ACRA word
"Repairing concrete with know-how"

Concrete repair: where trades meet science

If you think "concrete repair" and picture a trowel slapping grey goop into a crack, then chances are you have no idea of the **giant strides that have occurred in the last decade in concrete repair and preservation sciences.**

Telling terms

Terms the experts now use such as realkalisation, anodic and cathodic protection, hydrophobic impregnation, chloride extraction, corrosion rate monitoring, condition surveys and half-cell potential and resistance mapping should make clear that **the technologies that can be brought to bear today on the rehabilitation and care of your concrete assets are beyond the realm of a trade-school background alone.**

Teams pool skills

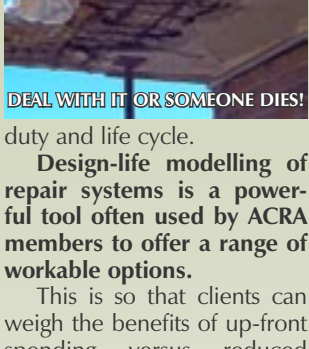
Now, more than ever before, any successful repair and protection strategy is developed by a team, **pooling skills in diagnosis, repair design, materials science and specialist contracting in a way that is above the backyard operation of yesteryear.**

However, while the richer range of options is powerful medicine for getting it right, **it also creates more ways for the underskilled to get it wrong.**

This imposes a serious new burden on those who propose concrete repair solutions: to **thoroughly understand the pros and cons of a growing list of complex technologies before deciding which is best for any application.**

"Must" know-how

ACRA expects its members to command such understanding and expects them to undertake thorough investigation work as part of the concrete repair process; also to frame their repair strategy with due regard for the structure, its environment, duty and life cycle.



Design-life modelling of repair systems is a powerful tool often used by ACRA members to offer a range of workable options.

This is so that clients can weigh the benefits of up-front spending versus reduced maintenance spending to come; or of using the repair as an opportunity to modernise or extend the functionality of the structure; and so on.

The bottom line

If you're an asset manager, the message is clear: **choose from within the ACRA membership** and know that no matter which consultant member you put with which material supplier member with which contractor, the team will work.

This is because **each knows that he will be working with others who have met the high standards for entry into ACRA** (see /mem_criteria.htm at the web address below) and therefore has confidence in the skill-base and working philosophy of his team members.

For the pros

And if you're a concrete repair professional who is not yet an ACRA member, the message is also clear: seek to gain entry into this prestigious association dedicated to ensuring its membership provides world's best practice in concrete repair and keeps pace with the rising tide of smarter technologies that promise to get the job done better, faster, cheaper and with greater accuracy to defined life-cycles. ■

Phone (02) 9903 7733 Fax 9437 9703
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