

C M U

Profiles in Architecture



THIS ISSUE FEATURES THE WINNERS OF THE

2004

**CONCRETE MASONRY
DESIGN AWARDS**

*THE TEXT INCLUDES EXERPTS
FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL FIRM'S
DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT
AND THE ACTUAL JURY COMMENTS
DELIVERED BY JURY CHAIRMAN,
LAWRENCE R. LIVERGOOD, AIA.*



1st Annual Concrete Masonry Design Awards Banquet

Friday, October 15, 2004
The Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel

The Concrete Masonry Association of California and Nevada is proud to announce the event to honor and celebrate those who design and construct the pinnacle of form and function in the built environment.

This year's projects exhibit the latest in architectural and engineering design, construction practices in the world's most challenging market and sustainable design performance second to none.

Please join the Concrete Masonry Industry and friends in this tribute and take part in this important effort to highlight and promote great achievement in the highest and most admiral efforts of our society.

Sponsorships

Sponsorships are very important and make this event possible. Net proceeds from the event will fund Masonry Workforce Development Activities. Our industry Partners are those who contribute every day in the making of concrete masonry units and the important structural design elements of the built systems. Partner opportunities are \$10,000 and include ten dinners, event and program recognition. Table Sponsors are \$2,000 and include ten dinners and program recognition.

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If you would like to be a sponsor for the 1st Annual Concrete Masonry Design Awards Banquet, please complete this page and send it with a check to CMACN at 6060 Sunrise Vista Dr. Suite 1990, Citrus Heights, CA 95610. Sponsorships must be received no later than September 15, 2004, for recognition.

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SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

GRAND
AWARD



Photography: Cesar Rubio Photography

THE AUDUBON CENTER AT DEBS PARK

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

An urban environmental education center that brings nature to East Los Angeles inner-city children and

Jury Comments: *The sustainable features in this project are remarkable. The jury was especially impressed with the off-grid photovoltaic system, the storm water management techniques, and water treatment. These and other features all contribute to the well deserved LEED Platinum rating.*

families with few opportunities to leave the city and experience, learn and value nature, the Audubon Center at Debs Park is LEED Platinum-rated and embodies the Audubon Society's environmental ideals, modeling sustainable design to the surrounding community and serving as a prototype for future Audubon centers.

Concrete masonry is an essential part of the Center's passive, energy-saving sustainable strategies. The typical exterior wall assembly exposes 8" ground-face concrete masonry units on the interior, with 2" of rigid insulation on the outer face, beneath a protective stucco finish. The light-colored CMU reflect daylight deep into the building. Its thermal mass takes advantage of the diurnal swing in temperatures in Los Angeles; excess heat soaked up by the mass during the day is released and can be flushed through windows at night. The exterior insulation reduces heat gain or loss directly through the walls and stabilizes interior temperatures. The concrete masonry unit grout mix developed especially for this project substitutes fly ash for 50% of the Portland cement, reducing water use, carbon dioxide emissions and landfill waste.

The ground-faced concrete masonry unit is a handsome and durable finish material, suitable for a nature center. The building plan and elevations are

designed on a concrete masonry unit module. Most wiring is either concealed behind cabinets or in a furred wainscot, both to minimize conduit within the CMU, and facilitate future electrical work without exposing conduit in public rooms.

ARCHITECT:

EHDD Architecture
500 Treat Avenue, Suite 201
San Francisco, CA 94110

Charles M. Davis, FAIA
Principal- in-Charge

Glennis Briggs, AIA
Mark Miksis
Simone Goldfeder
Robert Aydlett, AIA
Greta Jones, AIA
Anne Timmerman
Design Team

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Parker-Resnick Structural Engineers

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
T. G. Construction Inc.

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Granstrom Masonry, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER:
ORCO Block Company

OWNER:
Los Angeles Audubon Center



LAKE VIEW TERRACE BRANCH LIBRARY

LAKE VIEW TERRACE, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: *This project has excellent site orientation, with the long exposures facing north and south for the most beneficial solar control and daylighting. Attention to daylighting was carried through on the south side with solar shading at the roof and light shelves located mid-distant up the window walls.*

Lake View Terrace Library is a 10,700 square-foot branch library and multi-use facility for the City of Los Angeles. The library includes a community room, environmental display gallery, and exterior courtyard. The program called for a LEED Platinum Certified building.

The plan responds to the community's desire to reflect the "rancho" tradition of the region, with interior spaces organized around an open central courtyard. A main reading room stretches along an east-west axis and enjoys dramatic views of an adjacent park.

Built of durable concrete masonry, glu-lam beams, metal roofing, and wired and ducted for flexibility, it is designed for a "long life." The library is a model of environmentally sustainable design. Anticipated energy use of the building is 40% more efficient than California standards. Building orientation and configuration, the use of various light control devices and spectrally selective glazing control heat gain and prevent glare, while maximizing daylight. Ninety-three percent of the building areas achieve target lighting levels without artificial light.

Eighty percent of the building is naturally ventilated. Arched forms and automated, mechanically interlocked windows enhance cross ventilation. Building integrated Photovoltaics provide fifteen percent of the building's energy and maximize production during peak load periods to contribute to energy security. A landmark tower at the library's entry, requested by the community, is designed as a passive cooling tower that uses prevailing

Concrete masonry construction is fundamental to the building's passive cooling strategies. The mission white, burnished concrete masonry units are insulated on the exterior with stucco and exposed to the interior. The mass properties of the concrete masonry units serve to modulate interior temperatures, absorbing and storing heat during the day. Night ventilation purges and restores the heat sink capacity of the CMU's in prepara-

ARCHITECT:
Fields Devereaux Architects & Engineers
5150 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90036

J. Peter Devereaux, AIA
Principal

ENVIRONMENTAL BUILDING CONSULTANT:
GreenWorks
5150 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90036

