

# AWCI's Pinnacle Award

## *Bruce L. Miller*



*The winner of AWCI's most prestigious award this year is Bruce L. Miller, president Denver Drywall Company in Englewood Colo.*

*The Pinnacle Award is presented each year to the individual who most merits our industry's recognition, an individual who has given unselfishly of his or her time and energies to benefit AWCI and the industry. Not only are the nominees evaluated on their dedication to the industry, but also on their civic/community work and the excellence of their companies.*

*The award presentation was made April 9 during the Awards Presentation Brunch at AWCI's 82nd Annual Convention.*

Miller, who attended the University of New Mexico, started stocking and hanging wallboard at age 18.

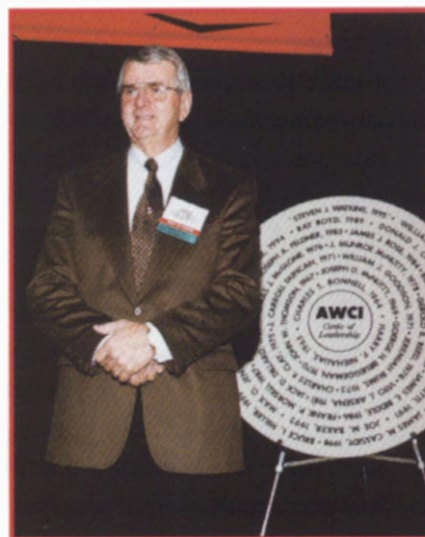
He was selling gypsum products at age 25, for American Gypsum Company at the company's plant in Albuquerque. To ensure his customer's next sale, he would show up at a client's jobsite to hang wallboard, always on his own time. His sales techniques included giving contractors leads on jobs and getting projects for his contractors.

In 1963, National Gypsum Company

recruited Miller to sell Gold Bond Products. He did so well that the company gave him a promotion in 1966, which included a relocation to Denver. Miller was 29 years old at the time.

In Denver, his clients called him a real pusher. One day he walked into Denver Drywall Company to sell wallboard. The company was sold on Miller and became one of his top customers.

In 1968, Miller was made an offer he couldn't refuse: to buy a share in Denver Drywall Company. As a result, Miller became a junior partner in a company that then was a residential drywall con-



**As the most recent Pinnacle Award winner, Bruce Miller is now a part of AWCI's Circle of Leadership.**

tractor with annual sales of \$250,000. Martin-Marietta became the first job Miller secured as a partner, and they stayed on as a client for 15 years, with Miller as their sole negotiator and project manager.

At 31, Miller bought out one of Denver Drywall's senior partners. By 36 he was well on the way of taking Denver Drywall to being the largest drywall subcontractor in Colorado, employing more than 500 people and seeing annual revenues of \$30 million.

In 1975, Denver Drywall moved into a new office and created its own supply company to service their in-house needs and to put an end to supplier delays. Today, MGM supplies steel studs, drywall, mud, stucco and EIFS products not only to Denver Drywall but to its fellow contractors and competitors.

When the tenant-finish market opened up, Miller moved quickly to diversify. He started DDC Interiors in 1989. DDC Interiors designs, manufactures and installs commercial interior workstations, a variety of custom partitions and furnished flooring.

Today, more than 30 percent of Den-




Photo by MH Photography & Concepts

**Michael Chambers (far left), president of AWCI's Pinnacle Award Committee, joined the Miller family and past Pinnacle Award winners (on the right) Joe Baker, Bill Bell and Joe Feldner on stage during the ceremony.**

ver's skyline can be attributed to Denver Drywall Company. The company has been an AWCI member since 1956—and is now a Lifetime Member.

In his professional career with AWCI, which has been ongoing since 1966, Miller has been an active participant on the AWCI board of directors in addition to the technical, membership, government affairs, continuing study, merit shop and the lifetime membership committees. On the chapter level, Miller has held every office.

He also is active in many community activities—church building committees and councils; architectural review and control boards; the high school boosters club, the Boy Scouts of America and the Tom Landry Foundation, to name just a few. 

# AWCI's Excellence in Construction Quality Award

*AWCI's Excellence in Construction Quality Award is given to a team that consists of the contractors, manufacturers and suppliers/distributors who worked together on an outstanding wall and ceiling project.*

## **The Winning Project**

AWCI's Excellence in Construction Quality Award is given to a team that consists of the contractors, manufacturers and suppliers/distributors who worked together on an outstanding wall and ceiling project.

