



# PROFILES IN ARCHITECTURE

Concrete Masonry is

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## UNITED TOWING SERVICES

MURRIETA, CALIFORNIA

**ARCHITECT:**

**Walt Allen Architect + Associates**  
28465 Old Town Front Street, Suite 201  
Temecula, CA 92590

Walter R. Allen, AIA  
*Principal Architect*

Christopher Allen Campbell  
*Design Architect*

**STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:**  
HTK Structural Engineers

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:**  
Darcon Builders

**MASONRY CONTRACTOR:**  
Sedig Masonry, Inc.

**BLOCK PRODUCER:**  
RCP Block & Brick, Inc.

**OWNER:**  
Greg and Patricia Moore

**Architect's Commentary:** United Towing Services of Murrieta, a towing and vehicle impoundment company, having outgrown their previous facility, wished to consolidate and move their multiple Murrieta operations to a single 2.3 acre parcel in the general industrial district in the city. The project consisted of 1,800 square feet of regional corporate and operations offices and a 2,400 square-foot, two-bay garage. The garage would be not only for fleet repair, but also for inspection and forensic uses by local law enforcement.

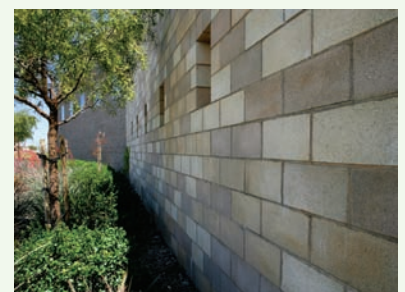
**Why Masonry?** The design concept stemmed from two primary client requirements: a secure facility and a durable facility. In the words of Owner, Greg Moore, it is a "prison for cars." The use of CMU helped to satisfy both of these requirements. The entire storage yard is screened from view by a ten-foot decorative masonry wall and the office/garage building forms a substantial portion of the western wall.

The use of varied block colors and finishes combined to help create a dynamic exterior screen at the front of the compound. Building upon that concept, extensions from the building mass were composed of blends of colors to emphasize their three dimensional quality and to underscore the angles, which became the major focus of interest.

Along the front of the building there is "visitor" parking. For security purposes, the only window accessible to a visitor, a bullet-proof walk-up service window, was installed outside the west wall. Behind the angular projecting wall is a small private garden patio for occasional use by the employees.

The work environment within the garage portion of the project was to resemble a "clean room." The Owner wanted to provide an up-scale space to accommodate search/examination procedures and forensic studies of impounded vehicles rather than typical vehicle repair work. The durability and inherent beauty of the block allowed the garage bay interiors to remain exposed, providing a visually pleasing work environment.

The variety of colors and textures available for use in the perimeter walls provided the opportunity to complement the building walls. The fact that this is a "prison for cars" goes largely unnoticed by the casual passers-by.



©Photography: Chris Campbell, WAA+A, Large photo, Insets 2, 3  
Pam Martin, RCP Block & Brick, Inc., Insets 1, 4

CMACN 2010 July Issue of "CMU Profiles in Architecture"





## OLYMPIC POLICE STATION

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

**ARCHITECT:**

**Gruen Associates**  
6330 San Vicente Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90048

Craig Biggi, LEED® AP  
*Project Designer*

**STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:**

Englekirk & Sabol, Inc.

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:**

Bernards

**MASONRY CONTRACTOR:**

Reyes Masonry Contractors

**BLOCK PRODUCERS:**

Angelus Block Company, Inc.

**OWNER:**

City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Engineering/LAPD

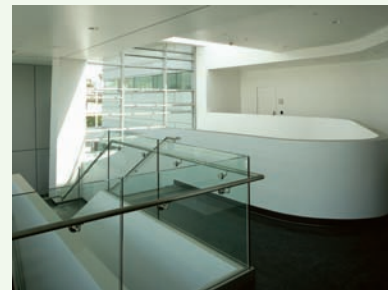
**Architect's Commentary:** Olympic Police Station is a new Los Angeles Police Department facility located on the corner of Vermont Avenue and 11th Street in Los Angeles, California. Primary programmatic components include a 54,000 square-foot police building, underground parking for 214 police vehicles, 101 surface parking spaces for both the public and police, and an 8,800 square-foot vehicle maintenance building.