James Weiner, AIA and Dennis Bottum, AIA, Director
Vice Presidents

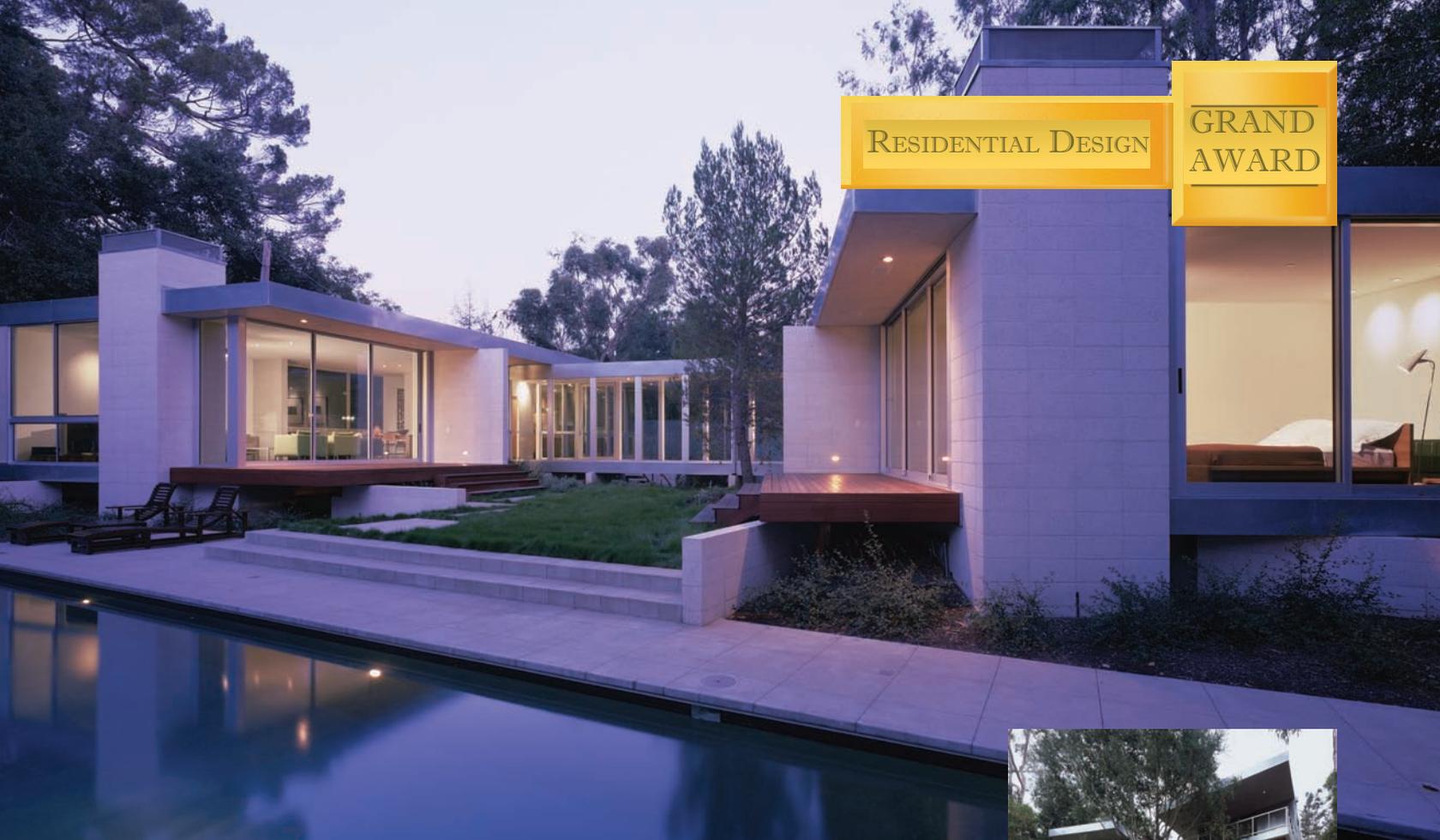
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
BP Consulting Engineers, Inc.
GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Coordinated Construction
MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Coordinated Construction
BLOCK PRODUCERS:
Angelus Block Company, Inc.
Trenwyth Industries, Inc.
OWNER:
City of Los Angeles



Photography: RMA Photography Inc.

RESIDENTIAL DESIGN

GRAND
AWARD



WARD LUU RESIDENCE

PACIFIC PALISADES, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: *Not only does the concrete block provide functionality by anchoring the house to the site, but it also offers an aesthetic quality that the jury found very appealing. The block walls seem to enhance the views of the surrounding landscape by visually tying the interior and exterior together. The burnished block also provides a pleasant combination of texture and neutral color that offers a warm contrast to the dark floors.*

Situated in Rustic Canyon, one of the most serene areas in Los Angeles, this 4,000 square-foot residence offers views of the canyon and gently sloping hillsides to the east. The house is effectively divided into two separate, but connected areas: a public pavilion with the kitchen, living room and dining areas; and a private pavilion containing the bedrooms. A glass-enclosed walkway bridges the two masses, taking optimal advantage of the location and surrounding landscape. A third mass includes a double cantilevered guesthouse resting on top of a studio, accentuating the breezeway and intimate arrival. Materials of burnished concrete masonry units, galvanized steel paneling, and glass complement the openness of the design and integration of the object-like forms on the site.

Special attention was given to choosing the concrete masonry units that would become the defining motif in this home. All textures, from craggy split face to sandblasted precision, and colors from pale white to warm gray were considered. The final choice, a custom fabricated masonry unit of white cement with burnished faces was selected for its unique beauty and its ability to play off the rustic nature of the site. To save cost, only the exposed face of the masonry unit was burnished. Scaled drawings of each CMU wall were color-coded and keyed to determine quantity and orientation of the burnished faces.

The Ward Luu Residence uses concrete masonry units as both functional and design elements throughout the home. The CMU anchor the house, providing mass as the buildings emerge from the slope, and counterbalance to the cantilevered pavilions resting on top. On the exterior, the concrete masonry units also serve as a visual contrast to the steel cladding and landscaping. The motif is continued through the interior with the masonry units providing a warm balance between the dark stained wood floors and the white plaster walls and ceiling. In addition, the concrete masonry units highlight the connection between indoors and outdoors by continuing exterior walls and structural elements inside the home.