The winning project this year is The Bernard Kilgore Center of Dow Jones & Co., Inc., in South Brunswick, N.J.

B.J. McGlone & Co., Inc. of Edison, N.J., is the AWCI member contractor responsible for much of the project's construction.

3M Construction Markets of St. Paul,

Minn., manufactured the spray fireproofing materials.

DecoForm Corp. of Etobicoke, Ontario, supplied and manufactured the GRG components.

Dietrich Industries, Pittsburgh, manufactured the metal studs.

L & W Supply Corporation, Chicago, supplied the ceiling materials.

Simplex Products Division/FINESTONE, Adrian, Mich., manufactured the exterior insulation and finish system.

The Strober Organization, Inc., Brooklyn, N.Y., supplied the wallboard and metal studs.

United States Gypsum Co., Chicago, manufactured the acoustical ceiling panels and wallboard.

Dow Jones' administrative headquarters is a building of 450,000 square feet and





**B.J. McGlone & Co., Inc. is responsible for much of the interior work done on The Bernard Kilgore Center of Dow Jones & Co., Inc., in South Brunswick, N.J.**

four floors. The building has 300,000 square feet of office space built on raised access flooring. It also includes a museum, a fitness center and a large rotunda for public gathering. Separate from this building, B.J. McGlone & Co., Inc. was also contracted to construct a 15,000 square foot daycare center.

The main difficulty to overcome in building the job was the interior fit and finish, because the architect's design plans for perfect alignments and symmetrical balances through the 700-foot long, five-story structure. Beginning on the first floor with the quarry tile floor layout, everything tied together with the utmost regard for tight tolerances. Column enclosures met floor tile cen-

ters, windows fit perfectly between column bays, ceiling grid was aligned with columns, which in turn aligned with drywall fascias, soffits, reveals, window mullion centers, linear diffusers, sprinkler heads and glass railings.

It all centered around three open skylight atriums. Alignment was not only complicated by the length of the building but also by the vertical alignment of the skylight, which was 60 feet to the low point and 72 feet to the high point.

## Honorable Mention

AWCI also named an honorable mention project for excellence in construc-

tion quality: The Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

The project's drywall, insulation, firestopping, acoustical ceilings and plaster work was the shared responsibility of AWCI member contractors Bradco International Ltd. of La Mesa, Calif, and Cassidy Brothers, Inc. of Rosemont, Ill.

United States Gypsum Co. manufactured and supplied the ceiling materials, exterior finish and drywall.

Grace Construction Products, Cambridge, Mass., manufactured and supplied the fireproofing.

Clark Steel Framing Systems, Middletown, Ohio, manufactured and supplied the metal studs.

Northwestern Memorial Hospital, totaling 2.2 million square feet of finished space, is the largest single hospital structure ever constructed. It contains more than 300,000 lineal feet of interior partitions.

The interior portion of the project was completed in 28 months. The final contract was in excess of \$37 million, and was completed on budget and on time.

The project was built on a restricted site in the heart of Chicago's Gold Coast area. Because of its location, accessibility was at a premium, and since the surrounding existing hospital was in operation continuously, noise and dust abatement were always a consideration. ■



**The winning team for the AWCI Excellence in Construction Quality Award: (from left to right) John Meyers from Dietrich Industries, Robert Dazel from Simplex Products Division/Finestone, George Yoshida of 3M Construction Markets, Patrick Burke of B.J. McGlone & Co., Inc., Richard Young of The Strober Organization, Kevin Courtney of United States Gypsum Company, and AWCI Convention Chairman and Immediate Past President R. Gabe Reitter II.**

# AWCI's Excellence in Construction Safety Award

AWCI honored one of its member contractors for having a superior safety record. Performance Contracting, Inc., of North Highlands, Calif., was presented with AWCI's 1999 Excellence in Construction Safety Award.

AWCI's safety award was created to give national recognition to a contractor member who manages an effective safety program in a given year. More and more owners and specifiers are looking carefully at their contractors, and the general perception is that a firm that actively takes steps to control hazards in their operations is also better

managed in other areas. The winner is chosen on the basis of injury and health frequency rate data, experience modifier, safety statement and company safety-program information.

Performance Contracting had an experience modification rate of 1.3 in 1987 when it instituted its safety program. But in 1998, when it logged more than 4.3 million man-hours, the rate came down to 0.49.