This LEED Silver certified project explores the concept of “protection” by virtually extending the station’s presence into the surrounding context. A cantilevered extruded volume of metal panel and glass hovers above Vermont Avenue, creating a vantage point over the adjacent street activity. The split-face concrete masonry

perimeter site wall peels off the main structure and extends along the length of the site as a type of vehicular “wake” which extends into the neighborhood.

Public access is achieved through a public plaza that connects to the sidewalk. A portion of the exterior metal panel shell folds open to expose a large striated double height wall of glass. A grand stair is extruded from this glass entry wall to join signage and pedestrian circulation elements. These elements are conceptually fragments of the entry elevation pulled away from the building to create an open and inviting entry sequence. The plaza functions as an urban connective tissue which naturally channels visitors to the entry lobby, engaging the intersection of Vermont and 11th Streets with the public entrance. Public meeting rooms and lobby spaces within the building are located next to the plaza, and further utilize the plaza as an extension of community event spaces. Once inside, visitors experience fluid transitions between exterior and interior with undulating walls that blend together skylight, circulation and double height entry spaces. A reception desk clad in stainless steel and illuminated resin panels acts as a beacon for visitors, along with the visual glow of the “macro fingerprint” entry plaza benches.

**Why Masonry?** Durable, low maintenance materials that were also cost effective became important concerns when deciding on the material palette for the project. Concrete masonry units (CMUs) became an obvious choice due to the level of protection and performance it provided for the building. By varying the block profile, interesting striated shadow patterns were created on the building’s surfaces that tie into the overall aesthetic of extrusion and movement. The ability for CMUs to be articulated in plan was explored to create an undulating site wall that allowed a fluid relationship between building and landscape to occur.



©Photography: Livewire Graphics, Large Photo, inset 2  
John Edward Linden Photography, insets 1 and 3





## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATION CENTER

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA

**ARCHITECT:**

**RRM Design Group**  
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Candice Wong, AIA, LEED® AP  
*Project Manager*

Margaret Ambrosavage, LEED® AP  
*Project Architect*

**STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:**  
Lionakis

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:**  
Carroll Building Co.

**MASONRY CONTRACTOR:**  
Santa Maria Masonry

**BLOCK PRODUCER:**  
Air Vol Block, Inc.

**OWNER:**  
City of San Luis Obispo

**Architect's Commentary:** The City of San Luis Obispo hired RRM Design Group to provide services from needs assessment and programming to design and construction administration for their new Public Safety Communication Center for the Police and Fire Departments. Extensive site evaluations resulted in co-locating the new Communication Center on the same site as Fire Station No. 1, which RRM completed in 1996.

The new Dispatch Center will house six call takers/radio dispatchers on a tiered dispatch floor with offices for the dispatch supervisor and communication center manager. The building also allocates space for patrol officer report writing and an office for the on duty watch commander. The combined equipment room has been designed to accommodate radio, phone, computer aided dispatch, telecommunications, and security equipment and technology required at move-in, and provides space for future expansion and replacement.

**Why Masonry?** This project is located in the historic Railroad District in San Luis Obispo. The building design and use of masonry are reflective of the rich history of the Railroad District and era. The new Communication Center was built in the same design style as Fire Station No. 1 to complement the existing station and create a campus-like environment. The concrete masonry used is an exact match in color and texture to the existing fire station. The use of concrete masonry for the structure provides the security and durability required for this 'mission-critical' facility, and will serve the City well for decades to come.

The new Center drastically improves the working environment for the City Dispatchers, moving them from a cramped, out-of-date basement location, to a state-of-the-art stand alone facility. The spacious dispatch floor is awash in daylight from a large picture window, which has views of the fire training tower and the hills surrounding San Luis Obispo. The new facility addresses the current and future public safety needs that are paramount to the City and citizens of San Luis Obispo.

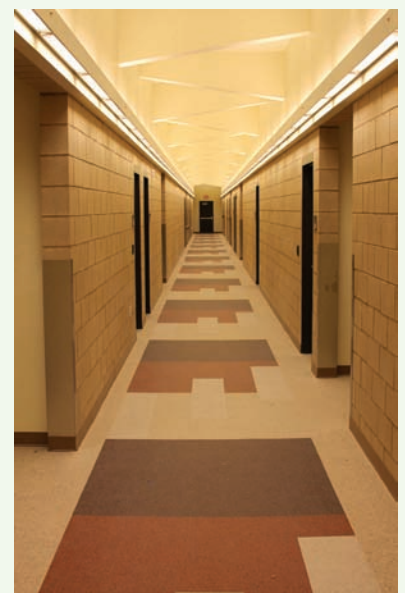


©Photography: Margaret Ambrosavage, LEED® AP





**Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department**  
**NORTHEAST AREA COMMAND**  
 Douglas C. Gillespie, Sheriff



©Photography: KGAArchitecture

## LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT NORTHEAST AREA COMMAND

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

**ARCHITECT:**  
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Ed Kittrell Jr., AIA  
*Principal*

James C. Lord II, AIA  
*Design Architect*

**STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:**  
 Barker Drott Associates, LLC

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:**  
 Burke & Associates, Inc.

