

The Secret's Out:

**YOUR PROJECT COULD BE THE NEXT
OUTSTANDING SHOTCRETE PROJECT WINNER!**



By LaTosha Holden



Every year, the American Shotcrete Association (ASA) Outstanding Shotcrete Project Awards shine a spotlight on the most innovative construction projects in the shotcrete industry. But if you've ever wondered what really catches the judges' attention — what takes a good project and turns it into an award-winning one — we're letting the cat out the bag

and sharing insider secrets to how you can submit a winning award submission.

Here are the secrets to creating a submission that stands out from the rest.

SHOW US WHAT YOU'RE WORKING WITH!

Shotcrete placement allows contractors to tackle projects we haven't seen before, so uniqueness is at the top of our list. Judges are drawn to projects that tell a story, specifically one where shotcrete placement is the hero. Did your team overcome a tough logistical challenge? Did shotcrete placement allow you to work faster, safer, or in a

way that traditional concrete couldn't? We want to see how your project pushed boundaries, solved problems, or broke the mold.

Projects that stand out are those where shotcrete placement wasn't just an option, it was the only viable solution. If your submission answers the question, "Why shotcrete?", you're on the right track.

PAINT THE PICTURE

Here's a secret that many miss: Judges appreciate complete submissions. That doesn't just mean filling out every field on the form; it means clearly communicating the story behind your project. Explain the challenges, the approach, and the execution — not just in general terms, but with specifics!

Secret Tip: Involve key people from your project team, such as contractors, engineers, or owners, to help tell the whole story behind your project. BUT, don't include names in the narrative (you should list them under the project team section). Use terms like "contractor," "engineer," "owner," etc. to keep the judging portion unbiased.



PHOTOS CAN MAKE OR BREAK YOUR ENTRY

Think of your photos as your visual pitch. The best submissions include clear, high-quality images that document the process from start to finish. Judges want to see shotcrete placement in action — not just the pretty pictures of the final result. Note: more is not necessarily better. Don't do an image dump of your entire project! Judges will not have the time to look through everything. So, would you rather pick out the 6 to 7 images that best represent your work, or have the judges base their decisions on a random selection? Take the time; pick out your best.

Secret Tip: Include photos that highlight how shotcrete placement outperformed form-and-pour concrete in your project. Show us the tight spaces, the complex or the extreme conditions where shotcreting excels. Supplement them with captions that help draw out what you want the judges to see from your chosen images. Want to kick it up a notch? Share a video!

A picture really is worth a thousand words: In this case, it might earn an award.

FOCUS ON THE “WHY,” NOT JUST THE “WHAT”

Yes, we want to know what you did, but why you did it with shotcrete placement is even more important. Don't just list the specs or features. Tell us the story behind the

project. Why was shotcrete the option of choice? What unique benefits to shotcrete placement contributed to the success of this project? How did shotcreting make the impossible possible?

THE BOTTOM LINE

If your project highlights shotcrete placement as the clear solution, especially where other methods fall short, and you take the time to tell a complete story with visuals to match, you're already ahead of the game.

The ASA Outstanding Shotcrete Project Awards are more than recognition; they're a chance to showcase the very best our industry has to offer.

Visit shotcrete.org/awards for full details and submission guidelines. Submission deadline is October 1, 2025.

EARLY BIRD BONUS

Projects submitted by September 15 will receive *an initial review and suggestions for improvement which can be resubmitted by October 1st* for your best chance of success. Take advantage of this service, especially if this is your first submission: We want to partner with you in sharing your amazing work with the industry! Submit early, then plan to join us in Santa Fe, NM next March to celebrate the winners! (shotcrete.org/convention)



CALL FOR ENTRIES!

Submission Deadline:

October 1, 2025

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN SHOTCRETE PROJECTS!

Submit your shotcrete project for a chance to be celebrated at the 2026 ASA Shotcrete Convention & Technology Conference. Projects completed between January 1, 2023 and September 1, 2025 are eligible.

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Learn more and apply online:

[www.shotcrete.org/
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