Performance Contracting's safety program consists of many parts: an Accident Prevention Plan, a Foremen Train-

ing Module Program, an employee orientation video and safety handbook, monthly safety newsletters, monthly scoreboard reports, and workplace posters created by the employees' children. But there's more—The company also stuffs safety information into paycheck envelopes on a regular basis, sends individual letters to any and all employees involved in an incident, has in place a Safety Audit feedback system and much more.

One example of the effectiveness of their program is the \$2.71 savings per hour for Oregon drywall carpenters. Overall, the company estimates a savings of more than \$2.5 million annually in claims costs. And that's with an initial investment of only \$650,000 to set up the safety program.

In addition to saving money, workers have been "saved." In 1987, PCI had an incident rate of 17.9 for 2,234,637 hours and 200 recordable incidents. By last year, the number of hours worked had more than doubled, but the recordable incidents number dropped to 66 for an incident rate of 3.06. ■

**From left to right: Performance Contracting's Jon Miklos, the company's vice president of operations; Tom Hawkins, vice president; and Craig Davis, executive vice president, accepted AWCI's 1999 Excellence in Construction Safety Award from AWCI Convention Chairman and Immediate Past President R. Gabe Reitter II.**



Photo by MHI Photography & Concepts

*Construction Dimensions is proud to provide coverage about industry award presented by associations and groups other than AWCI. On these pages you will learn about some of the industry's best and brightest and most innovative.*

*What's printed here is not intended to be all-inclusive of industry awards, but it will become a regular annual feature of this magazine. To have your awards information printed here next year, contact the editor prior to April 15, 2000. This listing of winners includes information received before April 16, 1999.*

### **1998 SAFETY AND HEALTH AWARD**

**Illinois Safety Council  
Chicago, Illinois**

The Illinois Safety Council has given a 1998 Safety and Health Award to McNulty Brothers Company of Chicago.

Each year since 1926, the Illinois Safety Council has recognized member organizations for their Outstanding Safety Performance. The Illinois Safety Council uses its own Composite Award Index and a three-year average to determine qualified recipients for the Safety and Health Award. A member whose Composite Award Index is less than or equal to the previous year is qualified to receive an award.

The award was presented at the Safety Council's Annual Members Meeting and Awards Dinner on May 4, 1999.

### **1998 SAFE-N AND HEALTH AWARD**

**Architectural Contractors Industry  
Advancement Fund  
West Bloomfield, Michigan**

The 1998 INTEX Achievement Award for Wall, Ceiling & Carpentry to Barton Malow Interiors for their work on the Oakland University Student Recreation Center.

The INTEX Achievement Awards (INTERior and EXTERior Systems Excellence) are sponsored by the Architectural Contractors Industry Advancement Fund, and was established to promote excellence in the architectural trade industry. The award honors "top of the line" construction projects exhibiting quality workmanship. The qualification for the 1998 award were a project completion date no later than December 1998 and a Michigan location. The finalist projects are judged by an independent panel of architects. Sixteen projects had been nominated for this category.

The Recreation Center consisted of exterior and interior framing, sheathing, EIFS, drywall, acoustical ceilings and carpentry. The unique challenges were the severe elevation changes and having to do most of the work from an elevation. The project also had an aggressive completion schedule.



**Their work on the Oakland University Student Recreation Center earned Barton Malow Interiors an INTEX Achievement Award.**

### **DESIGN CONTEST**

**Northern California Drywall Contractors  
Saratoga,  
California**

Each year the Northern California Drywall Contractors submit their best projects to be judged by a panel of architects to determine the best design along with crafts-



**(l to r) Carlos Yrueta of Basco Drywall & Painting, David C. Ebert of Fee Munson Ebert, and John Thompson of Golden Gate Drywall.**

manship. The classifications are “Best Residential” and “Best Commercial.”

The first-place winner in the residential category is the Hilview Home in Los Altos, Calif. The drywall contractor on this job was Basco Drywall & Painting, Inc. of San Leandro, Calif; the general contractor was L.W.G.C., Inc. of San Ramon, Calif; and the architect was Archevon of Fremont, Calif.

The first-place winner in the commercial category is the Sephora project in San Francisco. The drywall contractor on this job was Golden Gate Drywall of Burlingame, Calif.; the general contractor was Fisher Development, Inc. of San Francisco; and the architect was Fee Munson Ebert, San Francisco.

