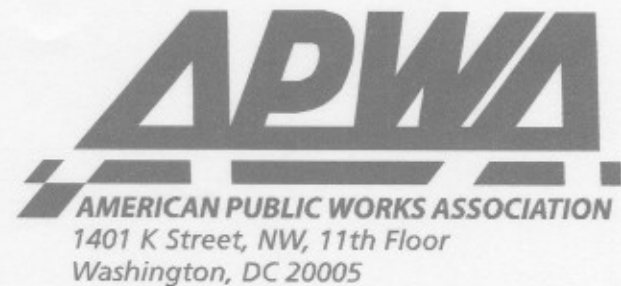


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**Virginia Beach Convention Center honored as Public Works Project of the Year**

**Kansas City, Mo.**—The Virginia Beach Convention Center was named a Public Works Project of the Year by the American Public Works Association (APWA). City of Virginia Beach, Va., Public Works/Engineering, managing agency, along with primary contractors Turner Construction Company, Sussex Development Corporation and Techcon, Inc., as well as primary consultant Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, LLP, will be presented with the award during APWA's International Public Works Congress and Exposition in San Antonio, Texas, this September.

APWA Project of the Year awards are presented annually to promote management and administration excellence of public works projects by recognizing alliances between managing agencies, contractors, consultants and their cooperative achievements. This year APWA selected 18 projects in five categories: Disaster or Emergency Construction/Repair, Environment, Historical Restoration/Preservation, Structures and Transportation.

Awarded in the Structures category, more than \$100 million range, the Virginia Beach Convention Center was conceptualized by the City of Virginia Beach in the mid-1990s. A steering committee was established to assist and guide the process towards programming for a new or improved convention center facility.

In the latter part of 2000, the City issued a Request for Proposals to architectural and engineering firms. Through the City of Virginia Beach's Quality-Based Selection (QBS) process, they selected the architectural firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, LLP (SOM) in association with the locally-based firm of Clark-Nexsen, Inc. By the spring of 2001 the concept for the total replacement of the old facility (the Pavilion Convention Center) with a newly-designed convention center facility on the same property was established and approved by City Council on May 25, 2001.

The project is one of the latest design concepts for a state-of-the-art convention center, with all the positive attributes necessary for a successful facility. It has already received many favorable reviews from meeting planners and professionals in the convention center industry. The Exhibit Hall has a space in excess of 150,000 square feet with a clear span area of 240 feet by 625 feet, which is larger than three football fields. The dynamic use of water, wood and natural light is integrated throughout the building. At the convention center's entrance, where guests walk across wooden boardwalks, a soaring, nautical glass-curtain wall appears to float in pools of water both inside and outside of the building. A 10-story observation deck in the tower structure also allows attendees to view the inviting skyline of the oceanfront, as well as other landmarks in Virginia Beach.

For more information or to obtain a press pass for attendance at the awards ceremony during APWA's International Congress and Exposition (Sept. 9-12) in San Antonio, Texas, contact Becky Wickstrom, [bwickstrom@apwa.net](mailto:bwickstrom@apwa.net) or (202) 218-6736.

**About APWA**

*The American Public Works Association ([www.apwa.net](http://www.apwa.net)) is a not-for-profit, international organization of more than 29,000 members involved in the field of public works. APWA serves its members by promoting professional excellence and public awareness through education, advocacy and the exchange of knowledge. APWA is headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri, and has an office in Washington, D.C.*

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