

SITE WORK: Sturdy Materials Become More Sustainable to Produce, and Give Strength and Beauty to Residential and Commercial Structures

by Susan Roush

When the Roman Empire fell around 400AD, the art of making concrete was lost for centuries, until the chemical reaction of limestone and water was discovered and various hydraulic cement mixtures were patented. A bricklayer in Leeds England created Portland cement in the early 19th century, which is the basic ingredient in concrete to this day. Today's manufacturers and finishers continue to refine production and processes.

Tommy Owens, Operations and Revenue Manager for the Coastal Division of **Thomas Concrete** said, "Concrete is by far the leading building material in the world." Thomas Concrete is a relatively new name to the Grand Strand (since 2015), but the company dates back to the mid-1950s when it was founded in Karlstad Sweden. Today, Thomas Concrete operates four plants in Horry and Brunswick Counties. Everyone who works for Thomas Concrete came to



Randall Watts (left), Tommy Owens (middle) & Justin Todd (right) with Thomas Concrete.

them through acquisition, so the logo carries years of local experience. Tommy spoke about the

sustainability of concrete, and the company's initiative in reducing the carbon footprint in producing it. Here are the highlights:

- Concrete absorbs CO₂ and is 100% recyclable; it is locally produced eliminating long distance hauling
- It is strong and durable (withstanding hurricane-force winds); needs minimal maintenance, and is energy

efficient; concrete offers natural sound insulation

- Concrete does not burn or emit toxic fumes when exposed to fire; and it does not rot
- Thomas Concrete has a new product called CarbonCure



Thomas Concrete is currently introducing their new 'Carbon Cure' technology.

CarbonCure technology allows Thomas Concrete to inject industrial CO₂ into wet concrete where the gas is chemically converted into a solid mineral. Tommy explained, "It helps with the atmosphere; we can reduce the amount of cement that goes into the concrete and still get the same results. The CO₂ never goes back to the atmosphere." This new product will be introduced to the Myrtle Beach market this year.



Tommy shared a couple of changes he has noted. "In the coastal area ICF (insulated concrete forms) homes and multi-unit structures are once again trending in this area. This is partly due to the sustainability of the material, and for multiunit condos ICF structures meet rigorous fire codes." Thomas Concrete and their association partnerships can show builders the benefits and savings of ICF, which has been documented for a couple of decades, and lend support with their



expertise and training.

He also noted, "Decorative concrete has really started to go to the next level in residential homes. We're starting to see houses with concrete floors on the inside with an acid stain on the concrete that makes a cool looking pattern." Tommy added, "Homebuilders are thinking of ways to enhance curb appeal. A beautiful stamped porch or driveway makes a house stand out without adding a huge amount to the builder's bottom line." Thomas Concrete, "The Concrete Specialists" are members of the National and Carolina Ready-Mix Associations.

profitability and reduce waste." Chief estimator Keith Suggs is able to increase his own productivity with this software. Kyle continued, "Keith has the ability to do much more detailed accurate takeoffs and create more plans in a shorter amount of time. He can convert plans into a separate program or spreadsheet that we can access in the field. We are actually moving toward digital paperless communication. Builders and homeowners benefit from efficiencies in time and materials through more accurate estimating."



Kyle Russ with Professional Concrete.

For Professional Concrete, turnkey service means doing whatever the

(Continued on page 14)

**SINCE
1955**

**Now Offering
CarbonCure
Technology**

Thomas[®]

CONCRETE

(843) 347-5793

ThomasConcrete.com

**Catering To The Smaller Local
& Larger Production Builder**

HORRY
GEORGETOWN
HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

NAHB

Our Team • Local Professionals • Over 50 Years Combined Experience

Justin Todd
(843) 907-2244

Tommy Owens
(803) 647-4306

Randall Watts
(843) 385-2715

Residential • Commercial
4 Local Plants

Professional

Concrete, Inc.

is a local turnkey concrete finisher that has been in business since 2000. Owner Staton McIntyre said, "We are always trying to stay on top, so we do our homework." Part of that homework was to attend the World of Concrete industry show in 2017. Kyle Russ, head of sales and marketing said, "We bought the latest takeoff software program. It helps us improve our yields and

Sometimes the home
you want doesn't exist.
You have to build it.

