

CMU*Profiles in Architecture*

SPECTRUM TOWNE CENTER CHINO, CALIFORNIA

The Spectrum Towne Center project in Chino is a 75-acre, 835,000 square-foot retail power center, developed by Vestar Development Company and located adjacent to the 71 Chino Valley Freeway. The unique location of the site provided great visibility and access to a number of national retailers and restaurants. In working with the City Planning staff, it was evident that the City desired a timeless architectural themeing to the center, yet interactive in circulation, massing, color and detailing. The center is designed to enhance the shopping experience with a variety of arcades, trellises, fountains and detailed amenities for the pedestrian experience. The original building design called for the use of stucco application over standard CMU blocks with bases of columns and towers clad in stone veneer. Yet, as budget constraints mounted, drastic value engineering was needed. The design team embarked on the use of exposed masonry units, yet retaining all the previous amenities designed in the project.

In working closely with a block producer, the design team selected split face block in four equally distributed colors to formulate the main massing of each building exterior wall, adding texture and shadow patterns. Precision face block in soldier course made up the cornice detailing along with door and window headers. As the pedestrian level required the greatest detailing impact, burnished

block patterns along with split face block were used to highlight each store's entry in a unique design, anchoring the stucco entry elements above. As a result, the texture and patterns allowed by the use of the concrete masonry block added a greater visual and interactive impact to the overall design.

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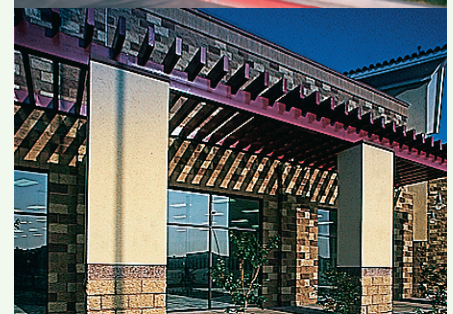
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CLIENT/OWNER:
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ANGELUS BLOCK HEADQUARTERS SUN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

The primary design consideration for construction of the new Angelus Block Headquarters in Sun Valley, California, was to create a “signature building” showcasing the variety and scope of its own manufactured concrete masonry products. MCG Architecture designed a 10,000 square-foot concrete masonry building consisting of reception and customer service areas, open bullpen space, conference/training rooms, and perimeter private offices.

The exterior of the building was constructed using split-face block, with precision block used for decorative inset bands to highlight the entry to the building. Burnished block was used on many of the interior wall surfaces for its finished and clean appearance. The reception area and open bullpen areas are covered by a convex free-span roof, culminating in a 20-foot high, north-facing glass wall. The glass shear wall and clerestory windows wrapping the building on two sides, enhances the space with natural light. The most striking interior design feature is a six-foot high curving serpentine wall, constructed of burnished concrete masonry units in an ashlar pattern, which divides the public and private spaces of the open office area.

The private offices and related support areas line either side of the open office space, providing both

ease of access to the open area, and acting as a buffer to the sun and site conditions. The exterior walls and windows of the private offices are detailed with metal canopies and concrete block fins to reduce heat gain and control views to the site.

ARCHITECT:

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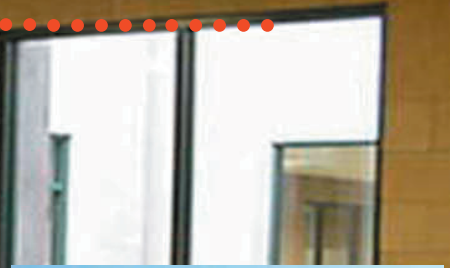
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CLIENT/OWNER:

Angelus Block Company, Inc.

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**THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY
BOTANICAL COMPLEX
SAN MARINO, CALIFORNIA**

The newest addition at the Huntington Library, the Botanical Complex, was financed completely by private and foundation funds. This structure is a two story, approximately 45,000 square-foot, concrete masonry block education and research center with one-story at grade level and the other below grade level. This building features lecture studios, four laboratories, six classrooms, a private archival library for staff, a children’s book library, and stadium seating for 65 people.

The design intent for this project was to induce the feeling of being in a botanical garden setting rather than that of a functional educational or office facility, and to be able to do it in the style of the “grand estate,” which is The Huntington Library. To accomplish this using the most cost-effective method, white split-faced block masonry was used to give the building a clean, solid feeling. The concrete masonry block walls were built with conduits for future expansion of electrical and data systems. The concrete masonry block basement was extremely cost effective, because the block became both the structural and finish material.

Other rustic materials used were earth colored slate floors, open timber trusses and a green tile Mexican style roof. The building has a number of windows opening into the gardens and courtyards,

which contribute to the open, airy effect and add natural light, along with the many skylights situated throughout the building.

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CLIENT/OWNER:

The Huntington Library, Art Collections
and Botanical Gardens



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TOWNE CENTER
CHINO, CALIFORNIA**



**ANGELUS BLOCK
HEADQUARTERS
SUN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA**



**THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY
BOTANICAL COMPLEX
SAN MARINO, CALIFORNIA**



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- Develop new and existing markets for concrete masonry products.
- Coordinate members' efforts in solving common challenges within the masonry industry.

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