ARCHITECT
Marmol Radziner and Associates
12210 Nebraska Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90025

Leo Marmol
Ron Radziner
Managing Principal
Design Principal

Stephanie Hobbs
Brad Lang and Patrick McHugh
Project Manager
Project Architects

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER
KPF Consulting Engineers
GENERAL CONTRACTOR
Marmol Radziner and Associates
MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Clive Christie
BLOCK PRODUCER:
ORCO Block Company
OWNERS:
John Ward and Chan Luu



Photography: Fotoworks



KAYAK HOUSE

LOTUS, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: *A unique living space has been created out of a playful combination of durable materials, simple construction techniques, and a river kayaking theme. Concrete block and exposed steel structural elements have been combined with stone and metal decking to reinforce the perception of durability and longevity. Together, they offer a strong aesthetic statement of sustainability that is important to the home owner.*

This 3,700 square-foot house is for an avid Kayaker and his wife. The house is located on a 4.5 acre lot, “river right” on the South Fork of the American River overlooking one of the best kayak runs in Northern California.

The first of three primary themes that are the embodiment of this project is that the house is built as close to the river as reasonably feasible (five feet above the 100-year floodline). Towards the river, the floor plan of the house focuses on two important kayak-related site features: the rapids and the launch. The 25-foot high living room, constructed of earth-colored split face masonry units, faces upriver, resulting in an ever-changing tableau of kayaks and rafts drifting past, and the 35-foot high dining room clad in Douglas fir faces the owner’s private kayak launch.

The second primary theme for the owners was to make their house as durable as possible – to last beyond their lifetimes for the enjoyment of future generations. This meant a dramatic deviation from conventional construction techniques typical of the region, which tend towards wood balloon-framing. Instead, the house design employed details and trades-people more

typically associated with non-residential applications. Structurally, the house is extremely robust: standard concrete masonry unit walls support a steel framework, metal decking, and a metal roof. Wet location casework is stainless steel (kitchen and bathrooms); and wet location floors and walls are limestone (bathrooms). The third primary theme is that the owners not only wanted a durable house, they also wanted something that was an aesthetic statement about their environmental beliefs. In the house design, this is reflected in the straightforward use of sustainable non-environmentally depleting materials such as concrete masonry units, concrete, steel, etc., that are assembled in a “simple” way. Wherever possible joints in the house are exposed rather than concealed. This type of construction emphasizes the beauty of the construction process by revealing the craftsmanship of the structure itself.

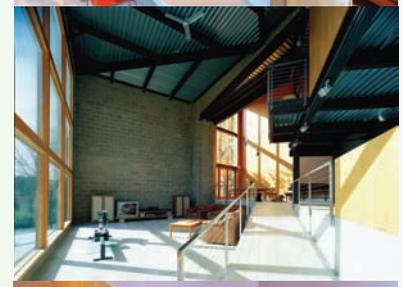
ARCHITECT:
Ogrydziak/Prillinger Architects
 2148 Larkin Street
 San Francisco, CA 94109

Luke Ogrydziak, AIA
 Zoë Prillinger
Principals

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
 Carlton Engineering
GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
 Louis DeBret Construction
MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
 Sacramento Masonry
BLOCK PRODUCER:
 Pavestone Company
OWNER:
 Withheld by request

ARCHITECT:
Ogrydziak Architects
 241 B Street
 Davis, CA 95616

Maria Ogrydziak, AIA
Principal



Photography: Luke Ogrydziak



Photography: Diebold Photography

ANGELUS BLOCK HEADQUARTERS

SUN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: *The building is a billboard for masonry sales, which struck the jury as a smart thing to do for a block company. What better way to advertise your product than to display it so prominently in your own facility? The interior is a creative demonstration of the versatility of the material, while the building design challenges the perception of what a block company should look like.*

The primary design considerations 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, while creating a unique and comfortable office environment for a corporate headquarters. 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:
MCG Architecture
 18201 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 250
 Irvine, CA 92612

Jeffrey Gill, AIA
Principal

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
 JKL Associates
GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
 Ed Grush
MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
 Masonry Masters
BLOCK PRODUCER:
 Angelus Block Company, Inc.
OWNER:
 Angelus Block Company, Inc.



HONOR
AWARD

PROSPECT SIERRA SCHOOL'S AVIS CAMPUS EL CERRITO, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: *The jury was struck by the creative approach to a seemingly difficult design problem. Although the expansion forced the building façade to the very edge of the street, the artistic use of masonry and wood appears to soften what could have been a very harsh edge, while utilizing every square foot of available space.*

Where a solid wall once formed a barrier to the street, the new entrance to Prospect Sierra School's Avis Campus in El Cerrito, California, greets students and faculty with an engaging concrete masonry curvilinear elevation that serves as a new neighborhood landmark.

The architects chose for the signature entryway Trend Stone ground faced, large-scale masonry units (12" V x 16" H and 4" V x 16" H), because of its appearance as cut stone when laid in alternating courses of 4" and 12". The offset, running-bond pattern joint was detailed with "raked" vertical joints and weathered horizontal joints to ensure the best water shedding, while still providing the "cut-stone" look. The curvature of the elevation posed special challenges as the wall moves along the street over large entry spans and window and deck cutouts.

Coordinating the colors of the masonry units with the existing school colors (orange-red) led the design and building team to seek out masonry units from aggregates more typically found in the Southwest. The manufacturer made special deliveries of eight different sample types in sufficient quantities from their yard in Arizona to allow the team to set up several large scale test assemblies, oriented as the façade would face the late afternoon sun.

The appearance of the details at the clear, anodized, aluminum-sheetmetal coping and window trim were carefully studied and considered by the team, which included the masonry subcontractor. As a finishing touch, the school's art teacher provided the inspiration for the not-so-random layout of specialty cut concrete masonry units to receive over time a 4" x 4" fired clay tile from each graduating fifth grader as a symbol of their unique educational experience at Prospect Sierra School.

ARCHITECT:
Ratcliff
5856 Doyle Street
Emeryville, CA 94608

William J. Blessing
Associate Principal, Designer

Stephen Swearengen
Project Architect

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Tipping Mar + Associates
GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Oliver and Company
MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Suer Masonry
BLOCK PRODUCER:
Trenwyth Industries
OWNER:
Prospect Sierra School



Photography: David Wakely Photography



TENNITY WILDLIFE HOSPITAL & CONSERVATION

Jury Comments: *The curved landscaping walls and block colors help to blend this building into its desert site. The use of radial design elements, curved walls and oblique angles are nice examples of how block can be incorporated into a building design in very creative ways.*

The Living Desert Veterinary and Research Center in Palm Desert, California was designed to meet the present and future needs of The Living Desert's 420 animals comprising 134 species. The center also cares for many injured animals brought in by the public – up to 1,000 per year. This 24,000 square-foot facility replaced an existing 900 square-foot animal care building. The harsh desert environment, security concerns, maintenance concerns and structural considerations were important design requirements of this project. The design solution addresses these concerns by providing a unique design, which incorporates a central surgery/treatment core area around which small animal wards, large animal wards, storage/support areas, and administration are located.

