



# FORUM

www.westernforms.com

Volume 15 Issue 2

For the Progressive Concrete Forming Contractor

Sprint 2005



## Unique challenges for large homes

Mention a large home and you might conjure up images of a 6,000 or even 10,000 square foot house. Pretty impressive by most standards. But if you're talking to Rob Merrell of Griffin Masonry in Charlotte, NC, you're still on the small side. During the past six months, he's been involved in poured wall projects that feature homes as large as 25,000 – 28,000 square feet.

"These aren't just ordinary large-scale foundations," says Merrell. "We've had to incorporate multiple rebar designs, walls as high as 24', 15' tall radius retaining walls, and even a home that needed another basement UNDER the basement."

The clientele isn't ordinary either. Most recently, Merrell worked on a foundation layout for Antwon Jamison, of the NBA's Washington Wizards.

How does Griffin Masonry get involved in these types of projects? Reputation. The company is receiving a lot of work for high-end, custom projects. All of the builders contracted for these projects had worked with the company before and knew its crews could handle the jobs.

Each job had a frustrating element in common: scheduling.

"Trying to pour so many yards at once was a challenge," says Merrell. "We

were pouring 150-180 yards at once, and needed to do three, sometimes four pours. Scheduling the concrete, rebar deliveries, panel deliveries, and coordinating the pour was tough. With the scale of the project, and the builder and the engineer wanting to change things, we struggled to nail down a finish time.."

The home that needed a basement under the basement was Merrell's favorite, but another project that wanted a crawl space under the basement provided other unique challenges. The house itself was 212 ft across, two to three times a standard footprint. Two crews had to incorporate five different rebar patterns. And some walls were designed at 24' high.

"I didn't like the 24' walls," says Merrell. "Since most of our work is 9'

to 12' tall, our crews had to be creative about how they tied the rebar and moved the panels that high in the air. As for the multiple footing designs, and other plan issues, we had to keep in close contact with the original engineer. Our county inspector didn't feel comfortable doing the foundation inspection so we called the project engineer out to check the job."

And what about the basketball player's home? Some big retaining walls were required around the site, and with eight cars to park, Jamison needed some garage space. The answer: a garage on top of a garage, in addition to another 2-car garage on the property. When he's not out driving around, Jamison can relax in his new cabana in the back of the house that Merrell poured with 4'-8' walls.

*Continued on pg. 3*



Antwon Jamison's home begins to take shape.



The right equipment makes even the most challenging jobs a bit easier.

# Catching Up with Western Forms®

A quick recap of news you can use

Spring is here and the busy pouring season is underway. Make sure you've got the latest product, industry, and Western Forms updates to help make your year a success.

## Bracket Racket

March isn't just for basketball tournament brackets! Whether your favorite college team took it all or took the early bus home, March was a winner for you with the announcement of the new PinLock™ Waler Bracket.

The new bracket features rounded edges for increased safety and a recessed saddle to catch your PinLock latch even better. A new material, Ductil Iron, offers added strength and longevity over the former Grey Iron construction. And don't worry; the new design does not compromise the performance you've come to expect from the Western Forms walers. This bracket will align with the Standard Waler Brackets when used on the same wall. Discover the advantages that the only cast waler on the market can offer you. Available JUNE 1, 2005 in 2" x 4" and 2" x 6". Ask your Regional Manager for more details.



The new PinLock Waler Bracket is set to be released June 1, 2005

## Winning Website

If you haven't been to the Western Forms website ([www.westernforms.com](http://www.westernforms.com)) in a while, you're missing an opportunity to see a site that contractors, builders, and now advertising design professionals think is great. The redesigned Western Forms website recently won an OMNI award from our own Kansas City Advertising Club and is eligible for the national ADDY advertising competition. Judges look for the same things you do: easy navigation, quality information, professional design, and an overall enjoyable experience. Take a few minutes to explore the site and see if you agree!

Don't miss:

**Expanded literature section** where you can download past issues of the FORUM, new product brochures, and helpful technical specification sheets

**Project photo galleries** featuring success stories in a variety of applications from customers just like you

**Online communication forms** to let us know what you need, what you like, and how we can help you succeed

**Full product catalog online** that you can easily search to help you research the products you need

**Updated resources pages** to help you link to helpful organization and industry

sites, plus a listing of Western Forms appearances at trade shows and events near you.

## Nifty Fifty

50 years of Western Forms is just too exciting to celebrate only once, so we're throwing parties to last all summer long and hope to see you there.

Western Forms distributors and dealers are helping to host an anniversary party in your area. Most will be held on a weekday evening from 5:00 – 8:00 pm and will feature food, beverages, cake, and prizes just for you. You'll be receiving an invitation as your event draws near.

