



Achieving your aesthetic vision with precast concrete finishes



(Hempstead High School: Dubuque, IA)

When it comes to finishes for [precast concrete wall panels](#), the possibilities are (nearly) endless.

Precast wall panels offer a large variety of [finishes and applications](#) to choose from. When it comes to selecting an architectural finish and making sure the aesthetic you are shooting for is the aesthetic you get, it is important to keep a few things in mind.

- Having the finishes of the panels spelled out and noted in the specifications and also on the building exterior elevations will help the precast manufacturer in pricing.
- Most building in our area will be in the limestone color range due to the Midwest having a lot of limestone quarries.
- Certain finishes with special aggregates/sands can get costly depending on the distance the materials need to be sourced from.
- Bump outs on the exterior face can cost more due to material costs.
- If using thin brick, the exterior wythe needs to be a minimum of 4" thick.
- While acid etching the panels on the front face, you can get acid that will run down the backside which is the interior face of the wall. If a good quality paint is used on the interior, this will most likely not be an issue.
- Staining and/or painting are typically done by the painter on the project after panels are installed.
- Interior finishes are typically a float finish or steel trowel.

Wall panels are a popular structural and architectural system in [commercial](#), [industrial](#), [education](#), [multi-family](#), medical, [municipal](#), and other markets.

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Hollowcore is the most versatile of all Mid-States Concrete products as it can be sized and shaped to meet virtually any need, offering true design flexibility.

When it comes to home construction, [hollowcore](#) offers flexible options for making the most of a space and creating the room - or entire home - of dreams. Nearly all [single family home](#) jobs that come through Mid-States Concrete feature hollowcore only and are for new construction. Projects are generally for garages with usable space below. The space is used for everything from theaters to home gyms to sports courts, golf simulator rooms, and storage. We have also helped customers create spaces for a wine cellar under their front porch, and small areas as safe rooms.

One [Meadow Road Estates](#) home utilized about 900-square-feet of hollowcore to construct a workshop below their garage. The plank allowed for 28-feet of clear wall-to-wall space, with no columns disrupting the floor flow. The precast ceiling also allows for vehicle parking above.

Among the many benefits precast provides customers include: noise reduction and no

squeaky floors; insurance benefits due to the two-hour fire rating; long spans from wall-to-wall, eliminating steel beams and columns in the basement; and even the ability to install in floor heating in the poured topping.

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Precast Chalk Talk: Episode 49



In this episode of Precast Chalk Talk, President Hagen Harker talks with members of our Installation Team about how they install our precast concrete components.

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About Mid-States Concrete Industries

Since 1946, we have produced structural and architectural precast concrete systems that provide our partners with high quality building materials with sustaining performance.

The biggest part of our story is you - our clients. For more than 75 years, you have trusted us to help with your projects. Each project offers its own unique goals and opportunities. We partner with you to find the right solutions for your project.

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