

ICRI: 30 Years and Getting Stronger



The lack of standards and undertrained professionals are two factors that were key to the formation of the International Concrete Repair Institute, or as it is better known, ICRI. As professionals networked during the World of Concrete seminar in February 1988, the conversations took on a theme—frustration. The attendees expressed frustrations about the lack of standards and guidelines for concrete repair and concerns over the rush of contractors entering the industry without proper knowledge of surface preparation, equipment, materials, and techniques. In direct response to these concerns, the International Association of Concrete Repair Specialists (IACRS) was formed in May 1988, later changing its name to the International Concrete Repair Institute (ICRI). ICRI was founded with the vision to

be the center for repair leadership supporting the profession by building on science and craftsmanship, making the built world safer and longer lasting.

ICRI EVOLUTION

In the past 30 years, ICRI has evolved from a small organization to 2600 members around the world, including 38 chapters. Its global membership includes contractors, architects, engineers, manufacturers, distributors, owners, and other professionals with a common goal—prolonging the useful life of concrete through quality repair, restoration, and protection. ICRI is the only organization in the concrete industry devoted solely to repair and restoration practices and is a recognized authority in the field.

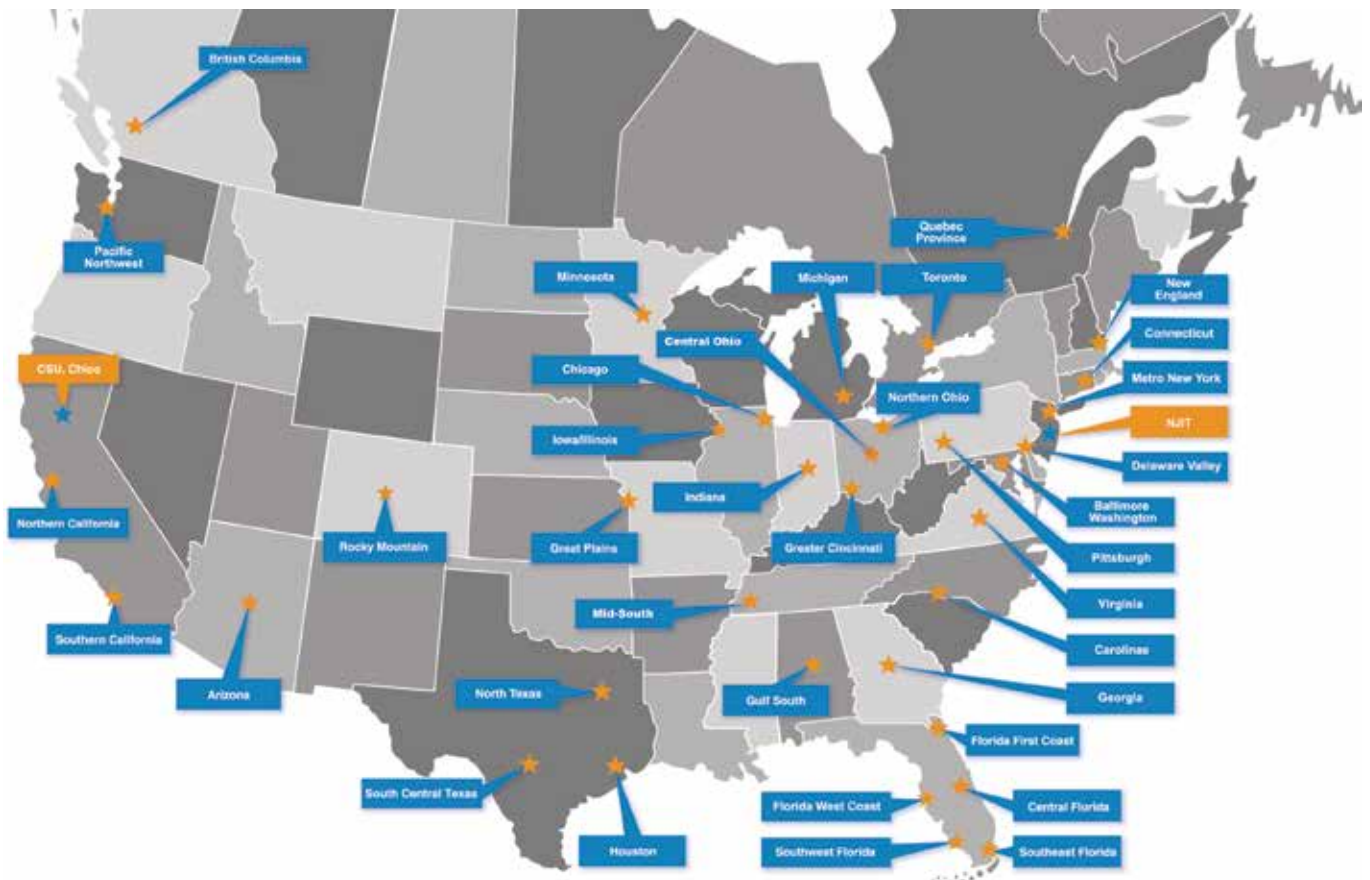


Fig. 1: ICRI has 38 chapters, including two student chapters, in metropolitan areas around the world



