

GRAPHIC CONCRETE

The new, amazingly beautiful face of precast concrete

Now you can impart vivid, distinctive, durable patterns and images onto any kind of precast concrete surface. Graphic Concrete is a patented technology that has been used extensively across Europe, the Nordics and Australia. It is available exclusively in North America through the AltusGroup network of precasters.

How it works

The technology transfers custom or stock patterns as a surface retarder via membrane placed at the bottom of the precast form. Concrete is cast atop the membrane. After the concrete is cured and extracted from the form, the retarder is washed away revealing an image contrasting the fair-faced and the exposed-aggregate surface.

Selection of various aggregates and pigments can dramatically expand possibilities in the finished surface. Talk with your AltusGroup precaster about your options and creative ideas.

Resilient and sustainable

The Graphic Concrete pattern is 100% concrete. It is as durable and maintenance-free as concrete itself, which saves costs during the life of the building. The ready-to-install precast surface needs no additional preparation or field work.

Graphic Concrete is environmentally friendly. The recyclable membrane does not emit any harmful gases or chemicals during imaging. It reduces the use of solvent based materials during production. It has no impact on the environmental loading of the building and contributes to resilience and overall sustainability.

Another advance from the most innovative force in precast

Graphic Concrete expands AltusGroup's portfolio of precast innovations. AltusGroup members will offer the Graphic Concrete technology on CarbonCast Enclosure Systems, its mainstay precast concrete high performance sandwich walls and architectural insulated cladding products, as well as its new ARCIS Rainscreens in addition to other precast elements and products that can take advantage of the image technology.



© graphic concrete®



How tall or wide can the patterns or images be?

Choose virtually any size pattern or image. Precasters can piece together multiple membranes to create a design as large as your imagination.

How durable is the resultant surface? Is a protective overcoat needed? How will it weather over 20 years or more?

It's as durable as conventional precast concrete. No overcoat or sealer is needed. With normal cleaning and maintenance, it should retain its appearance for decades after commissioning.

How fine are the lines or pixilation dots that can be produced?

There is no limit to the line or pixel size, but if you really want your pattern to show, we recommend that line size is at least 1/4 inch. Consider viewing distance when designing your pattern; test your design by printing it at 1:1 scale and view it from the desired distance.

What is the cost premium of a GC membrane compared to conventional precast or formliners?

Cost varies with complexity of image, amount of repetition and amount of retarder cover. Costs can start around \$4-\$5 per square foot for a repetitive pattern used throughout a large wall (about 2,500 square feet). The end price is comparable to brick inlay or formliners. Photographic images are more elaborate and, therefore, more expensive. Special aggregates may increase the cost as well.

Can the retarder sheets be reused for process and cost efficiency?

Each retarder sheet can be used only once. Cost efficiencies can be realized when repeating the same image on multiple panels.

If damaged, can the panel be patched or repaired on the detailing?

All of the original print files for the retarder sheets are stored electronically. If part of the panel is damaged, a new piece with the missing pattern is cast and installed and the joint is filled with mortar. The joint can then be concealed to match the concrete texture and color. For smaller damage, patching and concealing is possible within the image area.

What is the lead time for a Graphic Concrete finish?

About one month from the order. The order requires that the print proof is approved by the designer.

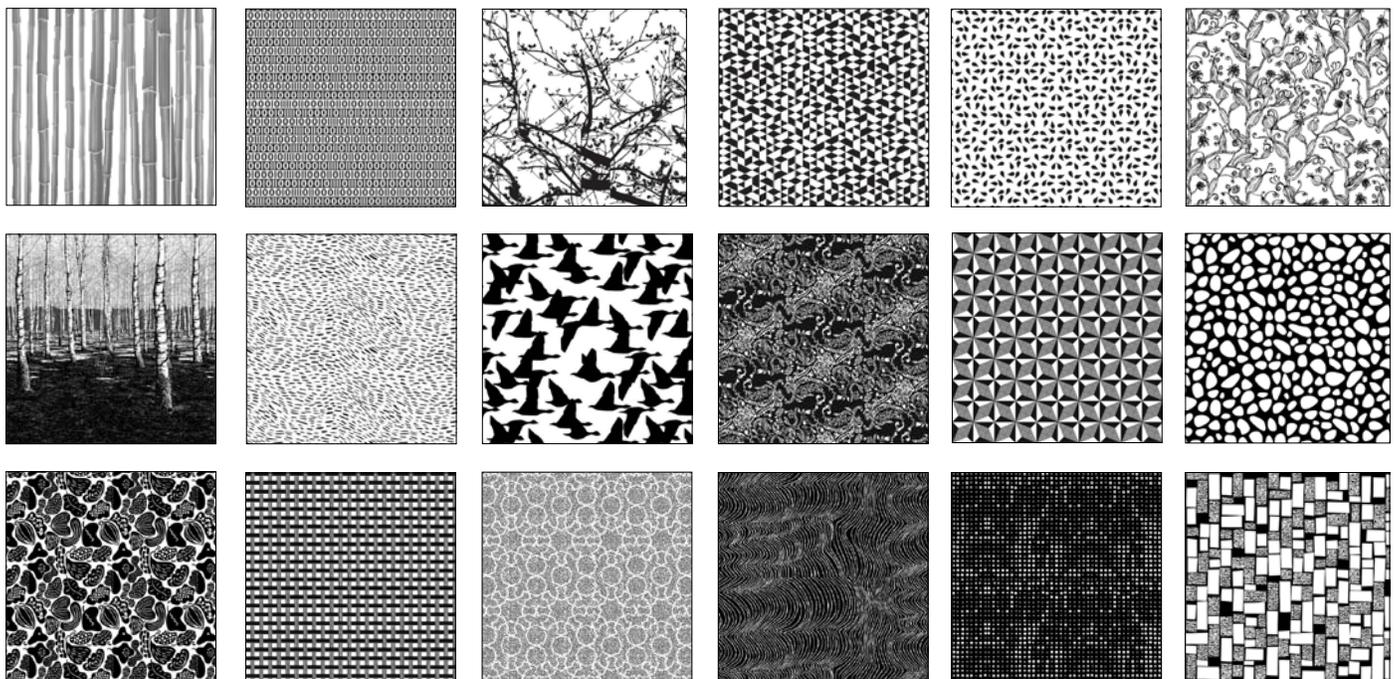
Can a Graphic Concrete finish be produced within 500 miles of my project?

More than likely, yes! AltusGroup members have more than 30 combined locations across North America that can produce Graphic Concrete.

Who do I contact if I am interested in exploring Graphic Concrete for a specific project or client?

Contact your local AltusGroup precaster (use our Find a Precaster tool at altusprecast.com) or call 866-GO-ALTUS (462-5887).

For questions regarding design you can also contact Graphic Concrete Ltd directly. Architect Lena Weckström is the design consultant for our North American projects. You can find her contact details at: <http://www.graphicconcrete.com/en/contact/>



These patterns represent only a handful of stock designs available. Custom designs and images are possible as well. Visit graphicconcrete.com/en or talk with your AltusGroup precaster.