



SPEC MIX® helps create a unique stadium for the NFL's Cardinals.

In March 2003, at Glendale, Arizona, the groundbreaking ceremony took place for the NFL's Arizona Cardinals' new multipurpose stadium. This is the first stadium in North America to combine a retractable roof along with a mobile playing field. As well as being the home to the Cardinals, the stadium will play host to the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl as well as future Super Bowls and other events.

SPEC MIX® is pleased to be a part of the construction of the Cardinal's new home. SPEC MIX licensee Superlite Block, supplied SPEC MIX mortar and G7000 silos to the contractor, Sun Valley Masonry, for the masonry phase of the build.

The multipurpose facility project, located directly south of the Phoenix Coyotes Arena currently under construction at the Loop 101 and Bethany Home Road in Glendale, Arizona, is the largest single construction project in the state in the last two decades.

Designed by architect Peter Eisenman, the new \$450 million stadium takes its basic form from a barrel cactus. The skin of the stadium features large, reflective bluish-silver insulated metal panels with small gaps in between to allow light to flow in and out of the arena. The facility's roof will consist of Bird-Air Fabric that leads up to the retractable roof opening. It will have two large retractable panels. This will allow the roof to be closed and the entire facility air conditioned in the hot months, while in the cooler months the roof will remain open to take advantage of the Arizona sunshine. In addition, the operable roof has



This will be the first stadium in North America to combine a retractable roof along with a mobile playing field. Upper Left: This view shows the playing field extended outside of the stadium on a mobile ramp system. Upper Right: This view shows the playing field retracted to the interior of the stadium.



Project: Cardinal Stadium (NFL Arizona Cardinals)
 Location: Glendale, Arizona
 SPEC MIX Licensee: Superlite Block, Inc.
 Mason Contractor: Sun Valley Masonry
 Architect: HOK Sport + Venue + Event

been designed to provide the right balance of sun on the field and shade in the seats.

New York-based Eisenman Architects worked on the design with HOK Sports, which is the construction architect.

The multipurpose stadium, which is within a 160-acre site, will have a seat capacity over 63,000 and will include 88 luxury suites.

The project utilized three types of concrete masonry units. In addition to the over 500,000 8" x 8" x 16" grey CMU's, there were over 20,000 black split-face units that surrounded the bottom outside perimeter of the stadium. The dark split face concrete block were a perfect complement to the gray reflective insulated metal panels that serve as the main skin of the stadium. The designers also incorporated Astro-Glaze® block in various sections along the perimeter in between the black split face to help make the transition from concrete masonry unit to the metal panels.

The contractor, Sun Valley Masonry, utilized over 1,100 bulk bags and several thousand 80lbs. bags of SPEC MIX, Type S mortar on the **(continued on page 2)**

Project Profile (continued from front page)

interior of the project in different, hard to reach areas difficult to access with a forklift. On the upper levels of the stadium there were weight restrictions which made forklift use impossible. Mike Freesh, Foreman for Sun Valley Masonry, said, "We mixed hauled 80lbs. bags of SPEC MIX to the upper levels in spread out areas and mixed right next to the masons. The SPEC MIX product helped us keep the mixing areas clean without any waste and that

alone was a huge asset to us." The versatility of the Sun Valley's crew consisted of around 70 masons at the high point of the construction. Freesh says, "It's all about efficiency and productivity. We had only two G7000 silos making that amount of mud for a large crew and they got the job done perfectly. In fact we did a lot of work during the rainy season and due to the versatility of the SPEC MIX silo dispensing system, we only lost 1½ days total during the project." **(continued on page 5)**

New SPEC MIX® product literature and video CDs for Masonry and Stucco available in May 2006.

SPEC MIX® Inc announces two new CD Masonry Solutions and Stucco Delivery System product videos to target the architectural community as well as contractors. Using live job site testimonials from existing SPEC MIX users, the content of the videos explicitly highlights the features and benefits of our system as they apply to designers, specifiers and tradesmen. For architectural presentations or contractor meetings, these videos are the ultimate tool to increase market penetration. The videos are 8-9 minutes in length and are formatted for Windows Media Player with PC compatibility. To increase the value of this resource to the end user, each CD interface also has a complete line of printable PDFs for all SPEC MIX product data, silo systems and technical information. The list includes:

