

Concrete repair is not simply concrete repair

You will, by now, have got the message loud and clear from this column, from ACRA's website and from other sources, that concrete repair is more than simply repairing concrete.

Go to many concrete repairers and that is, of course, what they'll offer and what you'll get.

But ACRA members are committed to world's best practice in *all* the critical stages that *must* be present in the effective concrete repair process. These are:

- Correct diagnosis
- Appropriate specification
- Quality execution.

Raising the game

To raise the industry's game in all departments, ACRA has teamed with ACA (Australasian Corrosion Association) to develop and present a series of courses for owners, consultants, suppliers and builders alike.

The first of this family of courses to be rolled out is a two-day certificate course titled *Corrosion & Protection of Reinforced Concrete*.

This course aims to provide a sound theoretical and practical introduction to the common mechanisms of deterioration and to repair.

It has already been run in several centres.

Keen to train

Judging by feedback from the course and levels of oversubscription, the industry is keen to invest in training and provide a high level of service to its customers.

Next cab off the rank will be a one-day course aimed particularly at developing the knowledge base of the guys at the sharp end: the leading hands of the repairers.

Lighter on equations but strong on practicality, this course is another ACRA/ACA production that is sure to be a hit.



FAILED IS NO FIX

Keep an eye of the ACRA and ACA websites for news of upcoming courses.

Daily failed fixes

Local building owners will be all too familiar with phrases such as "numerous failed repairs" appearing in their consultants' reports.

These problems often appear within just a few short years of owners having spent good money on costly repair projects.

ACRA contractors break out tonnes of faulty work every year, often finding that highly substandard materials and workmanship were used in the so-called "fix".

Not alone

Is this a particularly Australian problem?

Not according to the UK's Concrete Repair Association, whose recent newsletter describes precisely the same phenomenon affecting the industry over there.

The CRA attributes the problem principally to a culture of "cheapest is best", something all too familiar to Australian repair specialists.

With so many first-class materials now on the market, there is every reason for properly executed repairs to outlast the surrounding material.

And with the cost of access for most projects far exceeding the cost of materials, there's no excuse for skimping and using a bit of sand and cement.

You'll only end up throwing good money after bad.

The moral: do it once and do it proper or the bit you save will come a cropper!