



Photo: Ted Lacey
Photography

Welcome Back to *ASPIRE™* Magazine

John S. Dick, *Executive Editor*

Welcome back to *ASPIRE™* Magazine! Your response to the inaugural issue was gratifying. We appreciate the comments and encouragement and have included some of your messages on page 4. Your questions and ideas are always welcomed.

It is obvious from the many messages; there is a strong demand for a magazine devoted to bridges—one written by bridge engineers for bridge engineers.

Concrete bridges play a predominant role in the nation's bridge inventory. Figures for 2003, the latest year available, show that concrete accounted for 74.4 percent of the bridges built that year, based on the surface area of their decks. This confirms the data from previous years. Concrete is clearly the material of choice of designers and the owner agencies.

Whether it is the creation of an aesthetic landmark or the use of high performance concrete to achieve higher performing bridges or the development of modular systems to facilitate very short construction periods, new applications for concrete are continually under development or implementation. The goal of this magazine is

to report the successes of practitioners, providing both inspirational and practical information about concrete bridge design and construction.

Articles in this issue report significant decisions to favor new and impressive concrete bridge solutions on the part of such owners as the Texas Department of Transportation, the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, the CSX Transportation, the Iowa Department of Transportation and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Authority. We believe you'll find these stories interesting and compelling.

I said it in the first issue and I think it's worth repeating again: according to the dictionary, the word *aspire* means to demonstrate "a strong desire for high achievement," to "strive toward an end," to "soar." That definition aptly describes both the ambition of a bridge designer and the mission of this new magazine.

If you have questions about any bridge featured in this issue or about information contained in the state, county, city or LRFD departments, send them to us via the "Contact Us" page of our website, www.aspirebridge.org.

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