MASONRY SOLUTIONS CD PRODUCT INFORMATION

- PRODUCT DATA SHEETS
- GUIDE SPEC
- MSDS
- SPEC-DATA®
- MANU-SPEC®
- SILO SPEC SHEETS

STUCCO DELIVERY SYSTEM CD PRODUCT INFORMATION

- PRODUCT DATA SHEETS
- GUIDE SPEC
- MSDS
- SPEC-DATA
- SILO SPEC SHEETS



This is a cost-effective, dynamic way to communicate the SPEC MIX message to the Masonry and Stucco market. Brian Carney, SPEC MIX VP/GM, says, "The strategy behind these CDs was filming numerous conversations with dedicated SPEC MIX customers, then selecting footage that we knew would make an impact on the architectural community to ultimately gain project specifications. And, considering the best way to sell SPEC MIX to new contractors is using testimonials of contractors addicted to SPEC MIX, the content of these videos will hit home with every mason or plasterer. Our team is very pleased with the end result. Not only is each CD a hard working communications piece, it's a comprehensive, informative tool that will help us get our message out to all the players in our industry. Essentially, the video is our web site on CD. It's a perfect way to start an architectural presentation or show at a monthly contractor association meeting. Both CDs represent an excellent value to our Licensees to sell and promote the brand."

Expect these CDs to be available through your SPEC MIX Licensee in June 2006 for further information call your SPEC MIX representative.



INTERNATIONAL MASONRY SKILLS CHALLENGE 2006

At the 2006 International Masonry Skills Challenge, 22 of the top apprentices across the nation showed their stuff for MCAA and CSI attendees, proving that the masonry industry's skilled workforce is alive and well.

The top-placing contestants for each skill level were:

First Year Finalists:

First Place

Daniel Sikorski, District Council Training Center, Addison, IL

Second Place

Elizabeth Cleckley, Baltimore Masonry, Eldersburg, MD

Third Place

Terrance Vaughn, Masonry Developers Inc., Rochester, MI

International Masonry Skills Challenge

Second Year Finalists:

First Place

Jason Thrift, Karon Masonry, Beltsville, MD

Second Place

Renato Ramirez, Brazos Masonry Inc., Waco, TX

Third Year Finalists:

First Place

Juan Capitillo, DMG Masonry Inc., Arlington, TX

Second Place

Josh Morrison, McGee Brothers Company Inc., Monroe, NC

Third Place

Esteban Alarcon, Thomas Masonry, Valley Center, CA

All winners received trophies, tool bags and tools, plus first-place winners received \$1,000, second-place winners \$500, and \$250 to third-place winners.

A special thanks to the contest sponsors, who contributed time, materials, labor and/or financial support: Quikrete, Bon Masonry Tools, Buechel Stone Corp., Building Stone Institute, Cemex, Cosella Dorken, EZ Grout Corp., Fraco, Gehl, Lafarge North America, MK Diamond Products Inc., Mortar Net USA Ltd., Non-Stop Scaffolding and Spec Mix Inc.

Fastest Trowel held in Las Vegas for MCAA

The skill and speed of fifteen masons and their tenders were highlighted at Masonry Showcase's premier event in Las Vegas on March 31st. The annual Fastest Trowel on the Block contest drew an audience of hundreds to the exhibit floor to catch the action and see who would win the \$7,000 grand prize. Contestants came from across the country to compete against each other to build the biggest and best block wall.

The contest was more exciting than ever, as all the masons built quickly and with great quality. The audience picked their favorites and cheered them on through the twenty minute

competition. After the judges did their scoring, the results were announced. The winners are:

First Place: Mike Canez, III

Triple M Masonry, Phoenix, AZ

Second Place: Pascal Robertson

Robertson Masonry, Apopka, FL

Third Place: Moroni Meja, II

Rhino Masonry, Mesa, AZ

SPEC MIX New West Coast Regional Manager



Tom Peterson has joined SPEC MIX as the West Coast Regional Manager. Tom's extensive career in construction materials includes 10 years with Aggregate Industries (AI) split between the Twin Cities, Washington, D.C. and West Virginia in various sales and management positions. During his tenure with Aggregate Industries, Tom served as the Retail Manager in Minneapolis, Assistant Plant Manager at their Elk River concrete plant, then became the Business Development Manager in Bethesda, MD before moving to Greenbelt, MD as a Sales & Marketing representative in AI's ready mix concrete division. His last two years at AI were spent in their aggregate division in plant management roles at facilities in Millville, WV and Brandywine, MD, respectively. Most recently, before joining SPEC MIX, Tom spent 2 years as Sales Manager for, Modulo, a European start-up company in the reconstituted stone industry.

