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It provides brief and easy-to-digest updates supplied by the CRA and its Members on recent concrete repair developments, new advances and other initiatives occurring in the industry.

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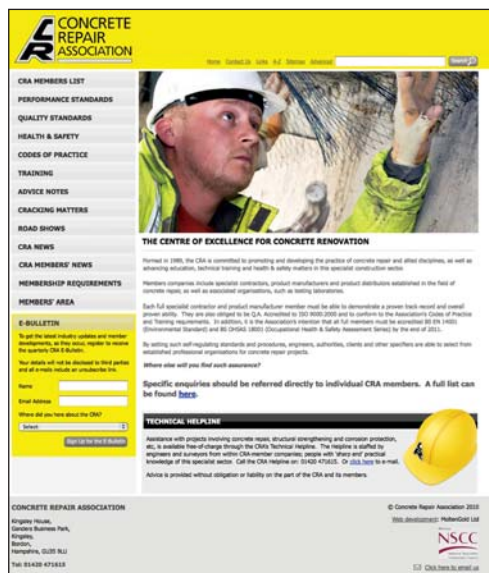
MAJOR MAKEOVER FOR CRA WEBSITE

The CRA has just gone live with a completely revamped and updated website in a new user-friendly format with improved navigation and several other fresh features, enabling those responsible for concrete repair and related disciplines to keep updated with developments in this specialist area of construction.

Pre-eminent among the website features is a detailed framework facility to assist the selection of CRA member contractors when forming a project tender list.

The site also provides access to up-to-date information on Performance and Quality Standards, Health & Safety matters, the CRA Codes of Practice and Training initiatives. Copies of CRA Advice Notes on concrete repair, structural strengthening and electrochemical rehabilitation techniques can also be downloaded, as well as past edition of the CRA's journal - 'Cracking Matters'.

The site also contains information and includes short illustrative trailers on the Association's CPD certified 'Road Show' presentation programmes (available to relevant groups in their offices), together with a brand new section containing 'case studies' from CRA members. Interested individuals can also sign up to receive the Association's quarterly E-Bulletin, containing the latest industry updates and member developments.



LINK TO WEBSITE: www.cra.org.uk

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CRL AWARDED FURTHER PHASE OF PITSEA FLYOVER REFURBISHMENT WORKS

The A13 Pitsea Flyover serves as a major connecting route to the M25 from Southend. It spans a railway line, a local roundabout and a supermarket car park, but has suffered from corrosion problems caused mainly from leaking joints and the 'spreading' of de-icing salts during the winter months.

Various works have been carried out over the years and in November 2009 CRA contractor member, **Concrete Repairs Limited**, was awarded the contract for Phase 5 (by Essex County Council) to carry out major repairs to 15 cross-head beams and to install an impressed current cathodic protection (ICCP) system. The defective areas of concrete were broken out using hydro demolition and were reinstated with sprayed gunite. As with the previous phases of the works, it was decided that the cathodic protection system was to be 'mesh and overlay' consisting of a MMO coated titanium mesh with a sprayed concrete overlay.

To minimise the environmental impact of the works, CRL used noise attenuation boards fixed to the scaffold and the noise levels were regularly monitored. Essex CC was so pleased with the works undertaken, that they awarded CRL Phase 6 of the works (to repair a further 9 piers), which is currently underway.



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CONCRETE REPAIRS TO VIRGIN ATLANTIC CAR PARK

Concrete spalling, spotted on the 2-storey car park at the main Crawley office of Virgin Atlantic Airlines, prompted Virgin Property Portfolio Management to call in CRA contractor member, **Cemplas Waterproofing & Concrete Repairs Ltd.**

The simple brief was to undertake a hammer test survey to determine the extent of the defects.

Cemplas found that the spalling was widespread across the car park and that the problem, if left untreated, could create a potential health and safety risk to Virgin employees, as well as posing the threat of damage to their vehicles.

Recognising that 'one size fits all' is not the correct approach to providing clients with the best service, Cemplas submitted a detailed survey report, together with a method statement and a lump sum cost to undertake the remedial repairs. As a result, all defective concrete was cut out, prepared and reinstated using Sika Rapid Repair Mortar.

In order to minimise disruption at the busy car park, the contractor undertook the renovation works 'out-of-hours', thus ensuring the facility was back into full use for Virgin employees each morning.



