

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## SAN T1 WINS AISC 2026 IDEAS AWARD

San Diego International Airport Terminal 1 (SAN T1) is being recognized as a 2026 IDEAS award winner by the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC). One of only six projects nationwide being honored with an IDEAS Award, SAN T1 is receiving the Award for Excellence in Constructability for its innovative steel design.

Judge Courtney Lilly, a QA/QC Supervisor and certified welder with Southern New Jersey Steel, was quoted in AISC's press release saying:



"Using preassembled modular bridges and roof trusses contributed to speedy and seamless installation. Having structural designers and the steel fabricator team up at the beginning of the project are what ensures innovative constructability. Designers addressing difficult connections in advance and the fabricator using programs such as Tekla helps to avoid any possible issues for rework or additional work in the field."

MKA's structural design utilized long-span steel to create open, light-filled spaces for an enhanced passenger experience. Steel Buckling-Restrained Braced Frames (BRBs) offered seismic resilience—essential in San Diego's high seismic region—resulting in the reduction of more than 100 columns from the ticketing hall and airside concourse, a 40% reduction in steel tonnage, and an impressive 30% embodied carbon reduction for the project overall.

Celebrating steel landmark structures since 1960, the IDEAS Award program is presented by AISC and *Building Design+Construction*, recognizing projects that illustrate the exciting possibilities of building with structural steel. SAN T1 will be formally honored at the NASCC: The Steel Conference in April of this year.

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## ABOUT MKA

Magnusson Klemencic Associates (MKA) is an award-winning structural and civil engineering firm founded in 1920 with offices in Seattle, Washington, and Chicago, Illinois. Serving clients worldwide, MKA has worked on projects in 48 states and 62 countries. MKA's passion is creating structural systems for buildings of all shapes, sizes, and complexities, and civil site and infrastructure designs for architectural projects.

Learn more at: [www.mka.com](http://www.mka.com).