**MASONRY CONTRACTOR:**  
 The Masonry Group

**BLOCK PRODUCER:**  
 CEMEX

**OWNER:**  
 Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

takes the concept of a “precinct” and turns it into a more neighborhood friendly and inviting building. This design also includes a well defined public access through the parking area to the front door and secure access for department staff and officers at the rear of the facility.

**Why Masonry?** Concrete masonry was selected as a durable structural system throughout the project. In addition, an integral color, smooth block provides a prominent finish material in the main corridor, which runs the length of the building. The concrete masonry units not only provide durability under high foot traffic conditions, but aesthetically compliment the interior and exterior color palettes. Several finishes and colors of concrete masonry are also incorporated into site perimeter and screen walls.

**Architect’s Commentary:** A police area command is a cornerstone of any strong community. Providing a local headquarters for law enforcement, an area command facility is also a symbol of order and stability. Located in Northeast Las Vegas, the project for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department was developed to fulfill this role, both functionally and aesthetically, as a central element of the neighborhood. This particular facility augments an existing county campus that includes a daycare center, community center and land for a future park.

This project is the second iteration of a new prototype for area commands around the valley. The architecture





## HERITAGE HALL - WALTER D. EHLERS SENIOR AND COMMUNITY CENTER

BUENA PARK, CALIFORNIA

**ARCHITECT:**

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20361 Irvine Avenue, Studio B-2  
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Reggie A. Wilson  
*Project Architect*

**STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:**

Nelson Consulting Engineers

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:**

AMG & Associates

**MASONRY CONTRACTOR:**

Winegarder Masonry, Inc.

**BLOCK PRODUCERS:**

ORCO Block Company, Inc.

**OWNER:**

City of Buena Park

**Architect's Commentary:** Designed to function as the primary meeting and social space for the City of Buena Park, the new 9,250 square-foot Heritage Hall is sited to create a centralized destination and focal point for the campus of buildings comprising the Walter D. Ehlers Senior and Community Center. The single story building is the third and most recent addition to the original community center built in 1971, and the senior center building added in 1983. The building's simple massing and composition are used to compliment the architecture of the existing buildings and to give the Heritage Hall a prominent visual identity.

The building is organized along a linear gallery and lobby articulated by a marching colonnade of plaster columns supporting laminated wood trusses. This gallery is the visual extension of the primary pedestrian arcade linking the buildings of the existing community center, and separates the building into two functional components, the main hall and the support spaces. The 6,500 square-foot main "social hall" is articulated as a concrete masonry unit (CMU) mass and is detailed with the use of alternating courses of precision and split face CMUs. This multi-purpose space includes a catering kitchen, a raised platform/stage, has full audio-visual capabilities and is designed to accommodate 370 people in a banquet table arrangement and 600 people in a theatre style sitting arrangement. For smaller functions, the large room can be subdivided into smaller activity rooms by an electronically controlled moveable partition.

**Why Masonry?** Concrete masonry was specifically chosen for this project for its long term durability and the opportunities it presented for texture and color. Used in combination with wood and plaster, the masonry provided an opportunity to develop a strong architectural statement that clearly defined the building's organization, and reinforced the architect's goal of allowing the building detail to be expressed in how the building is constructed. A similar philosophy was used in expressing the structural connections of the wood trusses. Essentially the building utilizes the same building materials of the earlier buildings, but in a more honest and decorative manner.



©Photography: Ronald Moore, RMA Photography





## JAMES LOGAN HIGH SCHOOL CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

UNION CITY, CALIFORNIA

**ARCHITECT:**  
**AEDIS Architecture & Planning**  
 1494 Hamilton Avenue  
 San Jose, CA 95125

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*Principal*

Thang Do, AIA, LEED® AP  
*Design Principal*

Rick Pelletier, Associate AIA  
*Senior Project Manager*

**STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:**  
 Thornton Tomasetti, Inc.  
**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:**  
 John Plane Construction, Inc.