At Citizens One we offer construction-to-permanent loans with a convenient one-time close to help you build the home that's right for you. [Speak with Trippett Boineau today.](#)



Trippett Boineau, Jr.
NMLS ID# 414566
843-450-8903
trippett.boineau@citizensone.com



Mortgages are offered and originated by Citizens Bank, N.A. Citizens One and Citizens One Home Loans are brand names of Citizens Bank, N.A. (NMLS ID# 433960). All loans are subject to approval. Equal Housing Lender. © 2017 Citizens Financial Group, Inc. All rights reserved. 803458



Keith Suggs with Professional Concrete.

needed, to pouring footings, block foundations, monolithic slabs, grade beams, retaining walls, pool decks, and more. Keith said, "We have the ability to provide turnkey services using Professional Concrete, Inc. employees as well as providing all materials. It's my job to break the plans down to the nuts and bolts to get a quantitative number for the material, add in labor, and calculate the turnkey price."

customer requires. This runs the gamut from coordinating third-party soil testing and taking remedial steps when

The company provides their A to Z turnkey service to residential



The laser screed machine is the latest appealing technology in the concrete industry.

screed machine is the latest appealing technology in the concrete industry. The company has acquired a laser screed machine that planes concrete to an unparalleled flat elevation. Manual labor is reduced by 50 to 60%, and more square footage can be poured in fewer hours at a higher quality. Kyle added, "We send our certified operator with the equipment to the site."



As Staton noted, concrete finishing has come a long way since the days of "two men and a wheelbarrow." Maintaining positive professional relationships through excellent service and direct communication is a touchstone of Professional Concrete's business philosophy. Kyle summed up, "We have a dedicated team at Professional Concrete, Inc. From 6am in the morning until 6am in the morning, we pour and work according to what the job requires."

Remember the children's fable,

Three Little Pigs? The wolf huffed, puffed, and blew down the houses made of straw and stick. It was the brick house that thwarted the wolf's plan for a tasty pig pickin.' The strength and beauty of brick certainly predates this 1886 fable, but the moral of the story is clear. In the U.S., brick homes and buildings have enjoyed a certain prominence in society since early colonial days. Two brick manufacturers speak to its appeal and benefits.

Triangle Brick, based in Durham, NC, has three manufacturing plants located at their mining sites – two in North Carolina and one in Texas. Lee Heath, Senior Sales Representative for Triangle spoke about advances in the brick industry, and Triangle Brick's commitment to quality and service. Lee said, "Triangle



Lee Heath with Triangle Brick.



Brick was instrumental in developing Half Pack™ technology along with the McGee Brothers company out of Charlotte. It not only provides safety on the job site, but also efficiencies due to fewer broken bricks. The package is much tighter and it doesn't fall apart on



the site, so you have less waste."

Triangle Brick manufactures to the ASTM C216 standard. Lee explained, "In laymen's terms that means the core holes are smaller than some other manufacturers, (less than 25% void area), and because of that the brick is less fragile and it reduces the amount of mortar used on the job site. We could take more material out of the brick, but in our eyes that reduces the quality." Triangle manufactures in

energy-efficient plants that use advanced robotics, clean air initiatives, and industry-driven best practices. The company also has their own fleet of trucks, a full team of knowledgeable field professionals, and an in-house design center to serve customers. Lee said, "We help not only with their brick selection, but all the colors that go along with it from the shingles, to the gutters, shutters, even some stone accents. The local builders love it, and even the builders and customers who



make the drive say it is well worth it." The Design Center can also assist over the Internet through emails. Triangle Brick also manufactures brick pavers.

Lee knows of at least four large-

(Continued on page 16)

The Residential & Commercial Building Contractors' Leading Source For Concrete Since 2000



Foundations, Slabs, Driveways, Porches, Walkways, Additions, Curbing, Block & Brick

Utilizing the latest technologies & proper practices in the industry

Proud to be associated with the most reputable building contractors in this local market.

Email: info@professionalconcreteinc.com

www.professionalconcreteinc.com

(843) 399-1900



INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS. EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE.

