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1891 Pinal County Courthouse Restoration and Rehabilitation Project
Named to APWA 2014 Public Works Projects of the Year

KANSAS CITY, MO. – The 1891 Pinal County Courthouse Restoration and Rehabilitation Project in Florence, Arizona was recently named a 2014 Public Works Project of the Year by the American Public Works Association (APWA). The managing agency, the Pinal County Department of Public Works; and primary contractor, Concord General Contracting, Inc.; as well as Swan Architects, Inc., the primary consultant; will all be presented with the national Project of the Year Award at the Awards Ceremony during APWA’s 2014 International Public Works Congress & Exposition Awards Ceremony in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, during August 17–20, 2014.

The APWA Public Works Projects of the Year awards are presented annually to promote excellence in the management and administration of public works projects, recognizing the alliance between the managing agency, contractor, consultant and their cooperative achievements. This year, APWA selected projects in five categories: Disaster/Emergency, Environment, Historical Restoration, Structures and Transportation.

The 1891 Pinal County Courthouse Restoration and Rehabilitation Project was awarded the APWA Project of the Year in the Historical Restoration/Preservation category at a cost between $5 million and $25 million. The Courthouse is a noteworthy example of the American-Victorian style and nineteenth century construction in Central Arizona, and is Arizona’s oldest governmental building in use as well as in the National Register of Historic Places.

The courthouse project exemplifies the integration of contemporary uses and systems into an out-of-date building without compromising function or historic preservation. The Pinal County Board of Supervisors demonstrated its commitment to historic preservation by undertaking this complex project.

Restoration and rehabilitation of the 1891 Second Pinal County Courthouse began in 2002, when measures were undertaken to weatherproof and stabilize the structure. Although much of the historic courthouse was salvageable, the mechanical, plumbing, and electrical systems needed
replacement. A “Building Conditions Assessment Report” was completed by Swan Architects in 2010, which detailed the current state of the building with recommendations for future rehabilitation.

The following year, Pinal County hired Swan Architects to complete the design and construction documents for restoration and rehabilitation of the front entrance, rotunda, grand staircase, clock tower, and historic courtroom. ARCADIS, Inc. was selected by Pinal County to assist with managing the ambitious design and construction schedule. Meticulous planning and care were taken during the eight-month design phase to restore the exterior character-defining elements and significant interior spaces in accordance with The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards.

Concord General Contracting, Inc. was hired to construct the improvements and incorporate the modernized systems necessary for an energy-efficient administration building. The goal of the project was to restore the original details of the historic building yet preserve what remained and could be salvaged. The scope of work was valued at $6.5 million and provided for a 12-month construction period. The project team worked collaboratively and diligently to avoid change orders and delivered the project within the original schedule and budget.

The completely restored and modernized courthouse was reopened to the public on December 19, 2012 during a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by Pinal County Board of Supervisors.

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For more information on the APWA 2014 Projects of the Year, contact APWA Media Relations/Communications Manager, Laura Bynum, lbynum@apwa.net, or call 202.218.6736.

About APWA
The American Public Works Association (www.apwa.net) is a not-for-profit, international organization of more than 28,500 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, has an office in Washington, D.C. and 63 chapters in North America.

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