**MASONRY CONTRACTOR:**  
 Cornerstone Masonry, Inc.

**BLOCK PRODUCER:**  
 Calstone Company, Inc.

**OWNER:**  
 New Haven Unified School District

**Architect's Commentary:** Winner of the AIA Santa Clara Valley and C.A.S.H. Honor design awards, the newly inaugurated 50,000 square-foot James Logan Center for the Performing Arts consists of a 599-seat music / drama theater and performing arts classrooms. The project's success relies on its excellent use of a long and narrow site, while bridging the needs of both campus students and the general public, and its skillful placement of a massive structure very close to the street. The project not

only provides a top-tier theatrical venue for the Tri-City area, but also transforms the main entrance to Logan High School with its expressive and sculptural architecture.

The building is organized into two distinct parts, with the instructional wing facing the campus, and the theater pushed toward the street corner for greater public access. The theater and supporting facilities are housed in a single block, which slopes upward to accommodate the tall volume of the fly-loft at its high end. The sloped roof was designed to support a future array of PV panels that will generate a large portion of the campus' power needs. Daylighting is provided throughout the instructional, circulation and lobby spaces.

Exterior materials consist of blue steel panels atop a masonry base for the theater, contrasting white diagonal aluminum panels and plaster walls at the instructional wing. A second-floor patio provides an outdoor music practice area, and a new wheelchair-accessible press box cantilevers over the adjacent stadium bleachers, providing an unimpeded view of the sports field.

**Why Masonry?** Concrete masonry units were chosen for the tall load bearing walls of the theater box and included steel wide-flange beams partially encased within the walls for stiffness. The material provides the long-term durability required by the District, while satisfying the aesthetics desired by the architect. The masonry units also qualified as a sustainable building product being produced locally within the community.

The combination of materials on this project—concrete masonry, steel, aluminum, glass—work in concert to create a structure that performs well visually, acoustically, environmentally, educationally and financially.



©Photography: Steve Whittaker, Whittaker Photography





## WILSON MIDDLE SCHOOL MULTI-USE & ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

EXETER, CALIFORNIA

**ARCHITECTS:**

**Scott & Associates**  
1009 N. Demaree  
Visalia, CA 93291

Frederick E. Scott, AIA  
*Principal*

**STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:**

Collins Engineering

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:**

Davis Moreno Construction, Inc.

**MASONRY CONTRACTOR:**

McClard Masonry Construction, Inc.

**BLOCK PRODUCER:**

Blocklite (a subsidiary of Basalite Concrete Products, LLC)

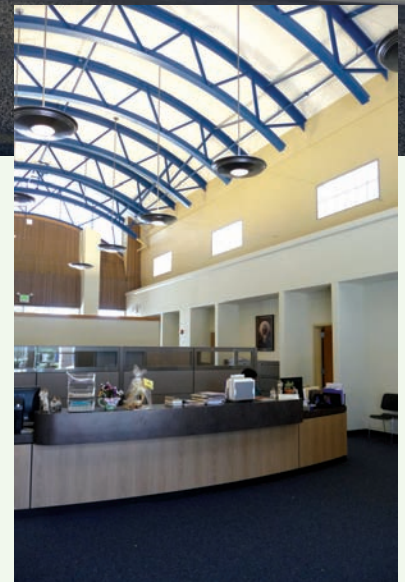
**OWNER:**

Exeter Union School District

**Architect's Commentary:** The new 17,000 square-foot Multi-Use & Administration Building for Wilson Middle School in Exeter, California, creates a new focal point for the school campus as well as the community. With two major programmatic functions being served, the building is split to house those needs. The administration portion of the building has a new student drop-off driveway that directs the flow of people entering the campus and provides great visibility for administrators to observe what is happening on campus. Similarly the multi-use side of the building is able to accommodate the school's physical education classes, indoor and outdoor assemblies, and has the ability to be opened up to the community for various sports leagues.

The dominate forms of this project are the barrel vaults supported on split face concrete masonry unit (CMU) walls with subtle lines and patterns achieved with precision units of the same color. The building was part of a larger overall revitalization of an aging campus. Entry gates and shade structures utilize the barrel vault roof forms and CMU walls to extend the influence of this project beyond the building into the greater campus. A new metal fence with CMU posts and low fence walls ties the perimeter of the campus and new entry structures back to the new Multi-Use and Administration Building adding continuity.

