

# 500 PEARL STREET

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## PODIUM PARKING GARAGE

### Owner

Ellicott Development  
Buffalo, NY

### PCI-Certified Precast Concrete Producer

High Concrete Group  
Denver, PA

### Architect

Kideney Architects  
Buffalo, NY

### Engineer of Record

Tredo Engineer  
Buffalo, NY

### General Contractor

LeChase Construction  
Rochester, NY

### PCI-Certified Erector

Precast Services, Inc  
Morgantown, PA

### Project Cost

\$75 million

### Project Size

382,000 ft<sup>2</sup>

### Precast Cost

\$8 million

### Precast Size

138,000 ft<sup>2</sup>



Above: 500 Pearl Street, Buffalo, NY finished building.

Left: Details of the square reveal pattern and metal screens which were applied post erection and the acid etch finish on precast.



## Key Project Attributes

- Ability to incorporate design elements easily to the precast concrete once it was placed such as: metal screens, ground floor fenestration, and exterior lighting.
- The durable precast structure provides structural support for steel frame building above parking garage.
- Heavy acid etched finish on all exterior products.

## Building up to High Heights

Perched up above a seemingly 6-story precast podium parking garage stands a hotel and apartments that rely on the durability of precast to provide key functionality to the structure. While the garage is an open design for natural ventilation, the designers observed a balance using large wall panels with a square reveal to create the visual of sectioned windows on a standard building. Being able to factor in the finished material by augmenting another material elevated off the precast panels was a benefit to using precast concrete on this project to create the feel of a cohesive building and not a parking garage.

The precast columns stream down through the 380 car parking garage and into the ground level to structurally support the garage as well as the steel structure placed above the garage. The structural capacity and durability that precast brings is essential to the harsh weather climate that this structure will endure in Buffalo, NY.

The first level of structural elements compliment the functionality of the building ground level by acting as a ceiling that completely seals an operational facilities portion of the hotel, and several retail/food services tenants. A waterproof sealant was applied to the structural elements on the first precast level to keep the moisture out.

## Just Some Support

Being a one of a kind structure in the this area, the garage faced unfamiliar design aspects to meet the functional needs. The precast design allowed for the parking to be effectively concealed without the appearance of a parking structure. This mixed-use structure is a, great way to combine functional parking architecture with other uses.

The strength and integrity of precast prestressed concrete over time is what was needed to effectively support a steel frame structure for a high-rise building.

Flowing from one portion to the next effortlessly was critical to the aesthetic and design. The overall cohesive design around screening precast elements help create the structural appearance the owners and architects ultimately wanted to achieve.



*“CONCRETE WAS CHOSEN FOR SEVERAL REASONS – DURABILITY, STRAIGHTFORWARD ERECTION, STRUCTURAL CAPACITY, AND THE FACT THAT WE COULD INCORPORATE THE FINISHED MATERIAL INTO THE LOOK WE WANTED FOR THE BUILDING BY AUGMENTING IT WITH OTHER MATERIALS.”*

*– Ray Bednarski,  
President & CEO, Kideney Architects*