Triangle Brick Company has a one-of-a-kind Design Center that offers in-person and virtual design appointments. Schedule a consultation with our design team today!

Contact your local representative

LEE HEATH

office 800.672.8547

mobile 336.362.1212

leeh@trianglebrick.com

trianglebrick.com

6523 NC HWY 55, Durham, NC 27713



MUCH MORE THAN JUST BRICK!

MANY LANDSCAPING HARDSCAPE & STONE OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM

Palmetto Brick Company

Quality Brick and Exceptional Service Since 1919

Servicing Area Building Contractors, Subcontractors & Homeowners

Palmetto Brick Company
Family Owned & Operated Since 1919
"150 Year Guarantee"



Visit our showroom at 305 Greenleaf Circle in Myrtle Beach. (Turn towards Chick-fil-A at traffic light on Hwy. 501.)

PROUD MEMBER OF



www.PalmettoBrick.com

305 Greenleaf Circle • Myrtle Beach, SC
(843) 236-2121



scale residential builders that are changing back to brick. He said, "There's a perception that brick costs a whole lot more, but that's not true. Obviously brick is going to cost more than vinyl siding, but I've had many builders tell me they can use brick for the same cost as cement-fiber siding." One builder has returned to using brick-to-ground foundation to set his product apart. Lee added, "The builders who are switching back to brick are gaining an advantage in their market place with faster home sales. What I see here in North and South Carolina is the use of light colors in a tumbled finish."

With this uptick in brick masonry, Lee especially appreciates and enjoys the Masonry Contractors Association's efforts to attract young people to the art of masonry through vocational programs and competitions in high schools. Lee said, "That is really interesting; I love being involved with that. Most of the students who go through the program have a job waiting for them when they come out of school."

Wallace, SC is home to the **Palmetto Brick Company** manufacturing plant. Nearly a century old, this family-owned company is the largest brick manufacturer in South



The Palmetto Brick showroom in Myrtle Beach is located @ 305 Greenleaf Circle.

Carolina. Besides making brick, Palmetto Brick Company also represents over 20 other brick manufacturing companies in 16 states. Brick has features in common with concrete in terms of being a natural insulator, providing a barrier to moisture, having strength and durability, and being worry-free for maintenance.

Palmetto Brick has five branches that carry a complete line of masonry supplies to include pavers, block, manufactured stone, sand, and mortar. Mortar selection is important because approximately 20% of a brick surface is mortar. Aside from its structural importance, mortar color has a direct influence on the overall visual impact of brick design. One of Palmetto Brick showrooms is located in Myrtle Beach, where local builders and homeowners can select from over 100 colors of

mortar. The showroom also carries other masonry-related accessories.

Chad Redwine, the Myrtle Beach branch manager for Palmetto Brick, is enthusiastic about the use of brick for homes and businesses, both as a



Chad Redwine with Palmetto Brick.

building material and for accent work. He noticed, "New homes are going with brick aprons and/or pavers for the skirts of driveways." His branch is also at the forefront of the area's explosion in outdoor living concepts. Chad said, "Realtors and developers have come to Palmetto Brick because they are incorporating outdoor kitchens and outdoor living spaces to offer as an upgrade to their inventory homes." To this end, Palmetto Brick has solutions for creating a coherent design that complements the home and ties in the front and back yards.

Both the showroom and Palmetto Brick Company's website are helpful



The stone displays on the outside of the Palmetto Brick showroom. The company is noticing a higher demand for outdoor kitchens and outdoor living spaces to upgrade new and existing homes.



Clint Bell (left) and Russell Huntley (right) on the site of the Living Dunes community under construction in Myrtle Beach. East Coast Masonry & Stone is handling the brick and block for this CRG Companies' project.

for gaining inspiration or refining one's vision of a finished product. Whether it is a brick home or garden wall, a handsome, functional brick fireplace, or an entire pool surround and outdoor kitchen Palmetto Brick Company strives to be a builder's and homeowner's top partner for realizing their projects.

East Coast Masonry & Stone business partners Clint Bell and Russell Huntley have a half-century of masonry experience between them. Russell is a 4th generation mason and Clint has a

BS from Appalachian State University in Construction Technology, with a minor in Sustainable Development.