## 1998 DESIGN AWARDS

### Steel Joist Institute

#### Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

The Steel Joist Institute has announced the winners of its 1998 Design Awards Program, which recognizes outstanding design in steel joist construction. Each first-place team received an award and a \$1,000 cash prize. Honorable-mention teams received a plaque and \$500 cash. The awards were presented at the SJI Annual Meeting held last month. A panel of outside professionals evaluated projects based upon flexibility, speed of construction, cost and aesthetics.

The winner in the “projects with unique applications ( regardless of size)” category was the Opryland Hotel, (Phase IV, The Delta), Nashville, Tenn. The structural engineering firm responsible for the steel joist construction was Stanley D. Lindsey and Associ-



**Opryland Hotel, (Phase IV, The Delta), Nashville, Tenn.**

ates, Ltd., Nashville, Tenn. This project is the third addition to the Opryland Hotel, making it the seventh-largest hotel in the country. Known as the Delta section of the hotel, this addition is the largest construction project in Nashville’s history. There are 979 guest rooms and a 4.2-acre atrium with an expansive skylight roof system of 200,000 square feet. Steel joist were used to form the independent framework for this skylight, which overlooks a flowing river, gazebo, restaurants, shops and an impressive 110-foot waterfall. The exposed joist create a gabled roof profile that complements the adjacent roofs of the Cascade and Conservatory sections of the hotel.

The winner in the category for projects under 100,000 square feet was the Starstruck Office Building/Music Production facility in Nashville, Tenn. The structural engineering firm was Buell-Fryer-McReynolds, Inc. of Lexington, Ky. Use of steel joist enabled construction crews to work through the winter to erect the structural system of the complex. The buildings were



**Starstruck Office Building/  
Music Production Facility,  
Nashville, Tenn.**

designed to be the music headquarters for Reba McEntire and her husband and to stand out as a landmark in the Music/Recording district of Nashville. A one-story music production facility is connected to a three-story office building that

features an atrium, several roof styles and a laminated, sound-proof composite steel deck for a future helipad. Both buildings were constructed on a steel frame with steel bar joists. Because of their weight-to-strength ratio, the steel joist provided greater flexibility than other materials, giving designers larger, open floor space so that the interior layout can easily be changed in the future.

Finally, in the category for projects of more than 100,000 square feet, the winning project was the AntiSubmarine Warfare Maintenance and Training Facility at the Jacksonville Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, Fla. The structural engineering firm for this project was O’Kon and Company of Inc.,





**Antisubmarine Warfare Maintenance and Training Facility at the Jacksonville Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Fla.**

Atlanta. For the maintenance and training facility at Jacksonville Naval Air Station, steel joist were integrated with a steel frame to create a hangar bay with a clear span of 600 feet by 147 feet. The project was completed within schedule and under budget. The building was also constructed with the option for expansion. The outside wall includes the necessary steel cantilever structure to continue the same structural design if needed in the future.

The following projects received honorable mention awards: Project: Ruby Tuesday Corporate Headquarters, Maryville, Tenn., engineered by Carpenter Wright Engineers, Knoxville, Tenn.; Hancock Place Middle School, St. Louis, MO.; engineered by Dickinson Hussman Architects, St. Louis, MO.; Fed Ex Phase IV Addition, Anchorage, Alaska, engineered by Unwin Scheben Korynta Huettl, Inc., Anchorage; and Dollar General Distribution Center, Indianola, Miss., engineered by Freeland Harris Consulting Engineers, Atlanta.

**1999 APA AWARDS FOR  
DESIGN & MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE  
Architectural Precast Association  
Ft. Myers, Florida**

At its Annual Convention in Acapulco, Mexico, the Architectural Precast Association announced the winners of the 1999 APA Awards for Design & Manufacturing Excellence Competition. The competition is held each year to recognize examples of outstanding design and production work utilizing

architectural precast concrete. Three projects shared top honors: the International Finance Corporation (Washington, D.C.), 2400 Lakeview Office Building (Alpharetta, Ga.) and the Douglas County Courthouse (Douglasville, Ga.). Special Commendation was awarded to Lincoln High School (Tacoma, Wash.). An independent jury selected the winners from a field of dozens of entries.