The exterior and interior materials are primarily concrete masonry, keeping long-term maintenance costs minimal. Buff colored precision single scored masonry units were used on both the interior and exterior of the building, along with banding of split face concrete masonry units of red-brown, struck only along the horizontal joint. Clerestory lighting allows direct daylight into interior treatment/recovery areas. A special environmental HVAC system was incorporated to separate foul odors from “clean areas,” while providing comfort to the building occupants.

The center is one of a very few of its kind in the country, offering an interactive experience to the public. Visitors are able to witness live and videotaped animal care procedures in the treatment and surgery rooms, which consist of one surgical area for large animals and one for smaller animals. Veterinarians and staff explain the procedures and interact with the public via microphones. The Special Care Unit features five large windows, allowing the public to view animals requiring specialized care. This facility not only incorporates the latest equipment and design elements for a veterinary hospital, but also has become an integral part of the zoo's daily park tour.

ARCHITECT:
Urrutia Architects
165 Luring Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Francisco J. Urrutia, AIA
Principal

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Knapp Structural Engineers
GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Greg Scrivens
MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
John Barajas
BLOCK PRODUCER:
ORCO Block Company
OWNER:
The Living Desert



Photography: Brett Drury



INNOVATIVE ARTISTS LITERARY + TALENT AGENCY SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: *The jury appreciated the daring application of block color in such a bold design. Mint green block may not qualify as a standard color, but it works well with the bronze panels, making the building quite unique and relevant for the agency that occupies*

The program required a mixed use project, combining commercial office spaces for a talent agency with residential uses, in order to receive a fifty percent floor area bonus. Additionally, the zoning did not permit ground floor commercial uses. The proposed solution at the ground floor was to place four residential “Pied a Terres” with large covered patios facing a landscaped side-yard, and locate Innovative Artists Offices’ within a two-story volume at the second floor.

The building is located on Broadway in Santa Monica in a section that during WW II housed many small aircraft parts manufacturers located in Quonset huts that have all but disappeared. The building design is influenced by the neighborhood’s industrial history, with the curved roof paying homage to the Quonset hut. The industrial materials that were found on the typical building have been reinterpreted to provide an upgraded palette.

Burnished 8” x 16” concrete masonry units with a “mint” stain have been used throughout the building. The joints have been raked and finished, and charcoal colored spec mix mortar has been used to emphasize the joints. Since this was a wood-framed building, the ground floor used structural concrete masonry units, while the second floor was clad with 2” masonry veneer to match. All of the openings were detailed so that there would be no cut masonry units at any location.

Naturally weathering copper panels and steel trowelled stucco are combine with masonry to help articulate the building mass.

ARCHITECT:
DE Architects, AIA
1535 6th Street, Suite 101
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Don Empakeris, AIA
Principal

Russell Rocker
Project Manager

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Masoud Dejban Structural Engineer
GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Becker General Contractors, Inc.
MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Sam Van Construction
BLOCK PRODUCER:
Angelus Block Company, Inc.

OWNER:
Scott Harris
Innovative Artists Talent and Literary Agency, Inc.



Photography: Tom Bonner Photography
Toshi Yoshimi Photography



A NEW GATEWAY BUILDING PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: *The building is nicely scaled and detailed. As a gateway to a shopping center, the quality of the design gives the shopper a good first impression and sets a high level of expectation for the shopping experience. Overall, the jury found the project to be very skillfully done.*

Announcing the “front door” to the Stanford Shopping Center, the new gateway building houses a premier restaurant and financial institution.

The design requirements for this project were to: provide a highly visible building with three important corners; use materials to convey elegance, quality and permanence; adhere to a tight budget through design flexibility and use of low maintenance materials; and provide a good fit within the context of Stanford.

A major element used to meet these requirements is concrete masonry, which is used both as a structural system and exterior finish, demonstrating CMU’s versatility as a construction and finish choice, as well as its capability to deliver the project on budget. Special modules of 4” x 16” x 8” smooth face concrete masonry units were custom colored, recalling the buff colored stone and masonry used to build the nearby Stanford University Campus. The horizontal mortar joints are deeply raked, while the vertical joints are struck flush to accentuate the horizontality of the single-story 10,000 square-foot building.

The efficiency of the structural wall enclosure allows the quality of large glazed openings and entrance elements of the facades to be enhanced with complementary materials. The building design is highlighted by

a glass corner “tower” rising 24 feet with a clerestory “lantern” marking the major intersection. Crisp aluminum windows and shading devices read light and transparent in contrast to the solid mass of exterior masonry bearing walls. Integrally colored concrete columns supporting steel canopies create arcades at the south facade to announce the building’s entrances and provide a shaded outdoor dining area next to the landscaped garden setting.

ARCHITECT:
ELS Architecture and Urban Design
2040 Addison Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

Geno Yun, AIA
Associate Principal/Project Architect

Carol Shen, FAIA
Resource Principal

Alice Cheng
Christopher Jung
Design Team

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
RMJ & Associates
GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Devcon Construction
MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
John Jackson Masonry
BLOCK PRODUCER:
Calstone Company, Inc.
OWNER:
Stanford Management Company



Photography: David Wakely Photography



**ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT
MEDICAL CENTER**
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

***Jury Comments:** The jury was intrigued with the blend of masonry and metal building panels in such a modern design. The result appears to be a building that complements, rather than copies, the modern building styles that surround the project site.*

The building is part of a new master plan created for Orthopaedic Hospital, a non-profit downtown medical campus. This 40,000 square foot, 2-story facility with a basement accommodates outpatient medical services including 14 exam rooms, a casting room, four digital imaging rooms, waiting rooms, as well as financial, administrative and other support spaces, primarily serving women and children. After records are processed the patient receives complete treatment and state-of-the-art imaging services in a fully contiguous outpatient clinic space on the second level, allowing efficient delivery of care in a comfortable, accessible setting.

