

# GRAND AWARDS

## Target Field, Minneapolis, Minn. Walter P Moore—Houston, Texas

It was the perfect “squeeze play” for the new home to Major League Baseball’s Minnesota Twins. Challenged with transforming an 8.5-acre site characterized as “too small and virtually unbuildable,” the project team devised structural components that extended the facility over an adjoining rail line, two commuter lines and a major highway. Design innovations include steel tree columns to support a signature tapered steel-clad canopy that appears to “float” 50 feet above the upper concourse. *ESPN Magazine* named the new stadium No. 1 among all 122 professional sports venues for fan experience.



## Cellulosic Biofuels Plant, Soperton, Ga. Merrick & Company—Aurora, Colo.

The nation’s first commercial-scale cellulosic biofuels facility converts biomass, such as wood chips, grasses and other organic material, into low-carbon fuels. The project team custom-designed critical components, including an indirect gasifier, a synthesis gas reformer and a gas phase tubular catalytic reactor. The resulting system employs a two-step thermochemical process to transform biomass into cellulosic ethanol and methanol—ultimately, 10 million gallons of biofuels per year—that can displace gasoline or diesel fuel and generate clean renewable electricity.



## U.S. 17 Washington Bypass Project, Washington, N.C. AECOM—Raleigh, N.C.

A showpiece 6.8-mile highway bypass confirms that critical infrastructure development can be accomplished in an environmentally sensitive fashion. Construction of the project’s centerpiece—a 2.8-mile-long, four-lane bridge across the Tar River—uses an innovative “top-down” approach to protect 14 acres of fragile surrounding wetlands. Two 750-ton custom-designed erection gantries positioned on completed spans facilitated bridge-building operations, including the world’s first application of pile driving from an overhead structure.



## Auburn Bridge-in-a-Backpack, Auburn, Maine Kleinfelder/S E A Consultants (Joint Venture)—Cambridge, Mass.

Pioneering structural technology allows safe and resilient bridge construction, either manually or with lightweight machinery, and represents a cost-effective alternative to pre-cast or steel bridge designs. The project team incorporated the new technology in a 38-foot span and headwall over the Royal River, featuring lightweight carbon-fiber tubes that literally can be transported to a construction site in a backpack. The tubes are filled with concrete, creating a structurally sound, long-lasting arch bridge built in substantially less time and matching the service life of a conventional bridge.