SEND AN E-MAIL: info@cemplas.co.uk LINK TO WEBSITE: www.cemplas.co.uk

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SOMERSET HOUSE – MASONRY STABILISATION

Due to movement, the 800mm thick external masonry walls of Somerset House, London's spectacular neo-classical 18th Century building, have been reinstated with stainless steel helical reinforcing bars by CRA contractor member, **Structural Renovations Ltd.**

In order not to adversely affect the building's external appearance of the building, the bars were resin fixed into drilled holes. In turn, the reinforcing bars were also bedded in slots cut into the perpendicular internal dividing walls, prior to making good and redecoration.

Somerset House, located between the Strand and the River Thames in the heart of London, used to house the nation's records of wills and births, etc, but now hosts open-air concerts and films, contemporary art and design exhibitions, family workshops and the like.



SEND AN E-MAIL: a.muirhead@structren.com LINK TO WEBSITE: www.structren.co.uk

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OSCAR ON THE MEND WITH PAREX

Irish writer and poet, Oscar Wilde, is feeling much better thanks to a makeover using high strength Tecroc repair materials from CRA manufacturer member, **Parex Ltd.**

An SOS to help restore the famous scribe's statue in Dublin was received by Parex's Republic of Ireland distributor after Oscar had literally lost his head.

The statue, which was commissioned during the 1990s by the Guinness company and is situated in Merrion Square, across the road from the "Dail" (the Irish Parliament), required the new head after suffering from the rigours of the weather, wear and tear. It had been originally carved from various types of stone including Thulite, Jade and Granite, acquired from countries all over the world.



Parex' distributor had no hesitation in recommending Tecgrip CAS Cartridge and Thixotropic Joint Filler to restore the bond between the statue's body and its missing components after they had begun to crack. The hands were replaced at the same time.

The original sculptor, Danny Osborne, returned to replace the items (originally in porcelain) by new ones replicated in jade, which is a much harder material. These were bonded into place with the same high strength materials used on the original in 1997. The artist confirmed his satisfaction with the Parex products.

SEND AN E-MAIL: enquiries@parex.co.uk LINK TO WEBSITE: www.parex.co.uk

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RONACRETE REPAIR ON A GRAND SCALE

Three nine-storey blocks of flats at Loughborough Estate, Lambeth, have been repaired using concrete repair products from CRA contractor member, **Ronacrete Ltd.**

When started, in 1993, the renovation work (which included roofing and window replacement) was the largest concrete repair project in Europe at the time and affected 239 families. As an indication of the size of the project, 20,000m² of vertical surfaces and 10,000m² of soffits have been treated with 14,000 litres of Ronafix, 31,000 litres of Joltec and Zolpacryl.

Following the removal of existing coatings, by low pressure water jetting and grit blasting, Ronabond Fongimousse Plus was applied to kill off mould, fungal growth and algae. The damaged concrete was removed to expose sound concrete and reinforcement steel. Wire brushing was employed to remove rust from exposed steel before it was primed with Ronafix and cement.



Ronafix Mix Design D repair mortar, comprising of cement, sand, Ronafix and water, was applied to reinstate the cut out concrete. Once repairs were complete, a textured slurry coat of Ronafix, cement and sand was applied to the walls and soffits and this was subsequently coated with protective and decorative treatments of Joltec and Zolpacryl.

SEND AN E-MAIL: tech@ronacrete.co.uk LINK TO WEBSITE: www.ronacrete.co.uk

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ASK THE WEBER EXPERTS

CRA manufacturer member, **Weber**, (supported by Saint-Gobain) is planning live demonstrations of a range of products and systems at the forthcoming Ecobuild 2011.

Visitors will experience live demonstrations and can watch the build process of the innovative 'weber.therm XP' External Wall Insulation (EWI) systems, which offer a cost effective method of improving the energy efficiency of existing buildings.

The EWI sample walls will be completed with a variety of high performance finishes including decorative mineral one-coat render and the weber.rend RB brick effect finish that looks as convincing as a real clay brick wall.



weber.therm EWI systems are frequently used in the renovation and rejuvenation of run-down housing stock and damaged concrete substrates. We first require treatment with a Weber concrete repair product. This application will also be demonstrated on a static display illustrating each stage of a concrete repair system by Weber.

A panel of Weber Experts will be on hand throughout these live demonstrations to answer questions about Weber EWI products, techniques and applications.

SEND AN E-MAIL: mark.owens@netweber.co.uk LINK TO WEBSITE: www.ecobuild.saint-gobain.co.uk

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