The existing campus architecture is predominantly 1960's modern in character. The new Outpatient Medical Center is designed to become an integral part of this campus and shares a newly created vehicular turnaround and landscaped yards with existing campus buildings. It recalls the horizontal nature, proportions and color of the 1960's architecture, reinventing it and creating a contemporary, pedestrian-scaled, welcoming facility. With the introduction of horizontally banded exposed burnished concrete masonry units in this facility design, the campus material palette is enriched and enlivened.

Prominently sited at a busy freeway off-ramp leading into downtown Los Angeles, the Outpatient Medical

Center is the first completed phase of development in an overall effort to revitalize the local neighborhood. Other adjacent projects include a new medical magnet high school in collaboration with the Los Angeles Unified School District and facility improvements at the already established LA Trade Technical College. The new building is integral to the Orthopaedic Hospital campus transformation, creating a legible focal point for public, social and community services, and continuing the mission-related function of the campus.

ARCHITECT
R.L. Binder, FAIA Architecture & Planning
7726 W. 81st Street
Playa del Rey, CA 90293

Rebecca L. Binder, FAIA
Kim A. Walsh, AIA
Principals

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER
Brandow & Johnston Associates, Structural Engineers
GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Matt Construction
MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Masonry Technologies, Inc.
BLOCK PRODUCER:
Angelus Block Company
OWNER:
Orthopaedic Hospital, Los Angeles



Photography: Timothy Young



SDG&E MISSION SKILLS TRAINING FACILITY

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: *The scale has been broken down into nicely proportioned building elements, which together with creative blending of block color and texture, draws your attention away from the fact that the building is over 47,500 square feet in size.*

The public utility company identified significant increases in demand for training of technical and performance support personnel and the need for a new training facility.

Early feasibility studies had assumed a single story facility. A design workshop was conducted with the user groups, producing a series of viable design options. A 47,500 square-foot, two-story solution was selected, as it proved more cost effective and decreased impact on existing site facilities and infrastructure.

Inspired by the surrounding electrical substations, towers and high-voltage power lines, the building forms and elements for this new training facility provide a unique environment on the crest of a mesa overlooking Mission Valley. Essential indoor/outdoor instructional areas, externalized circulation and articulated interior functions, create physically discrete operational zones. The design solution is tailored specifically to short and medium term needs, but is respectful of long-term corporate demands for flexibility.

Concrete masonry units in a combination of natural colors and multiple surface treatments form the building volumes and reflect the hues and textures of the physical context while ensuring a minimization of maintenance. Building elevations are constructed with either a single color split face block, or as a random

speckle pattern with three colors of both split face and precision block. Colors used are sourdough, wheat and red-brown. The palette is completed with the colors and textures of the rugged landscape and the contrast of the exposed steel structure.

Integration of the new training facilities with the existing context, and a need for economy reveals an expressive industrial aesthetic.

ARCHITECT:
Austin Veum Robbins Partners
600 W. Broadway, Suite 200
San Diego, CA 92101

Randy Robbins, AIA
Ralph Linder, AIA
Claudia Salazar
Edward Lynch
Design Team

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Envision Engineering
GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Reno Contracting
MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Dittmann Masonry, Inc.
BLOCK PRODUCER:
ORCO Block Company
OWNER:
San Diego Gas and Electric



Photography: Brad Anderson, Architectural Photography, Inc.
Randy Robbins, AIA

PUBLIC DESIGN

GRAND
AWARD



Photography: Ronald Moore and Associates, Inc.

FAMILY LIFE CENTER AT PALM DESERT COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: *The intricate detailing, together with the blended use of color and texture, made this project stand out to the jury. The buttressed foundation walls seem to anchor the building to the site, while the textured banding and integrated patterns of glass block help to soften what might otherwise be an overwhelmingly sterile wall.*

This project seeks to integrate into the existing Palm Desert Community Presbyterian Church campus by mediating between the 1968 concrete and glu-lam sanctuary and the Santa Rosa Mountains. To this end, concrete masonry units were used to establish both color and form for the building. The concrete masonry unit base consists of alternating bands of 12" deep burnished CMU and 13" deep shop-blast CMU. These alternating depths and finishes of concrete masonry create a heavily rusticated and shadowed base onto which the classroom and auditorium spaces are positioned. These volumes, arranged around a central corridor, push to the edge for their light source and pull away to create elevated planters. The roof lines were lifted towards the north to provide additional light and views for the classroom spaces. The roof to the far-east enclosing the auditorium was lifted to create a visual link to the sweeping roof of the existing sanctuary, while providing an acoustically sound interior.

Included in this 26,000 square foot, two-level building are eight new classrooms, an intimate 85-seat fine arts auditorium, a multi-purpose room (with stage and food preparation room) able to accommodate a 350 person banquet, praise services, or basketball, a youth fellowship room, library/gathering space, media room, volunteer room, computer room, 2,000 plus square feet

of storage, and meeting room and offices for four staff members. Within a constrained site, the project was able to more than double the church's total square-footage and provide an additional 25 new parking spaces.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD
MKA - Martinez/Kuch Architects
2201 Martin Street, Suite 201
Irvine, CA 92612

Ron Kuch
Principal in Charge

DESIGN ARCHITECT
The Art Office
83-810 Vin Deo Circle, Suite 101
Indio, CA 92201

Phillip K. Smith, III
Design Principal

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Johnson & Nielsen Associates
GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Turner Construction
MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
MTI - Masonry Technologies, Incorporated
BLOCK PRODUCER:
ORCO Block Company
OWNER:
Palm Desert Community Presbyterian Church



FIRE STATION No. 126
LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
 SANTA CLARITA, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: A mix of colored burnished concrete masonry units, terra cotta roof tiles and colored plaster have been combined to form a visually appealing and distinctive civic structure. The design conveys a high level of sensitivity to its surroundings, while taking advantage of the concrete block as a durable interior finish.

Located in the Civic Center of Santa Clarita, California, Fire Station 126 provides not only the fire service for this city, but also serves as the North Operations Bureau for the Los Angeles County Fire Department. Designed as a main headquarters, it includes accommodations for a battalion chief, ten firefighters and paramedics, as well as a deputy chief and staff.

Architectural elements are coordinated to provide the scale and stature of a true civic building. A mix of colored burnished concrete masonry anchors the building walls, colored plaster provides an accent and the terra cotta tile roof relates to the community theme.