If you'd like to find out beforehand when and where your party will be, simply call the Western Forms Marketing Department at 800-821-3870 or send an email to [info@westernforms.com](mailto:info@westernforms.com).

# Marvelous

See Western Forms in action on TV

Tune to The History Channel® this April and you'll get the chance to see Western Forms hard at work on your screen.

The hit show, Modern Marvels, recently paid a visit to Kansas City, MO to collect footage for an upcoming episode on basements.

"We wanted to showcase some large projects, millionaires' homes that had interesting finished basements," says Jim Hense, the producer with Actuality Productions, producing Modern Marvels for The History Channel. "Kansas City had some ideal sites to visit and it seemed natural to include Western Forms in our research."

Hense interviewed Ron Ward of Western Forms on camera, discussing the different technologies available for constructing basements, including computer-aided planning. Look for the Western Forms interview during the second segment of the show.

After focusing on the background of basement forming, the cameras visited

## MODERN MARVELS: THE BASEMENT

TUESDAY, APRIL 26th  
(date subject to change - check your local listings)

## THE HISTORY CHANNEL

several homes that highlighted the fun homeowners can have with a basement.

"We saw homes with indoor basketball courts, home theatres, fish tanks, and bars. These weren't just ordinary basements," says Hense.

The cameras filmed job sites in action that featured Western Forms panels and took a trip to see the results of the 2003 CFA Basement From Hell winner in nearby Kansas. The episode also mentions the importance basements play in storm safety.

Western Forms will have a limited supply of copies of the episode. Call 800-821-3870 for your chance to own this episode for FREE and make plans to be marveled by basements!

# Livin' Large

Continued from pg. 1

Griffin Masonry gets the job done with their Flagship® smooth form panels, using both PinLock™ Attached Hardware and pins and wedges.

The crews using the forming systems are part of a 500-person company with a 15-year history. Founded with just one brick masonry crew, Griffin Masonry expanded to poured walls in 1996. The company now has grown to employ 38 brick crews, owns 5 sets of forming system panels, 5 pump trucks, works 5 flatwork crews, 2 stone masonry crews, and 6 footing crews, and recently added a concrete division (hauling only, no manufacturing) with 10 trucks.

If you would like more information on successfully forming large projects, contact Rob Merrell at 704-634-2130



To learn more about the Flagship panels used by Griffin Masonry, contact their Western Forms representative, Mike Lynam, at 770-289-0874 or [mlynam@westernforms.com](mailto:mlynam@westernforms.com).

# Commercial Success

Your panels can go beyond residential forming

Most Western Forms® customers use its forming systems for residential applications. But Dollar Concrete Construction, located in Norcross, GA, thinks its commercial customers deserve the same quality. The company uses Western Forms panels for a variety of multi-family, retail, and industrial projects.

“Our owner, Jim Dollar, started using Western Forms years ago,” says Tony Woodall, Dollar Concrete’s Vice President, Construction. “He chose the panels because of their ability to hold up and maintain their value and productivity, making them well worth the initial cost.”

In fact, Dollar Concrete has been pouring with the same three sets of forms for almost seven years and hasn’t had the need to replace them yet.

Their panels are currently working on a new commercial project with Worthing Southeast Builders that involves forming the foundations for a commercial site, including a foundation wall on the parking deck.

“The biggest challenge with this parking deck has nothing to do with our equipment: it is the flat site,” says Woodall. “While that doesn’t sound like it’s too bad, we’ve had a lot of rainy weather lately and the water doesn’t have any place to run off. It really

impacts our ability to pour quickly. We’ve done a lot of projects like this using the forms and usually everything is pretty straightforward and we don’t have many challenges at all.”

The foundation for the entire project will use around 5000 yards of concrete and take approximately 3 1/2 months, with the parking deck needing only a couple of week’s worth of work. Most of the job will be completed using Flagship® smooth panels forming 10’ and 12’ walls.

For more information on using Western Forms panels for commercial and industrial projects, or to find out more details on this particular job, contact Tony Woodall at 770-448-6008 or Western Forms representative Mike Lynam at 770-289-0874.

## DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?

The FORUM is always looking for new project articles and yours could be next. Simply be willing to share some highlights and photos of your projects and we'll take care of the rest. Contact Western Forms by mailing back a response card (right); calling 800-821-3870, ext. 3371; sending an email to [info@westernforms.com](mailto:info@westernforms.com); or just by letting your Regional Manager know.