Fig. 2: ICRI conducts two conventions each year, in the spring and again in the fall, with an average attendance of 300 contractors, engineers, architects, consultants, manufacturers, students, and more

ICRI PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ICRI provides many methods of helping industry professionals improve their companies and their careers. Over the years, members repeatedly report that networking is the number one benefit of ICRI membership. Conventions are held in the spring and fall each year with technical sessions, social events, and plenty of networking opportunities. Open to all levels of concrete professionals, these conventions are a great opportunity for concrete professionals to expand their network by meeting others in the concrete repair industry and increasing their understanding of concrete repair, protection, and restoration.

The *Concrete Repair Bulletin* (CRB), ICRI's bimonthly magazine, features technical articles focused exclusively on the concrete restoration and repair industry.

"ICRI educates and provides information and direction toward the future of the concrete repair industry," said longtime member Scott B. Harrison, Construction Insight, Inc. "After over 24 years of participation, ICRI continues to make a professional and personal impact in my life."

THE ICRI TECHNICAL STANDARD

ICRI serves as a clearinghouse of information on the concrete restoration and repair industry. The organization regularly publishes technical guidelines that provide best practice guidance for specifying and assessing, designing, planning, and executing concrete repair and masonry repair projects used across the industry. These guidelines include the popular "Selecting and Specifying Concrete Surface Preparation for Sealers, Coatings, Polymer Overlays, and Concrete Repair" and Concrete Surface Profile (CSP) Chips. All of ICRI's technical guidelines are developed by members



Fig. 3: Eighteen technical presentations are presented at both ICRI annual conventions

Fig. 4: ICRI's Concrete Repair Bulletin features technical articles on the repair, protection, and restoration of concrete structures and surfaces



Fig. 5: Included in the publications are the Concrete Surface Profile Chips and the Technical Guidelines, which are free to ICRI members

and volunteers of ICRI, which include some of the brightest individuals in the industry.

ICRI 320.1R, "Guide for Selecting Application Methods for the Repair of Concrete Surfaces" has recently been updated, approved, and targeted for release this summer. Revisions here include defining the difference between low velocity work and shotcrete for the repair industry.

CERTIFICATION

Concrete Surface Repair Technician Certification Program

Alongside the educational presentations, publications, and conventions, ICRI provides two certification programs specifically crafted for concrete repair professionals. The first is the Concrete Surface Repair Technician (CSRT) Certification Program, open to professionals who are looking to

become qualified as a concrete surface repair inspector. The program was developed based on industry demand and code language. ACI 562-16, “Code Requirements for Assessment, Repair, and Rehabilitation of Existing Concrete Structures” outlines repair inspector qualifications for the inspection of concrete repairs and designates an individual who has been certified as an ICRI Concrete Surface Repair Technician as a qualified inspector.

Concrete Slab Moisture Testing Technician Certification Program

The second certification program provided by ICRI is the Concrete Slab Moisture Testing Technician (CSMT) Certification Program. The purpose of this program is to help improve the performance of concrete slab moisture testing to result in more consistent, accurate, and reliable results that will help flooring manufacturers, architects, engineers, and contractors make better decisions as to when a concrete floor is ready for a floor covering installation.

ICRI COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS STUDY

In 2018, ICRI conducted a compensation and benefits study for the concrete repair industry. The results of the study help keep companies competitive in hiring new employees and fairly compensating existing employees. Information in the report includes:

- detailed wage information per specific job titles;
- staff profiles;
- overtime reports;
- insurance benefits;
- retirement plans;
- holiday, vacation, and sick/personal leave;
- transportation/commuting benefits; and
- additional financial benefits.

ICRI AND THE FUTURE

ICRI members are very proud of the organization they represent and know their membership brings with it a special camaraderie with the colleagues and a high level of responsibility to serve the industry. The past 30 years have been full of exponential growth and development both for the organization and the industry. As the concrete repair field evolves and changes, ICRI will continue to be at the forefront, providing industry setting standards and professional development.