

Concrete Masonry Association of California and Nevada



Profiles in Architecture

July 2019
Design Awards Edition



2019 Concrete Masonry Design Awards

Text includes excerpts from each architectural firm's description of the project and jury comments delivered by Jury Chairperson, Joyce Owens, FAIA, RIBA.



Why Masonry?
www.whymasonry.org

The Concrete Masonry Design Awards Are Co-Sponsored by AIA California

Smart Design Begins with Concrete Masonry

Designing a sustainable building requires taking a larger view of building design, evaluating a building as a whole system that operates in harmony with its natural environment and ensuring it is as energy, material, and water efficient as possible.

1 Healthy, safe, and secure. Good indoor air quality is essential. It requires minimizing pollutant sources and providing adequate ventilation and air filtration. Using concrete masonry construction is smart; indoor air quality is optimized for occupants, because integrally colored concrete masonry materials require no paints or adhesives.

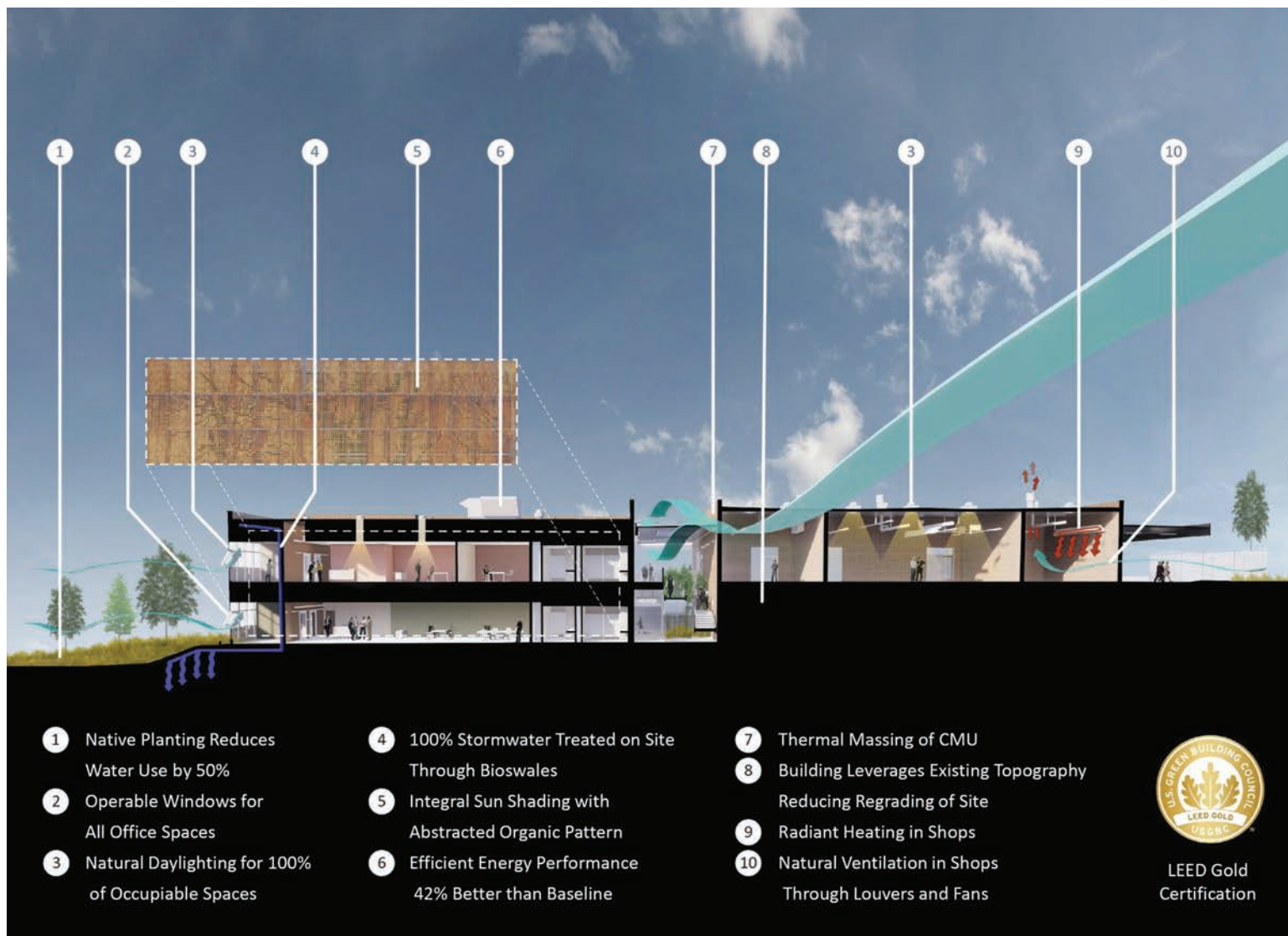
Concrete masonry buildings are structurally sound. They are weather, earthquake, flood, and fire resistant. Concrete masonry does not burn, melt, or warp,

