

# Flight Pattern

Orange County's John Wayne Airport undergoes an expansion with a new terminal building and upgrades

By Jennifer Seward

**A FIVE-YEAR IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM** launched in 2006 aims to ease growing pains and offer visitors an efficient experience at Santa Ana, Calif.'s John Wayne Airport. Built in 1990 to accommodate 8.4 million passengers a year, JWA has far surpassed that number.

A member of multiple AGC chapters, McCarthy Building Cos., Newport Beach, Calif., broke ground in 2009 on JWA's new third terminal: a 280,000-sq-ft, three-level building with six bridged aircraft gates, two of which can connect to federal inspection services/customs facilities, allowing JWA to accommodate international flights.

Constructed adjacent to the existing and fully operational Terminals A and B and designed to mimic their 20-year-old design, the new Terminal C is scheduled for completion late this summer and set to open in November, says McCarthy project director Khatchig Tchapidarian.

McCarthy also is building new commuter passenger terminals, providing space for up to three commuter/regional jets at the north end of Terminal A and three commuter/regional jets at the south end of Terminal C. The contractor's work includes improvements to Terminals A and B, including a new paging/communications and information technology system.

The \$102.3-million project is one of Orange County's largest-ever public-works programs.

## Setting the Stage

John Wayne Airport operates under a federal court settlement agreement established for noise levels, flights per day and number of passengers. Airport spokeswoman Jenny Wedge says the agreement was set to expire in 2005, so airport officials began meeting with the city of Newport Beach and community groups in 2000 to discuss the airport's future.

The agreement was amended in 2003 to allow the airport to expand its passenger level to 10.8 million as well as operate flights in higher-noise-level classes.

**Designed to resemble an airplane fuselage, the Terminal C concourse has a 60-ft-high, barrel-vaulted ceiling, shown here under construction. Martin Integrated installed 80,000 sq ft of metal ceiling panels in 4.5 weeks.**