Station offices and other active areas are separated from quiet dormitory areas by the drive through apparatus room. This room has an exposed steel structure, mechanical ducts, diesel exhaust system and suspended light fixtures, with electric bi-fold doors at each end. Large windows and skylights provide ample daylight for all building areas. In the dormitory, sleeping cubicles and single bathrooms assure privacy.

Color is a recurring theme in the city of Santa Clarita, for commercial, residential and civic buildings as well. Throughout the Fire Station 126 project, color is used as a link to the surrounding community with a 25%

mix of burnished concrete masonry, in tones of red, gray, yellow and green, assembled in a random pattern established between the mason and architect. Masonry was exposed wherever possible: exterior wall base, structural columns and walls, entry tower and interior bearing walls, expressing architectural continuity inside and out. In this important civic project, colored concrete masonry units have been used in a unique way to provide a permanent, distinctive character within the Civic Center context.

ARCHITECT:
William Loyd Jones, Architect
 723 Ocean Front Walk
 Venice, CA 90291

William Loyd Jones
Principal

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
 Harold Epstein & Associates
GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
 Select Construction
MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
 Nibblink Masonry
BLOCK PRODUCER:
 Angelus Block Company, Inc.
OWNER:
 County of Los Angeles Fire Department



Photography: Art Gray



EL CERRITO MIDDLE SCHOOL CORONA, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: *The jury was impressed with the design solution that not only converted an elementary school to a middle school, but also reversed the orientation of the campus by relocating the main entry to the opposite side of the block. The design incorporates a combination of concrete masonry units and steel canopy elements to create a mixed use facility with a public presence, while maintaining supervision and control of the school campus.*

El Cerrito Middle School is an innovative elementary-to-middle school conversion project that provides new joint-use facilities, while integrating and reorganizing the existing site and buildings.

Located in Corona, California, the terraced 13.65 acres existing school site was formerly occupied by an elementary school. The site is bordered by a masonry church to the east, El Cerrito Road to the south, Rudell Road to the north, and an undeveloped property to the west.

Life cycle requirements dictated the development of this “middle” school facility utilizing concrete masonry unit construction. Functionally, the campus organization was completely reversed with the main entry now placed directly on El Cerrito Road versus Rudell Road.

The administration office was strategically located to provide this public facility with the public presence it deserves, while ensuring proper supervision along the front of the school. Other buildings include a staff lounge, serving kitchen, lunch shelter, fitness center, gymnasium/multi-purpose room, locker rooms, a two-story science center and a media/library center.

To minimize life cycle costs and reduce day-to-day maintenance, exterior walls were constructed of contrasting bands of durable precision smooth face concrete masonry units. Hollow metal door and window frames with energy efficient glazing were also used to ensure continuity of the building envelope. Interior walls were painted a variety of colors that reflect the energy and excitement of students and staff. Other interior concrete masonry surfaces were left exposed with the alternating color bands of tan and red, accentuating the exterior finishes as part of a comprehensive color scheme.

ARCHITECT:
WLC Architects, Inc.
10470 Foothill Blvd., Tower Suite
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

Glenn Ueda, AIA
Principal in Charge

Jose’ Vallarta
Project Manager

Magdalena Suen
Team Member

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
K. B. Leung and Associates, Inc.
CONSTRUCTION MANAGER:
Douglas Barnhart
MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Kretschmar and Smith, Inc.
BLOCK PRODUCER:
ORCO Block Company, Inc.
OWNER:
Corona-Norco Unified School District



Photography: Daly Architectural Photography



Photography: Art Gray Photography
John Edward Linden Photography

HORACE MANN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: Although the use of concrete block was found to be an appropriate choice of material for tying the building to the neighborhood contextually, the jury was impressed with how the concrete block walls had been skillfully punctuated with an assortment of openings, trellises, canopies and balconies to give this school a unique identity. The material is not only durable, but its texture, color and proportion all contribute to the learning environment for the children.

This three-story 71,000 square-foot public school was designed in tandem with a major redevelopment in the downtown core of a growing city. In addition to facilities for education, the school provides open recreation space and a multi-purpose hall for community use. The Community Redevelopment Agency called for a more substantial building than the School District's budget would provide. Concrete masonry was therefore chosen as a durable, affordable material to relate the school to its civic context, while distinguishing it from its residential neighbors. The burnished concrete masonry units provide a tough, yet finely-textured base that is appropriate to an elementary school.

The custom-colored concrete masonry units were chosen in neutral grey and warm ochre tones with carefully selected aggregates. Grouped in alternating rhythms, they provide richness and variety, while modulating the scale of the building elements. The academic wing uses both colors, in counterpoint to special pieces, such as the multipurpose room and stair tower, which are defined by one tone.

Within its grid of uniform dimensions, the field of concrete masonry units is punctuated with an array of openings, trellises, canopies, and balconies to give identity and highlight crucial elements. Large and small windows facilitate viewing by children, and are framed with bright colors that enhance the play of materials.

Concrete masonry becomes an important architectural and tactile learning tool for children. Standing next to the CMU, they can measure themselves, thus under-

EXECUTIVE ARCHITECT:
BFGC Architects Planners, Inc.
150 South First Street, Suite 200
San Jose, CA 95113

David R. Cartnal, FAIA
Principal-in-Charge

Rob Hikido, AIA
Associate in Charge

Tanya Guerrero
Project Team Member

DESIGN ARCHITECT:
Moore Ruble Yudell Architects & Planners
933 Pico Blvd.
Santa Monica, CA 90405

John Ruble, FAIA
Design Principal

Buzz Yudell, FAIA
Principal

James Mary O'Connor
Sr. Associate

Adam Padua
Project Manager

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Dasse Design
CONSTRUCTION MANAGER:
Toeniskoetter & Breeding, Inc.
MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
John Jackson Masonry
BLOCK PRODUCER:
Air Vol Block Company
OWNER:
San Jose Unified School District



LAKE VIEW TERRACE BRANCH LIBRARY

LAKE VIEW TERRACE, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: *The jury was pleasantly surprised at the high level of design quality that was incorporated into this LEED Platinum Certified building. The interior spaces appear comfortable and inviting, while the use of concrete masonry contributes to a 40% higher efficiency rating than California standards require.*

Lake View Terrace Library is a 10,700 square-foot City of Los Angeles branch library and multi-use facility, located in the San Fernando Valley within the Hansen Dam Recreation Area.

