BUILD WITH STRENGTH

CONCRETE CASE STUDY: STRENGTH AND DURABILITY

RICHARD L. HARRIS BUILDING

8 NW 8th Ave, Portland, OR 97209

Completed: 2004
Height: 152 feet
Floors: 12

Owner: Central City Concern
Architect: SERA Architects
Urban Planning: Studio Jeffreys

BUILT TO LAST. BUILT WITH CONCRETE.

To keep their new structure standing tall into the next century, the architects and builders of the Richard L. Harris Building in Portland, Oregon, chose concrete. The 12-story high rise provides transitional housing for low-income and special-needs individuals and incorporates a highly efficient concrete frame with long span, post-tensioned concrete slabs and a resulting minimal column layout.

01. Minimal column layout.
To combat an institutional facility look, the architects used a minimal column layout, which creates a warm and inviting feel.

Concrete's superior strength allows for long spans, thus eliminating the need for large columns and bearing walls.

02. External walls built for strength and durability.
External walls incorporate high-performance "rain screen" construction with in-cavity insulation supported by the concrete floor system.

With the Northwest's rainy weather, it's important to keep rain out. But even if water does get in, the concrete structure is unaffected.

03. Highly efficient concrete frame.
Built in one of the most active earthquake zones in the world, the ductile concrete frame will withstand seismic loading.

AWARDS

Donald Terner Prize for Innovation and Leadership in Affordable Housing, 2007

ODDA Downtown Housing Award, 2006

OCAPA Excellence in Concrete Institutional Residential Award, 2007

This project is the result of the collaborative efforts of Central City Concern, Downtown Community Housing, Portland City Council, and the Portland Development Commission.