

Construction Results Corporation Doing Common Things Uncommonly Well

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Mark Snyder encourages creative thinking amongst all 22 employees of Construction Results Corporation (CRC). “Whenever we’re up against a challenge, instead of just working harder, we work smarter,” Snyder declares. The company’s diverse portfolio speaks to its ability to labor under difficult working conditions and still get the job done on time. CRC has been applying its talents to the industrial and commercial construction industry throughout the Twin Cities metropolitan area in Minnesota since 2000.

CRC specializes in adaptive re-use (ADRU) and renovation projects, usually applying a design-build or plan-spec basis in order to satisfy any client’s requirements. This type of work suits CRC well, and the team enjoys overcoming the obstacles that accompanies such demanding jobs.



Top-to-bottom Renovation

Recently CRC’s team completed work on the Mall of America’s aquarium, Underwater Adventures. The owner of the aquarium, Merlin Entertainments, invested millions of dollars to rebrand this exhibit as the SEA LIFE-Minnesota Aquarium.

New exhibits were added in order to revamp the aquarium, including a see-through stingray pool, a unique jellyfish exhibit, as well as many hands-on attractions and activities for both children and adults alike. Thousands of live sea creatures, including sharks, saw fish and giant turtles, swim overhead in a 500,000-gallon walk-through aquarium dubbed Shark Cove.

Despite the splendor of the end result, CRC confronted numerous challenges on the remarkable project; the sheer numbers of logistical complications were overwhelming at the time, but the team managed to successfully complete the project ahead of schedule.

Many of these complications were project specific. The team had to transport materials in and out of the basement level of the mall – where the aquarium is located – without being seen by visitors, per the client’s specifications. Another issue was ensuring that nothing would harm the fish throughout the construction process; but it was all worth it in the end.

“It turned out beautifully, and it was rewarding to be a part of this exciting project with a client who we have worked with for many years,” says Snyder. Snyder and his team’s positive attitude has also helped CRC cultivate many new relationships with other high-profile clients.

Connections to Last a Lifetime

CRC has a wealth of connections in the Twin Cities area, which is why the Target Center Arena (TCA) management staff – longtime contacts of CRC – asked the company to

recommend architectural firms as well as mechanical and electrical subcontractors for a significant project. All of the concession stands on the main concourse of the TCA stadium will be renovated in a warehouse district aesthetic.

CRC will simulate heavy timber columns and use a distressed brick veneer. “It was originally built in the 1990s, but we’re going to make some details look like it was built in the 1890s,” explains Snyder.

The TCA stadium serves as the home court for the NBA Minnesota Timberwolves and the WNBA Lynx, in addition to hosting concerts and other events throughout the year. Therefore, the crew can only work on a few stands at a time because the stands generate a substantial amount of capital. Even so, CRC expects completion on the project in fall 2012.



One client of CRC’s required the company’s deductive thinking. A three-story building owned by a major natural gas supplier, CenterPoint Energy (CPE), was deemed unusable due to buckled concrete and severe rebar corrosion in portions of the structural slabs. CPE and the CRC staff found that when the concrete floors were poured in the winter of 1930 an accelerator had been used to speed up the curing process; that accelerator was chloride.

The facility had been used to repair CPE’s service vehicles. Decades ago snow had melted off these vehicles, seeped into the cracks in the slabs, combined with the chloride and thus the corrosion began. CRC began working on a solution once the problem was isolated; CRC recommended a structural engineering firm to CPE, and both companies worked as a team to temporarily shore the affected concrete slabs. The team then performed a structural load test on four bays in order to verify that overall structure was still sound. After the test was complete, selective full-depth slab repairs were made using self-consolidating concrete and a low-shrinkage concrete topping mix, which allowed for very few cracks.

Epoxy-injection work was performed at the structural cracks without corrosion issues, and helical anchors were installed below the settled footings for extra durability. “Now the owner has a building that they can use for a fraction of the cost of other repair alternatives,” says Snyder, who is pleased to note that the project was also nominated for a structural design award.

Going Green

The CRC team is all for going green; one stand-out green project was the biomass burner building that the team constructed at the General Mills’ oat-milling facility. The unit burns leftover oat hulls from the milling process to produce 90 percent of the steam to operate the facility, reducing the plant’s carbon footprint by 21 percent and saving General Mills nearly \$400,000 each year from reduced natural gas costs. “We were proud to be a part of this project,” states Snyder.

CRC’s team believes that renovating a building is greener than removing and constructing a new structure, which is why the company is fond of ADRU projects like the Grace Center for Community Life (GCCL). GCCL was formerly a Minneapolis public school that had been shut down due to neglect. After being purchased by a local church organization, the building is now being refurbished by CRC and will be home to a church, a charter school and other future faith-

based and community-based tenants.

Working on a tight schedule is nothing new to CRC, and the company is performing a full-scale renovation of the busiest Bruegger’s bagel shops in the nation. In order to upgrade the facility for new menu items, the bakery had to be shut down for an entire week. “We worked day and night, and completed about three weeks worth of work in seven days,” affirms Snyder.

CRC also recently renovated a courtyard and cafeteria at the headquarters for an international manufacturing company. The materials-handling logistics were distinctive because all of the materials being removed or installed had to be brought through the existing building or flown over the roof. A backhoe and breaker were set in the courtyard with a crane, which was later used to set the structural steel for the expanded cafeteria. The excess soil, new concrete and landscaping had to be transported through the occupied building.

It’s no surprise that CRC has experienced 25-percent growth in 2011 and surpassed the milestone of completing over \$100 million worth of work. CRC will go above and beyond to ensure that all expectations are met, even when working on a relatively small job for a client. The company is known as a trustworthy contractor with creative thinking, allowing the Construction Results Corporation team to continue business based on integrity, open communication and professionalism. •