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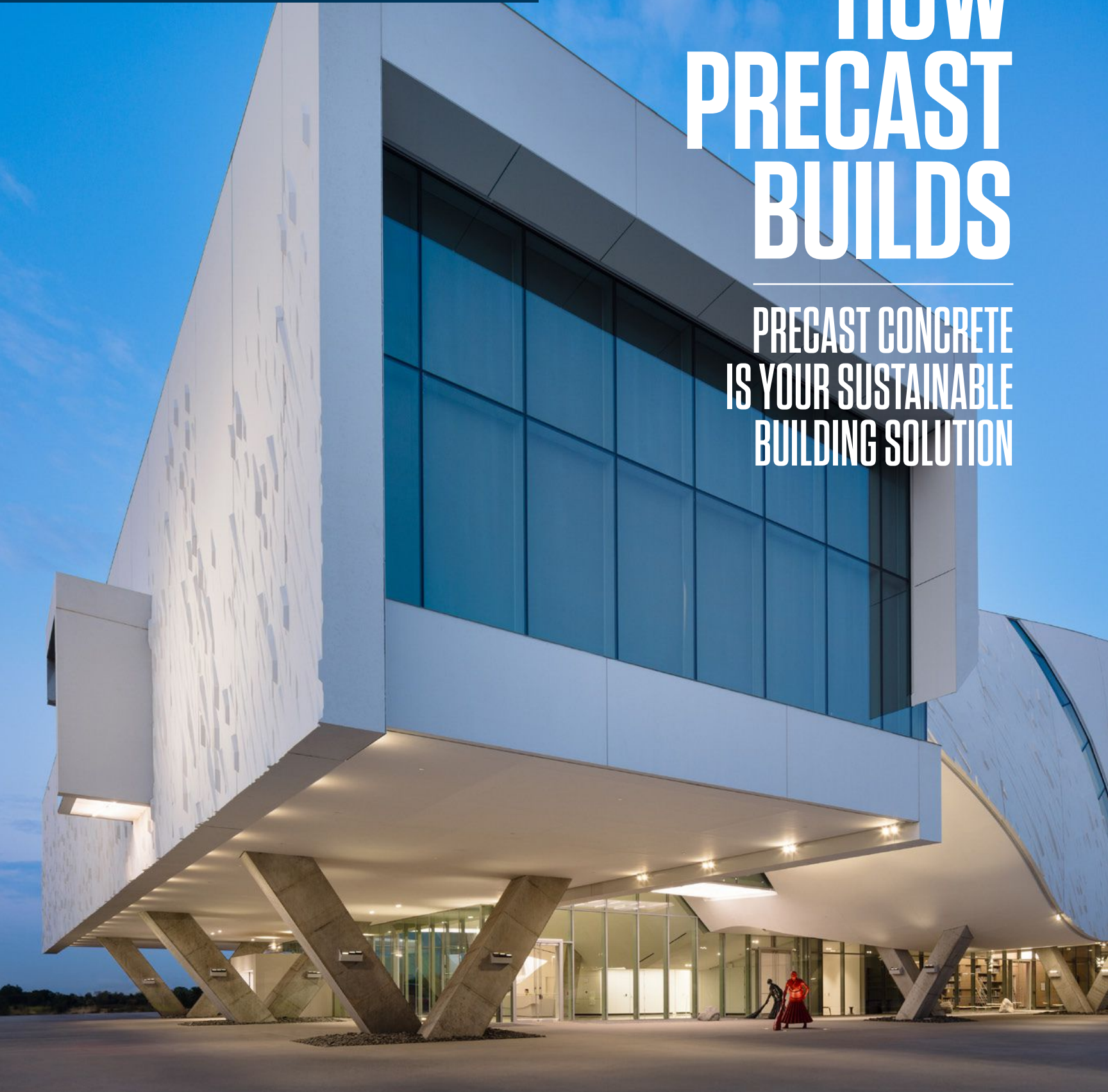
DESIGNING WITH PRECAST CONCRETE

DIGITAL EDITION

WINTER 2025

HOW PRECAST BUILDS

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AWARDS

2024 SIDNEY FREEDMAN AWARD

ANNUAL HONOR GOES TO CROW MUSEUM OF ASIAN ART IN TEXAS

The Crow Museum of Asian Art at the University of Texas at Dallas is a testament to the artistry of architectural precast concrete. This two-story museum integrates seamlessly into a dynamic new art district, blending architecture and landscape to create a distinctive identity.



*GATE Precast in Hillsboro, Texas, manufactured the precast concrete for the Crow Museum of Asian Art.
Photo: Mauricio Rojas, Courtesy of UT Dallas.*

Adorned with white precast concrete panels of diverse massing, curvature, and intricate shapes, the museum's façade showcases a three-dimensional pattern. Precise attention to detail was vital during the design and construction phases to execute the complexities of multicurved panels, precise connection points, and seamless panel alignment. The unmatched versatility of precast concrete provides seamless transitions that elevate the experiences of visitors as they enjoy an extraordinary and enriching journey through the museum's exhibits.

The museum's complex formal geometry presented many challenges. "The most challenging aspect of the panel geometry was the warped panels, which required the use of Rhino modeling software to generate custom CNC [computer numerical control] foam shapes," says Mike Ryan, vice president of operations with GATE Precast in Hillsboro, Tex. "A collaborative approach to precast concrete design and engineering, along with attention to detail and commitment to excellence in production and installation, allowed our team to demonstrate precast concrete's malleability. This resulted in a stunning façade that captures visitors' attention."

"Any time you have architectural precast concrete being used as an interior elevation, especially in a museum, the fit/finish has to be almost perfect," says Timothy Breen, LEED AP project consultant with Coreslab (CONN), and a member of the award jury. "This architectural precast concrete project met every challenge and expectation the architect had. It was a tremendous job by the production team."

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