**Why Masonry?** Concrete masonry unit walls were a natural choice for the design for a number of reasons. The solid, stately quality of the material gives the building the prominence on the campus that is needed for an administration building, while providing the durability that is needed to withstand the high impact of frequent use of a gymnasium. The walls are low maintenance saving the school district time and money from having to perform repairs with other types of construction. The sustainable and modular nature of CMU was another determining factor in the design of the building to help ease costs of both constructing and operating the building.



©Photography: Fred Scott/Michael Scott, Scott & Associates





## BARBARA CHILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

ROSEVILLE, CALIFORNIA

**ARCHITECT:**

**DLM Architecture**  
3001 J Street, Suite 201  
Sacramento, CA 95816

Wallace Gordon, AIA, LEED® AP  
*Principal Architect*

Chris Ramm  
*Design Architect*

**STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:**

DLM Architecture

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:**

Kitchell

**MASONRY CONTRACTOR:**

Townsend & Schmidt Masonry

**BLOCK PRODUCER:**

Basalite Concrete Products, Inc.

**OWNER:**

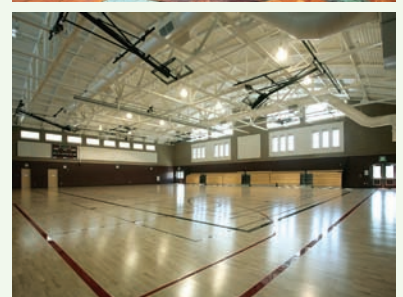
Roseville City School District

**Architect's Commentary:** The Barbara Chilton Middle School is an approximately 80,000 square-foot middle school campus planned to serve 800 students. The campus was completed in 2008. The buildings are designed to echo the rail yard history of Roseville with metal roofs and corbelled overhangs. While most of the campus is constructed with wood framed buildings, concrete masonry and steel are utilized in the gymnasium / food service / multi-use complex that is the anchor of the campus site.

This structure houses a 10,000 square-foot gymnasium that is used jointly by the City of Roseville for weekend

and after school community activities. Adjacent to this is a multi-purpose room with a large roof mounted skylight that serves primarily as the school's indoor lunch area. A full service kitchen adjoins this part of the building. Locker rooms accessible from both the gymnasium and the exterior play-courts are on the opposite side of the sports hall. Finally adjacent the kitchen area there is a small performance / music room with a raised platform.

**Why Masonry?** Concrete masonry was used in this building for several reasons. First, it accommodated the building code requirements for the size and occupancy of the structure in the desired proximity to the balance of the campus. Durability of the material in this high use area is also a benefit along with the decorative possibilities it allowed in color and texture.



©Photography: James Patton





## FAITH LUTHERAN CHAPEL AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

**ARCHITECT:**  
**KGA Architecture**  
 9075 West Diablo Drive, Third Floor  
 Las Vegas, NV 89148

James C. Lord II, AIA  
*Principal*

Nathan Goodman  
*Designer*

Mark Danley  
*Architect*

**STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:**  
 Barker Drott Associates, LLC  
**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:**  
 Kalb Construction  
**MASONRY CONTRACTOR:**  
 Apple Masonry  
**BLOCK PRODUCER:**  
 Cind-R-Lite Block Company, Inc.  
**OWNER:**  
 Faith Lutheran Junior/Senior High School

**Architect's Commentary:** The Chapel & Performing Arts Center (CPAC) is located on the existing Faith Lutheran Junior/Senior High School campus. The CPAC is approximately 30,000 square feet, consisting of an 800 seat chapel/auditorium, dressing rooms, band/choir support spaces, costume/prop storage, lobby space used to display student art work, three classrooms, and administrative offices. The main volume of the building contains the stage, fly loft and auditorium seating area. This space allows the school to perform very technical and large scale productions and is utilized weekly for chapel by the students and teachers.

A distinguishing feature of the CPAC is the 55-foot tall bell tower. The tower consists primarily of concrete masonry

units (CMUs) with horizontal steel members making up its ribs. The bell tower carillon sounds every hour as it welcomes visitors to the campus. Topped off with a cross, the tower is a constant reminder of the spiritual values and beliefs on which the school was founded. Another major design feature is the cross monument, which faces east towards the adjacent roadway. This element is also constructed of CMUs and is illuminated in the evening.

**Why Masonry?** The CPAC utilizes various colors and textures of concrete masonry units. The CMUs exposed to the exterior were selected in order to relate to the surrounding buildings located throughout the existing campus. CMUs are also used as the main structural element throughout the entire building. The thermal mass of the exterior CMU walls aids in the reduction of air conditioning necessary to maintain an acceptable level of comfort in this hot desert environment.