The library includes a community room, environmental display gallery, and exterior courtyard. A spacious main reading room stretches along the east-west axis and enjoys dramatic views of the park to the south. The building plan responds to the community's desire to reflect the "rancho" tradition of the region, with interior spaces organized around an open central courtyard.

The library design is the culmination of community workshops, presentations and reviews that brought standing-room-only crowds to local community rooms and city board meetings for two years. Its public meeting room functions on an independent schedule and is now a venue for similar workshops and other community meetings.

Tiles made by area Fenton School students and their families were composed into a mosaic wall in the library's courtyard that celebrates and records the history of the region.

The program called for a LEED Platinum building, and the design emphasizes reduced energy and resource

use, healthy interiors and ample daylighting. Built of durable concrete masonry, glu-lam beams, metal roofing, and wired and ducted for flexibility, it is designed for a "long life." Concrete masonry columns of standard CMU support exterior trellises and the mission white, burnished concrete masonry walls, exposed to the interior, use the mass properties of the concrete masonry to modulate interior temperatures.

ARCHITECT:
Fields Devereaux Architects & Engineers
5150 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90036

J. Peter Devereaux, AIA
Principal

ENVIRONMENTAL BUILDING CONSULTANT:
GreenWorks
5150 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90036

James Weiner, AIA and Dennis Bottum, AIA, Director
Vice Presidents

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
BP Consulting Engineers, Inc.
GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Coordinated Construction
MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Coordinated Construction
BLOCK PRODUCERS
Angelus Block Company, Inc.:
Trenwyth Industries, Inc.
OWNER:
City of Los Angeles



Photography: RMA Photography, Inc.



CRAFTON HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT SERVICES AN-

Jury Comments: *The building's proportions, along with the high level of detailing, caught the attention of the jury. The stack bond pattern helps to accentuate the tall window openings, while the buff colored masonry creates a strong tie to the landscape.*

This small addition to Craifton Hills College needed to live up to a large reputation. Stuart Williams, a prominent Palm Springs architect, originally designed Craifton Hills College in the 1970's. The campus is constructed from cast-in-place concrete creating a very consistent and cohesive design, and a tough act to follow. Cost was prohibiting the use of concrete as a design material. Several concrete additions have been constructed over the years with lesser degrees of success, so we wanted to find a material that would complement the original structures and was also affordable to use. Our solution was to use 4" custom colored precision concrete masonry units and an adherence to the scale and proportions of the existing campus.

The project needed to consolidate the campus' student services functions, but ultimately is to be converted to a classroom building. Another important issue was to provide an accessible route from the two campus levels. We designed a bridge that connects this project to the existing campus fabric, allowing access to an elevator, as well as a gently sloping concrete path.

As it was important for the Community College District to utilize maintenance free materials, the concrete masonry units received a medium sandblast and sealer coat. Other building components consist of anodized aluminum panels and factory coated steel. This small gesture communicates well with the older structures

despite a material language barrier.

ARCHITECT:
Thomas Blurock Architects
720 West 17th Street, Unit C
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

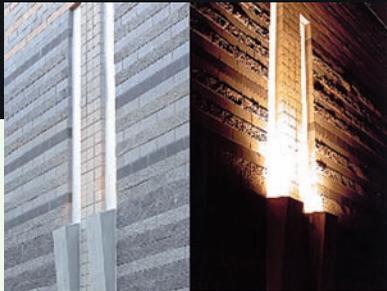
Thomas Blurock, AIA
Principal

Kevin S. Fleming, AIA
Principal

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Ove Arup and Partners
GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Hinkley and Associates, Inc.
MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
RC Tile
BLOCK PRODUCER:
Angelus Block Company
OWNER:
San Bernardino Community College District



Photography: Milroy/McAleer



Photography: Milroy & McAleer
Dougherty + Dougherty Architects, LLP

CAMERON PARK COMMUNITY CENTER AND GYMNA-

Jury Comments: *Alternating bands of smooth and split face concrete masonry units help to define the building's scale, while the resulting rich texture provides a dramatic backdrop for night lighting. The use of masonry on the interior provides a durable finish for the gymnasium with minimal maintenance. The curved concrete walls that surround the conference rooms open up the street side of the building for interesting pathways that draw you to the building entrance.*

Cameron Park Community Center and Gymnasium is located in a small neighborhood park in West Covina. The previous 1960's facility suffered from deterioration and the inability to support community programs. The new community center design has been responsive to a public input process that has included community center design workshops, committee meetings, planning and City Council meetings.

The project includes an entry lobby with registration desk and lounge area, a youth playroom with an adjacent outdoor events patio and catering kitchen, a double gymnasium divisible into two full-size basketball or volley ball courts, bleachers and storage rooms, and men's and women's toilet rooms with locker changing areas. The building is designed for flexibility with moveable walls between the conference/meeting rooms and bisecting the gymnasium. Each function can be locked separately for different operating hours, while maintaining access to the kitchen and toilet rooms in a safe and secure manner.

Concrete Masonry was selected as the primary building material for its strength and durability. Smooth face

concrete masonry units were used on all interior walls, where it is most appropriate for the high-bay gymnasium walls. Bands of alternating colors and textures created by the use of smooth face and split face concrete masonry units establish an aesthetic appearance highlighted by carefully placed lighting and reflected in the compatible finish and furniture color selections.

An effort has been made to minimize the building scale to the street, to create a park-oriented entrance to preserve the existing tree canopy, and to enhance existing walkways/parkways with decorative paving, new planting, and dramatic lighting. The result is an overwhelmingly popular destination for after school and weekend youth activities.

ARCHITECT:
Dougherty + Dougherty Architects, LLP
3194 D Airport Loop
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Betsey Olenick Dougherty, FAIA
Principal

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
KPFF Consulting Engineers
GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Bernard's Brothers Construction
MASONRY CONTRACTOR
Design Masonry, Inc.
BLOCK PRODUCER
ORCO Block Company
OWNER:
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DIABLO VIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL – NEW GYMNASIUM CLAYTON, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: *The building is nicely sited and the choice of masonry blends well with the existing buildings. By capping the masonry walls with translucent wall panels, the gymnasium receives an abundance of natural light, while the overall scale of the building is lowered to complement the rest of the buildings on the campus.*

The Diablo View Middle School is a small campus originally constructed in 1991 at the foot of the Mt. Diablo State Park. The original design, by the same architect, established the aesthetic of masonry construction, reflecting the community’s pride in its agrarian heritage. The design follows multiple cues established by the existing middle school campus. Masonry walls and metal roofs, along with the white trim, are the main elements establishing the rural feel. The gymnasium incorporates a hip roof with four masonry towers at the corners connected by a single large truss at each side. A continuous band of translucent panels follows the trusses flooding the gymnasium with natural light. For most of the day, the lights can remain off due to the natural light.

