

Industry Update

By Bill Drakeley

Many pool contractors—myself included—are skeptical of the majority of so-called “awards programs” in the pool industry. An unfortunate number of them are dependent on who you know, who won last year, and other factors that are mostly unrelated to the merit of the project itself. The American Shotcrete Association’s Outstanding Shotcrete Project Awards program—now accepting entries—is an exception to this rule: it offers true credibility to the winner. By examining the inner workings of a structure, the ASA Outstanding Shotcrete Project Award levels the playing field and lets excellence receive the recognition it deserves.



The ASA Outstanding Shotcrete Project Award is not an easy one to win. It takes a certain amount of guts to reveal the ins and outs of a project, and it takes a certain kind of person to be willing to expose the interior workings of their product. In essence, it is your structural and aesthetic accountability that is being judged. That is precisely the kind of courage that we need in our industry to continue to reform and enhance its image. I encourage all pool builders using the shotcrete process to consider an application for an ASA Outstanding Shotcrete Project Awards in the Pool & Recreational category this year.

I also want to shine a spotlight on the four Position Statement papers currently in circulation by ASA:

- “Compressive Strength Values of Pool Shotcrete”;
- “Definitions of Key Shotcrete Terminology”;
- “Sustainability of Shotcrete in the Pool Industry”;
- “Watertight Shotcrete for Swimming Pools.”

Voted on and approved by the ASA Pool & Recreational Shotcrete Committee, the ASA Board of Direction, and the ASA Executive Committee, these Position Statement papers have taken the best of the variable thought processes and approaches from the industry’s engineers, specifiers, builders, and other contractors and synthesized them into a common view. The result is four positions on the standards for quality in our industry that we can all stand by.

This has been a very successful program, and one that we will continue through the issuing of Position Statements on the following shotcrete-related phases and issues:

- “Forming”;
- “Cold Joints (or lack thereof)”;
- “Watertight Shotcrete for Swimming Pools: Part 2.”

Like the shotcrete process itself, the Position Statement program is multi-faceted; we intend to continue to address key issues related to each phase of shotcrete installation. Building a personal library with these Position Statement

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papers at the core will allow engineers, specifiers, and builders alike to employ accepted structural criteria for proper pool installations. This is the goal and intent of the program. All ACI and ASA standards are applied.

Current Position Statement papers can be accessed at www.shotcrete.org/pages/products-services/shotcrete-resources.htm.



Bill Drakeley is President of Drakeley Industries and W. Drakeley Swimming Pool Company. Drakeley Industries is a shotcrete consulting firm that is dedicated to the training and implementation of the shotcrete process in regards to building water-retaining structures, ground support, and underground shotcrete application. Drakeley Pool Company is a design-build construction and service firm specializing in in-ground, high-end commercial and residential pools. Drakeley is an active member of ACI Committee 506, Shotcreting. He is the first ACI Certified Shotcrete Examiner from the pool industry nationwide. Drakeley is also an ACI Certified Nozzlemaster, ASA Technical Advisor, Chair of the ASA Pool & Recreational Shotcrete Committee, and serves as Treasurer to the ASA Executive Committee. His writings have been published in national and international trade magazines, including Shotcrete, WaterShapes, Pool and Spa, and Luxury Pools. In addition, Drakeley is a Platinum Member of the Genesis 3 Group, a licensed member of the Society of Water Shape Designers, and a member of the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals (APSP). He is also the Concrete/Shotcrete Instructor at the Genesis 3 Pool Construction Schools and NESPA Region 1 Show in Atlantic City. As an instructor and trainer, Drakeley has given lectures on shotcrete applications for various pool trade shows and for World of Concrete. Drakeley is an expert witness regarding shotcrete applications for the swimming pool industry.