient in concrete. Yes, there's a difference. Yes, you will keep explaining it to anyone who gets it wrong.



7 You Judge a Job Site by the Quality of the Coffee

You don't care about the weather or the size of the job—if the breakroom coffee is terrible, it's going to be a long day.



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