The use of integrally colored concrete masonry throughout the facility’s interior and exterior gives the building its warmth and, more importantly for a school facility, it provides very low maintenance and high durability. The interior use of masonry is a critical feature of the locker shower complex, the community rooms and ancillary facilities.

The facility’s main entry is an open-air pavilion that is oriented towards the quadrangle of the existing campus. After school hours and on weekends, the

facility is accessed opposite the campus to avoid public entry to the non-public campus buildings. The inherent constant academic and community demands of this facility highlight the need for a material as accommodating and forgiving as integral colored concrete masonry.

ARCHITECT:
Deems Lewis McKinley
12 Gough Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Erwin F. Lee, AIA
Principal

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Deems Lewis McKinley
GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Sierra Bay Contractors, Inc.
MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
E & S Masonry
BLOCK SUPPLIER:
Basalite Concrete Products, LLC
OWNER:
Mt Diablo Unified School District



Photography: Jim Patton



UCLA PLANT GROWTH CENTER

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: *The lightly textured masonry foundation greatly enhances the design of what would otherwise be a simple utilitarian glass structure. The masonry foundation was also a nice solution for anchoring the building to a challenging site.*

The \$7 million UCLA Plant Growth Center introduced a new building typology by creating laboratory conditions within commercial greenhouse technology for advanced research of plant physiology, including genetic study of nutraceutical biology.

The 20,000 square-foot facility is organized into two floors. The top floor houses the main entrance, an educational greenhouse, a headhouse for the preparation of greenhouse material and six independent research greenhouses organized on either side of a central hallway. Each of the six research greenhouses is an independent laboratory environment using a dedicated air handling system that can be controlled either automatically or manually and monitored off-site. The control system operates growth lights, retractable wall and ceiling curtains, roof vents and supply air temperature and velocity to allow flexible growing conditions for a wide variety of plant types and experiments. Because some research in the UCLA Plant Growth Center occurs at a genetic level, a precise degree of control over these conditions is required. The design process utilized computation fluid dynamics (CFD) to study various airflow options within the research greenhouses to achieve ideal growing conditions involving a consistent laminar flow of air across the plant canopy. An envelope of laminated and insulated glass on low masonry walls encloses the second floor. Masonry is used as a base to distinguish support spaces below in the first floor.

Located in the northeast corner of UCLA's acclaimed

Mildred Mathias Botanical Gardens, the design is sensitive to its garden setting through the rustification of split-faced concrete masonry units, mixed into precision CMU walls. The walls act as both seismic shear and retaining structure. Sensitive about its public exposure, the university desired a quiet presence and direct expression for the UCLA Plant Growth Center. The design achieves this through articulation of the building massing into twelve linear bays to compliment

ARCHITECT:
Paul Murdoch Architects
 5150 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 504
 Los Angeles, CA 90036

Paul Murdoch
Principal

CONSULTING ARCHITECT:
Graham Hubenthal, Architect
 18542 Swanson Lane
 Stanwood, WA 98982

Graham Hubenthal
Principal

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
 Sato & Boppana
GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
 Earl Corporation
MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
 Arc-Accucon Construction
BLOCK PRODUCER:
 Angelus Block Company, Inc.
OWNER:
 University of California, Los Angeles



Photography: Grant Mudford Studio



LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY WILL AND ARIEL DURANT BRANCH

HOLLYWOOD CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: *This nicely designed library appeared to offer comfortable and inviting spaces. The building façade is interestingly proportioned and the blend of masonry and glass block seems to reflect the context of the neighborhood.*

Situated prominently on a noisy, six-lane strip of Sunset Boulevard, the library serves a diverse urban community concerned equally with parking, maintenance, and symbolic presence. Our design sides with commercial context, rakes up to distant mountains, and retains a certain institutional distinction.

Tall and hard-surfaced on the front, low and softly landscaped on the rear, the building confronts street scale and movement and answers problems of noise and durability. Reading areas border the sidewalk, engaging pedestrians and the lights and movement of cars through angled bays of sound resistant glass block. In lieu of the standard, hard to maintain planter, a concrete berm slopes to the sidewalk lessening building scale. The front rises as a plane, capped by strip-scale, three-dimensional dedication signage that reads in an evanescent, non-commercial way. The foyer links the corner plaza and rear parking entrances with a community room for use when the library is closed. CMU walls and concrete paving continue the exterior character of the sidewalk into the reading room.

Inside curving ceilings, supported by articulated columns and girders, evenly reflect daylight from south-facing skylights to provide sufficient reading light without electric illumination. At the far end of the building, a court opens to the sky continuing interior space outward. In the story telling room, a free form, structural glass window gives kids a wobbly view into the court.

Exposed concrete masonry supplies seismic resistance, noise abatement, and durable finish. Its 12" x 12" module and raked joints establish scale and texture. Used freely to form building walls, fences and planters, the "ground face" colored CMU initiated an earthy palette of concrete, metal siding, and painted steel elements that sets the building off from its commercial neighbors.

ARCHITECT:

Barton Phelps & Associates, Architects and Planners
5514 Wilshire Blvd., 10th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90036

Barton Phelps, FAIA
Principal

David Haggerty
Sr. Associate

Ronald Rosell
Paul Duelo
Project Managers

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

Nabih Youssef & Associates

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

R. B. & G. Construction Co., Inc.

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:

Moody Masonry and Concrete

BLOCK PRODUCER:

Angelus Block Company, Inc.

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OWNER:

Los Angeles Public Library



Photography: Grant Mudford



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For further information contact us at:

Concrete Masonry Association
of California and Nevada
6060 Sunrise Vista Drive, Suite 1990
Citrus Heights, CA 95610-7004

Tel: (916) 722-1700
Fax: (916) 722-1819
Email: info@cmacn.org
Web Site: www.cmacn.org

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