# Avoid the Main Causes of Form Damage

Simple solutions to keep your forms in top condition

Keeping your forms safe from the most common types of damage can really be narrowed to three simple things to practice every day:

## Use a Form Scraper to Remove Concrete Buildup

Put your hammer down! It’s impossible to clean anything with a hammer and you will end up paying your crew to damage your panel investment. Hammer blows will lead to holes, damaged siderails, endrails, hat sections, weld breakage, missing bushings, rolled face sheets,

improper PinLock™ positioning, panel bow, pillowing, and inferior walls. Not one of these will make your forms cleaner or more productive.

## Use Proper Form Oiling Process

When you use the correct form oil, and use it wisely, you won’t even have to worry about concrete buildup and won’t be tempted to pick up a hammer. Take the time to choose the best form oil for your projects and discover the optimum methods for application. Eliminate the concrete buildup and the damage danger.

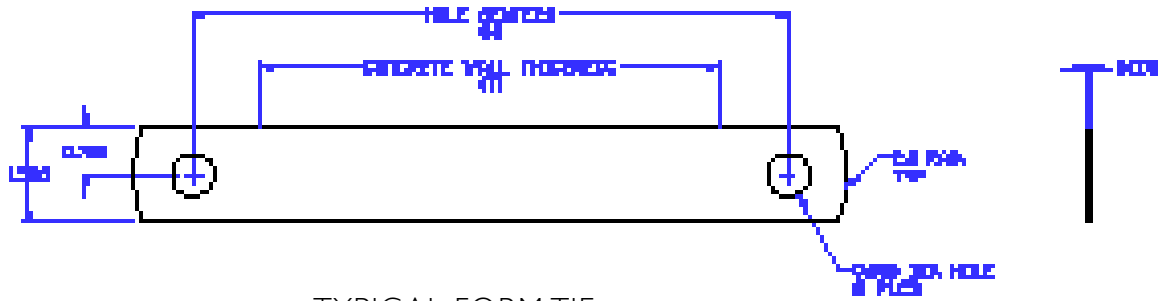
## Use Proper Tie Placement

Excessive wear that can lead to broken bushings and panel bow can be reduced by following proper tie charts and pin/wedge usage.

Well-maintained forms are safer for your employees, too! Contact Nelson Travis in the Used Forms Department at 800-821-3870 or [ntravis@westernforms.com](mailto:ntravis@westernforms.com) for more information on preserving form value and keeping employees safe.

# Quick Tip: Know Your Ties

Reference this handy Form Tie Length/Wall Thickness Identification Chart to avoid tie confusion



TYPICAL FORM TIE

Concrete Wall Thickness	TRUE				NOMINAL			
	(H) Hole Centers	Actual Concrete Thickness (T)			(H) Hole Centers	Actual Concrete Thickness (T)		
		SM-SM	SM-VB	VB-VB		SM-SM	SM-VB	VB-VB
4.000	6.139	3.949	3.819	3.689	5.703	3.513	3.383	3.223
5.000	7.139	4.949	4.819	4.689	6.703	4.513	4.383	4.223
6.000	8.139	5.949	5.819	5.689	7.703	5.513	5.383	5.223
7.000	9.139	6.949	6.819	6.689	8.703	6.513	6.383	6.223
8.000	10.139	7.949	7.819	7.689	9.703	7.513	7.383	7.223
9.000	11.139	8.949	8.819	8.689	10.703	8.513	8.383	8.223
10.000	12.139	9.949	9.819	8.689	11.703	9.513	9.383	9.223
12.000	14.139	11.949	11.819	11.689	13.703	11.513	11.383	11.223
14.000	16.139	13.949	13.819	13.689	15.703	13.513	13.383	13.223
16.000	18.139	15.949	15.819	15.689	17.703	15.513	15.383	15.223
18.000	20.139	17.949	17.819	17.689	19.703	17.513	17.383	17.223
20.000	22.139	19.949	19.819	19.689	21.703	19.513	19.383	19.223
22.000	24.139	21.949	21.819	21.689	23.703	21.513	21.383	21.223
24.000	26.139	23.949	23.819	23.689	25.703	23.513	23.383	23.223

NOTE:  
The appearance of the tie end may vary

SM = Smooth Forms  
VB = Vertex™ Brick Forms



We welcome your ideas, suggestions, and comments concerning this publication. Please mail your contribution to:

**Western Forms, Inc.**  
**Attention: Lisa Crawford**

Published by Western Forms, Inc  
6200 Equitable Road  
Kansas City, MO 64120

**WANTED: YOUR USED FORMS**  
Have a panel, or even an entire set, that you don't use? We pay CASH for used forms! But only if we hear about them, so call Nelson Travis at 800-821-3870 to trade in, trade up, or just make a little extra money.

© 2005 Western Forms



POSTMASTER  
Please send all address changes to:  
Western Forms, Inc.  
6200 Equitable Rd., Kansas City, MO 64120

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED