

# Poly Canyon Observation Deck

Reflection

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It was an incredible honor to get to build the first ground up structure in Poly Canyon in 15 years and we are indescribably proud to get to be a part of what we hope to be the revival of the canyon. Though we faced many challenges along the way, we always knew that together we would be able to overcome whatever obstacle we may be presented with. Having worked with closely during our time on the Concrete Solutions team, we would be a good team. We both agree that neither of us could have completed the project without the other. Each of our unique sets of skills and experience as well as our own areas of weakness complimented each other very well. This project is a true testament to the importance of and potential success of good teamwork.

Before we were even able to begin construction, we knew we had to overcome the first, seemingly insurmountable task of raising the money. This endeavor was made ever more daunting with what appeared to us to be a constant discovery of hidden or unpredicted costs associated with this project's construction. What was originally thought to be an \$8,000 project quickly grew to \$10,000 and then \$12,000 and so forth. Regardless, this the help of some very generous organizations, companies, and of course our family and friends, we were granted to funds to see the project through.

Financials aside, the construction itself was riddled with puzzles and tests that we were forced to solve as fast as humanly possible. The due date literally drew closer and closer with each passing day, and with our graduation on the line we had no time to spare. This at times seemed unfair as we faced many delays that we often very much out of our control. However, so is life and to compensate we found ways to better plan ahead and more efficiently utilize our time in order to meet our completion date.

Though we each had firsthand construction experience, neither of us had built something quite like this. Some of the elements, such as the circular piers and the stair framing were completely new to us. Luckily, we had fellow peers and an knowledgeable SME which we were able to lean on when our own knowledge did not suffice. Thanks to their help and guidance we were able to complete the project and obtain new knowledge and skills which we can now "pay forward" and utilize to help those whom may come to us for assistance.

Overall, aside from getting to build something useful for the community our real goal for the impact of this structure is that it inspires the students that will come after us. We hope that our efforts will be emulated and improved upon by eager students that may look to follow in our footsteps. Project such as these are challenging, rewarding and above all else an incredibly good time.