CPAC utilizes a number of additional sustainable strategies that decrease energy consumption and improve occupant comfort. The building's HVAC system incorporates a technology that automatically reduces cooling loads when occupants are not present and resets to the desired temperature when they return. The CPAC has also utilized vestibules located at the main entrances/exits of the building that function as air locks allowing occupants to enter and exit the building with a minimum amount of heat infiltration. In addition, the main lobby incorporates tall windows that utilize both exterior canopies and automated interior sun shades, which also reduce overall heat gain from the sun. Lighting motion sensors are utilized throughout the building to reduce the amount of wasted energy when spaces are not occupied, and master light switches are located near exits to encourage off switching.

The CPAC has been recognized by NV Energy's Sure Bet for Schools program. This program awards local schools rebate incentives for incorporating energy efficient design into their buildings.



©Photography: KGA Architecture





## BAKERSFIELD FIRE STATION NO. 14

BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

**ARCHITECT:**

**RRM Design Group**  
3765 S. Higuera Street, Suite 102  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Victor Montgomery, AIA, NCARB  
*Principal*

Margaret Ambrosavage, LEED® AP  
*Project Architect*

Michael Scott, LEED® AP  
*Project Construction Administrator*

**STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:**

Cornerstone Structural Engineering Group

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:**

S. C. Anderson, Inc.

**MASONRY CONTRACTOR:**

Pickenpaugh Concrete Construction

**BLOCK PRODUCER:**

Desert Block Company, Inc.

**OWNER:**

City of Bakersfield

**Architect's Commentary:** The City of Bakersfield retained RRM Design Group for complete architectural design services for the new Fire Station No. 14 and Greystone Neighborhood Park. The 8,000 square-foot, single company fire station is situated on a 10 acre parcel that will also include a much needed neighborhood park. RRM actively sought community participation in the design process by conducting a community workshop where residents were able to vote on the architectural styles

and elements they preferred for the new station, as well as the desired activities and features for the park. RRM received valuable information to guide their design, which resulted in a project with broad community support.

The building design uses the interplay of materials to break up the mass and create strong horizontal elements for a profile that fits into the residential scale of the surrounding neighborhood. Concrete masonry units, masonry veneer, plaster and heavy timber were the materials selected for their longevity, ease of maintenance and visual appeal.

**Why Masonry?** Concrete masonry was chosen for important elements of the project for a variety of reasons. Concrete masonry provides both structure and attractive finish surface in one material. The exposed split-face block used for the site walls provides durability, privacy and a sense of security. The use of precision face masonry for the apparatus bay and turnout room provides for low maintenance and durability in spaces subject to high use and abuse. At key locations, such as the public lobby, the block face was burnished and left exposed, providing a striking accent wall.

Sustainable design and energy conservation measures were incorporated into the project through elements such as deep overhangs that provide protection from the hot valley sun, ceiling fans, operable windows and interior materials with low VOC and high recycled content. In addition, water efficient plumbing fixtures, energy efficient light fixtures and an innovative, highly efficient mechanical system will lower operational costs and result in significant savings for the City.



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# PROFILES IN ARCHITECTURE

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## 2011

### CMACN/AIACC CONCRETE MASONRY DESIGN AWARDS

Mark your calendar for our "Call-For-Entries" brochure to be mailed in February 2011. Requests for submittal binders can also be obtained in February 2011 by calling the CMACN office at (916) 722-1700, from our website at [www.cmacn.org](http://www.cmacn.org), or by e-mail at [info@cmacn.org](mailto:info@cmacn.org).

#### Tentative Schedule:

- Last date to request submittal binders: March 31, 2011
- Last date for postmark of completed submittal binders: April 30, 2011
- 2011 Concrete Masonry Design Awards Banquet: Friday, September 23, 2011 The Island Hotel, Newport Beach, CA

Cost: \$150 per binder



### ARCHITECTURAL CONCRETE MASONRY

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Las Vegas, NV 89081

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*Concrete Masonry Association of California and Nevada (CMACN) a nonprofit professional organization established in 1977, is committed to strengthening the masonry industry in California and Nevada by providing:*

- Technical information on concrete masonry for design professionals.
- Protect and advance the interests of the concrete masonry industry.
- Develop new and existing markets for concrete masonry products.
- Coordinate members' efforts in solving common challenges within the masonry industry.

**For further information contact us at:**  
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