Tom's direct phone number is 651-286-1307 and his cell number is 612-750-8653. His email address is tpeterson@specmix.com. Welcome to the SPEC MIX team.

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For information on advertising in Trowel Tales, contact Jeff Farmakes, editor, at (651) 651-8966 or via e-mail at jfarmakes@specmix.com.

industry highlights

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Another of the challenges on the preconstruction phase was developing black and white mortar to match the block design. Superlite Block, licensed manufacturer of SPEC MIX in Arizona developed the specialty colored mortar and worked with the architectural firm to create a perfect match between mortar and block. "They (Superlite Block /SPEC MIX) really helped us before construction started to get us the right materials for the specification. Almost all of the masonry was exposed-finished and unpainted product and we had to make sure that the mortar was consistently colored throughout," Freesh explained.

Michael Bidwill, Cardinals vice president and general manager, gave the Arizona chapter of The Associated Press Sports Editors a tour of the spectacular building last week, calling it "the most technologically advanced sports facility that's ever been built."

The most intriguing feature, though, is the field itself. Made of natural grass, it will sit outside under the desert sun 340 days a year, Bidwill said. For games, it will slide into the stadium like a kitchen cutting board. It's a tray. I call it a cake pan about 3 feet deep." The playing field is a single unit that rolls into place in 45 minutes. It weighs about 17 million pounds and rolls on about 500 wheels on 13 rails."

When the field is rolled outside, it leaves 152,000 square feet of space for conventions, trade shows or other events.

The grass on the playing field will be planted this month.

The completion date is Aug. 1, 2006, eleven days before the grand opening, a preseason game against the Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers.

Workers are putting in the last of the 63,000 seats, a number that can be increased to 73,000 for major events.

Already on the schedule for the stadium is this season's NCAA Division I football championship game, to be played under the new Bowl Championship Series format a week after the Fiesta Bowl, and the 2008 Super Bowl.

Our thanks to Sun Valley Masonry, Superlite Block, and HOK Sports for selecting SPEC MIX for their starting team to make this outstanding sports arena a reality. For more information about the NFL Arizona Cardinals Stadium go to: <http://football.ballparks.com/NFL/ArizonaCardinals/newindex.htm>

Arizona Masonry Guild Announces Winners at the Fifth Annual "Masonry: It Makes A Village"



(PHOENIX, AZ) -- The fifth annual design/build competition, "Masonry: It Makes A Village" was held Friday, April 7 and Saturday, April 8 in Phoenix at Turf Paradise. This timed event pitted teams of Arizona architects and mason contractors against each other to produce the most creative and original "village" structures with the use of brick, block, natural and manufactured stone, glass block and architectural precast.

Arizona Masonry Awards Program

Roy Hickman Consulting, Tucson, AZ; Richard Michal, Graduate Research Assistant at the University of Arizona Architectural School.

The Winners of the 2006 "Masonry: It Makes a Village" event:

1st Place: "The Portal"

Architect: Todd & Associates, Phoenix, AZ

Mason: CJS Enterprises, Phoenix, AZ

2nd Place: "The Village Bath"

Architect: NAU Construction Management School, Flagstaff, AZ

Mason: Arizona Masonry Contractors Association, Phoenix, AZ

3rd Place: "It Breaks a Village"

Architect: FM Group, Inc., Scottsdale, AZ

Mason: SJC Masonry, Mesa, AZ

Craftsmanship Award: "Rock 'Em Sock 'Em Robots"

Architect: Perlman Architects, Scottsdale, AZ

Mason: Diversified Builder Supply, Chandler, AZ

People's Choice Award: "Rock 'Em Sock 'Em Robots"

Architect: Perlman Architects, Scottsdale, AZ

Mason: Diversified Builder Supply, Chandler, AZ



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ASTM Meeting
June 13-16
Toronto, ON, Canada

**SkillsUSA National Leadership
and Skills Conference
Masonry Competition**
June 22
Kansas City, MO

NCMA Mid-Year Meetings
July 23-28
Chicago, IL

SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500®
Regional Competition
Packaged Concrete
July 29
Chicago, IL



SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500®
Regional Competition
Quikrete Cincinnati
August 12
Cincinnati, OH



SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500®
Regional Competition
Quikrete Wisconsin
August 26
Milwaukee, WI



MCAA Mid-Year Meeting
September 8-11
Maui, HI

SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500®
Regional Competition
Quikrete Denver
September 9
Denver, CO



SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500®
Regional Competition
Gibraltar National
September 16
Detroit, MI



SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500®
Regional Competition
TCC
September 16
Omaha, NE



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