

# Construction Digest

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## SUPER-QUICK REBUILD OF TOLL ROAD INTERCHANGE

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# Quick-time concrete placement for initial floor of Indy's "Artsgarden"

**E**arly in the morning of an overcast Spring day, a pair of concrete pumps were poised to reach their booms and rubber snouts to and through steel beams and columns which will support an "Artsgarden" in downtown Indianapolis.

Streets had been blocked from traf-

Workers scrambled into position as the first of many ready mix trucks lined up to the east and west of the winged, circular structural steel platform which will be connected by three walkways to downtown buildings and with a staircase to a future parklike setting to the northeast.

R. L. McCoy Co., under a subcontract to Hagerman Construction, Fort Wayne, Ind., began pumping the 350 cubic yards of concrete required to form the deck of the Artsgarden as well as walled concrete planters around its perimeter.

"We started work at 6 a.m. on that Thursday," said Gary Brown, McCoy superintendent, "to get set up, with the first load of concrete arriving at 7 a.m. Hagerman wanted us there early to get into position and ensure the pumpers were positioned correctly and make sure the booms could swing up over and around the steel members and be able to cover all the areas."

The pair of Schwing concrete pumps, a 1200-42 and 1200-36, were fed with a steady stream of six-bag mix concrete supplied by Carmel Concrete Co. "Because of all the dif-

ferent areas we had to pour at different times, it took the two machines to reach it all," Brown continued.

The streets had to be opened to traffic by 4:30 p.m. to accommodate rush-hour traffic. By completing the pour in about five hours, that provided sufficient time for water from the concrete to stop dripping before traffic was al-

lowed through the intersection.

"It was a good pour, although our pour rate wasn't that great," the McCoy superintendent said. "Even with the two machines to reach all the different areas, we couldn't pour at a normal rate with all the structural steel we had to work around, and with the four different entrance points to the Artsgarden."

There were slopes and offsets for rain guttering on the outside, and there are concrete flower planters completely around the perimeter. The two-foot area has an upturn wall, and shrubs and flowers will be planted completely around the perimeter. "So we had to pour the perimeter first because it sets down," Brown said, "then we came back a little later and poured an 18-inch tall wall on top of it."

The six-bag mix was also plasticized for workability and to achieve a fast-setting concrete. "The reason for that was for the stripping of plywood. They wanted to come in on Monday and strip," Brown continued. "They started stripping planter formwork on Friday, but had to wait until Monday for the remainder."

As far as the pumping operation went, there were just the operators and Gary Brown. Hagerman had 11 finishers and 10 laborers, which were split into two crews, one crew per pump. It took one laborer per pump to handle the hose, and four knock-down men for five finishers.

"If the pour hadn't been made on that day, we would have had to wait a week because the city would only let Hagerman close down the streets on a Thursday.

"A week's wait would have thrown scheduling off badly. There is a May deadline to get this enclosed and to a stage where buildings at the corners can tie into the Artsgarden," the McCoy superintendent concluded. □



*R. L. McCoy's pair of Schwing concrete pumps receive plasticized mix from dual Carmel Concrete ready-mix trucks and place it on deck of the Artsgarden at Indianapolis' Washington and Illinois streets intersection.*

fic hours earlier in preparation for the event — the initial concrete pours for the deck of the massive overhead multipurpose walkway intersecting Washington and Illinois streets.

The Artsgarden is part of the overall design of Indianapolis' Circle Centre Mall, which is slated for completion in late 1995.