Russell Huntley (left) & Clint Bell (right) with East Coast Masonry & Stone.

Russell explained, "We want to own what we do. We want our jobs properly supervised so we know it's done right." Clint added, "We have a professional business model that we try to follow day in and day out." Their company works with 40+ builders annually, as well as many individual homeowners.

One of their long-term clients is D.R. Horton. They began the relationship 10 years ago doing the brick work in one neighborhood, and have since then become a valued

(Continued on page 18)



50 Years Combined Experience in Masonry Industry

Local Building Professionals Have Trusted East Coast Masonry & Stone For All Of Their Brick, Block, Stone Stucco & Concrete Needs Since 2006



"Working with East Coast Masonry & Stone is always a pleasure. The team has a great eye for detail and are always very attentive to our requests."

- LAYNA O'CONNOR Construction Manager CRG Companies

East Coast
MASONRY & STONE

(844) 55-BRICK (27425)

MyrtleBeachMasonry.com

EastCoastMasonryandStone@gmail.com





partner. In the words of Jennifer Forrester, Myrtle Beach Purchasing Manager for the Coastal Carolinas Division: "D.R. Horton's Myrtle Beach division has had a longstanding business relationship with East Coast Masonry & Stone. They are an installer we can count on for meeting schedules and providing quality work."

Masonry trends have changed over the years. Russell noted, "You didn't used to see partial brick or stone. Houses have evolved from the rectangular brick construction. They have more offsets, more detail, and brick and stone accents add a little flavor." Synthetic stone has become very popular due to the selection of

colors and textures, and the product itself is more consistent. The same is true of stucco. Clint recalled, "Years ago when stucco was Styrofoam based, there were a lot of problems with water damage and the softness of the material. Now we install a cement board product, allowing for uniformity in coverage." East Coast Masonry &



East Coast Masonry & Stone handles a lot of commercial construction.

Stone is a BASF certified stucco installer. They use BASF products exclusively, which enables them to warranty their work. The company's how-to knowledge, backed by

certifications for properly installing weather barriers and flashing, applies to all their masonry work because a dry structure is a healthy one.

East Coast Masonry & Stone has grown in the past 12 years. They have a dedicated estimator, office manager, and purchasing/scheduling manager. The company has an area masonry manager and three masonry superintendents. They own a delivery truck and numerous large pieces of equipment in order to maintain job schedules. East Coast Masonry & Stone maintains an A+ rating from BBB. As a member of the Mason Contractors Association of America, the company keeps up with best practices, products, and technical advances. In other words, for residential and commercial masonry, East Coast Masonry & Stone is willing, ready, and able to do all things masonry from concrete footings through to the finishing details. ■

— Enjoy The Casual Elegance Of Your Backyard Retreat —



Visit us in Booth 400 February 16th – 18th in MBCC

(843) 213-1414

www.PremierSoundMB.com

PREMIER SOUND Satellite & Security

Commercial & Residential Audio
Security / Video



NEW CONSTRUCTION & REMODELING CONTRACTOR SERVICES
We Will Customize Products & Offerings To Suit Your Homeowners

WI FI NETWORKING ACCESS POINTS

Always Willing To Accommodate Various Builder Packages Offered

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Access Control - Surveillance Systems - Alarms - TV Installation

In Ground Custom Residential & Commercial Pools Complete Custom Backyard Retreats

Outdoor Kitchens - Fireplaces - Hot Tubs & Pavers

The Residence of Randy & Liz Goodroe in Plantation Point in Myrtle Beach

The General Pool Company, Inc.

Since 1987

(843) 626-7283

For Further Information Visit

<http://www.buildingindustrysynergy.com/general-pool.php>

Email : PJSUNIM@SC.RR.COM

PA Systems
Flat Screen TVs
Data Wiring



Always Willing To Accommodate Various Builder Packages Offered

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Access Control - Surveillance Systems - Alarms - TV Installation



VISIT US ON



4859 Hwy. 17 Bypass South, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

6541 Rivers Ave., Suite B, N. Charleston, SC 29406

(843) 213-1414

PremierSound1414@gmail.com



Better sound through research.