The International Finance Corporation was designed by Vlastimil Koubek/Michael Graves of Washington, D.C. The precast manufacturer was Arban & Carosi, Inc. (Woodbridge, Va). The judges noted that this project “uses precast elements in imaginative ways to blend this office building with the surrounding environment both in scale and color. The complexity of the various precast forms utilizing different scale pieces create architectural depth in the facade. The use of different color ranges added to the success of compatibility of the neighborhood. The quality and complexity of the completed project is extraordinary”

The 2400 Lakeview Parkway Office Building was designed by Thompson, Ventulett, Stainback & Associates (Atlanta, Ga.). The project team consisted of HP Crum, Senior Principal; Robert Blake, Principal and David Fulmer, project architect. The client was Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, the developer was Taylor & Mathis, and the contractor was Brasfield & Gorrie. The precast manufacturer was Metromont Prestress Company (Dalton, Ga.). According to the judges, “This project features a rhythm of precast elements that allowed a simple low-rise office building to become a unique design. The cornice detailing of a classical style of a less serious nature was achieved in the execution of the precast shapes, finish, color and texture consistency. Repeating component shapes make it economical but also provides a strong unique expression in the building facade presentation.”

The Douglas County Courthouse was designed by Cooper Carry Architect. (Atlanta, Ga.). The precast manufacturer was Metromont Prestress Company (Dalton, Ga.). The judges commended the “projects use of architectural precast to approximate stone elements in a neo-classical interpretation. This courthouse project is well detailed and features high quality and execution of precast products in the specific recall of traditional elements of this style of architecture.”

One additional project received Special Commendation: Lincoln High School (Tacoma, Wash.) designed by Mahlum & Nordfors McKinley Gordon (Seattle, Wash.). The precast manufacturer was Architectural Cast Stone (Santa Ana, Calif). The judges remarked that “this project provides a high level of craftsmanship in presenting cast stone pieces that blend with the original architecture of the high school. The stone detailing and installation clearly indicates an appropriate level of care and appreciation for the original buildings historic nature in the use of cut stone details.”

**1999 EXCELLENCE IN EIFS CONSTRUCTION**  
**EIFS Industry Members Association**  
**Morrow, Georgia**

The Robnak home in Creve Coeur, MO., won first place in the residential category of the 1999 “Excellence in EIFS Construction” competition sponsored by the EIFS Industry Members Association.

The four-bedroom, seven-bath neo-classic showcase complete with pre-cast concrete columns and a rear open gallery was clad with some 11,000 square feet of EIFS with drainage, with a beige, course sand finish and a matching light sand trim.

**1999 BEST OF SENIORS’ HOUSING**  
**National Association of Home Builders**  
**Washington, D.C.**

Winners of the National Association of Home Builders’ National Council on Seniors’ Housing 1999 “Best of Seniors’ Housing” awards exemplify the kind of stunning; innovative and sensitive design solutions called for in modern senior living environments. The awards, which were presented earlier this year at the International Builders’ Show in Dallas, recognize projects for outstanding accessibility, marketability, affordability and lifestyle.


Award-winning projects include the Thompson House at

Riverbank Center in Danvers, Mass., the northeast’s first facility specifically designed to accommodate the needs of seniors who are both visually and hearing impaired. Among other design solutions, Thompson House features an alarm system that includes vibrating beds to warn residents in the event of fire or other emergencies.

Another winner is Hadano, a seniors housing facility in suburban Tokyo that blends the ambience of the Japanese culture with western advances in congregate care to create a grand residential hotel lifestyle.

Also winning praise for cultural sensitivity is the planned Warm Springs Elder Care Center in Warm Springs, Ore., a facility designed to care for the tribal elders on an Indian reservation. The center will welcome customs and traditions of two Native American tribes while providing adult day care, hospice care and dialysis treatment to seniors in the surrounding community

In the state of Washington, the Tate Mason House has been honored for its innovations in the Affordable Senior Housing category. This facility, located in a historic Seattle neighborhood, consists of studio and one-bedroom apartments. Its courtyard design makes good use of space, while other attributes foster a home-like setting rather than an institutional atmosphere.

Two conversion projects recognized by the awards committee were Youville House in Cambridge, Mass., and The Middletown House in Middletown, Conn. The Cambridge facility is funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and was originally a nursing school. Now a contemporary assisted living community, Youville House appeals to residents of the well-educated, urban enclave in which it is located. The Middletown house, formerly an old farmhouse, is now a prime example of accessible housing that includes a ground-floor apartment as well as a care-giver apartment upstairs. 

You’ll find nomination firms for  
AWCI’s two Excellence awards  
on pages 65 and 67.