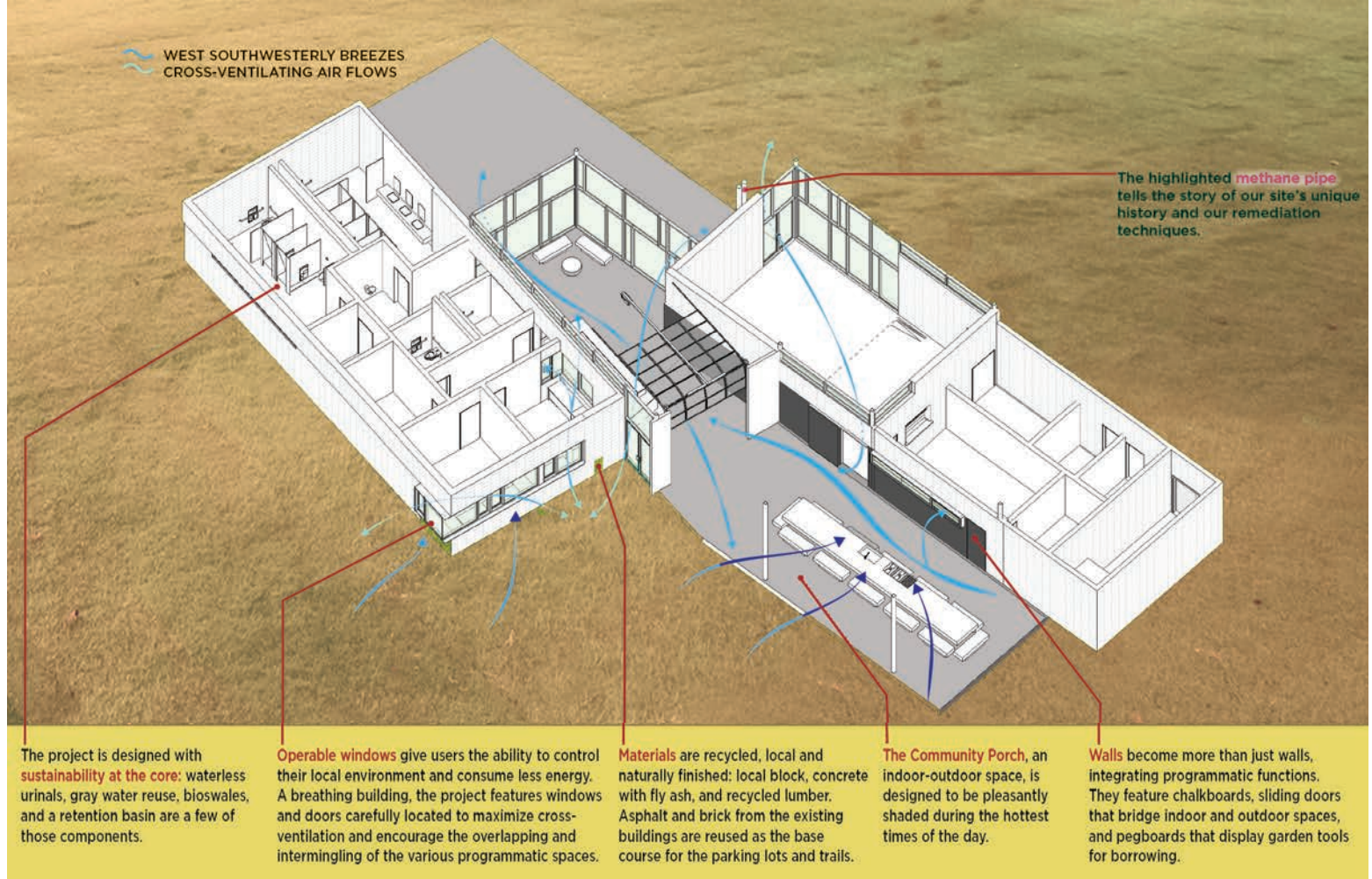
and is the ideal material for fire-resistant applications. Concrete masonry also resists mold, insects, and other pests that plague other building materials. Thanks to these and other widely recognized safety benefits of concrete masonry, insuring a concrete masonry building is noticeably less expensive, making concrete masonry construction a smart choice.

2 Thermal, visual, and acoustic comfort. Thermal comfort means that building occupants should not feel too cold or too hot as they work or learn. Visual comfort requires that quality lighting makes visual tasks, such as reading, following presentations, and working on the computer, easier. Lighting for each room should be “designed”, not simply specified. Daylight and electric lights are integrated and glare is minimized. Visual comfort also means providing a connection to the outdoors and visual stimulation through the use of windows at eye level to offer views. Acoustic comfort means that occupants can hear one another easily. Noisy ventilation systems are eliminated, and the design minimizes the amount of disruptive outdoor and indoor noise affecting the occupants.

Using concrete masonry for its thermal exchange properties is smart. Using concrete masonry, windows can be designed to provide the proper daylighting and views necessary for visual comfort. Designing with concrete masonry is also a smart choice for its exceptional noise attenuation properties.

West Valley College District Facilities and Maintenance





Stoneview Nature Center

Sustainable Design Strategies

Natural ventilation through operable windows and doors capitalizes on southwesterly prevailing winds. The history of the unique site becomes an educational opportunity: the fault hazard zone, an abandoned oil well, contaminant build-up in the soil, and an oil pipe line color the story.

3 Energy efficient. Energy-efficient buildings save money, while conserving non-renewable energy resources and reducing atmospheric emissions of pollutants and green-house gases. The building's lighting system uses high efficiency products; optimizes the number of fixtures in each room; incorporates control devices that ensure peak system performance; and successfully integrates electric lighting and daylighting strategies. The walls, floors, roofs, and windows of the building are as energy efficient as cost effectively possible. The building shell is integrated and optimizes insulation levels, glazing, shading, thermal mass, air leakage, and light-colored exterior surfaces to minimize the use of the HVAC systems.

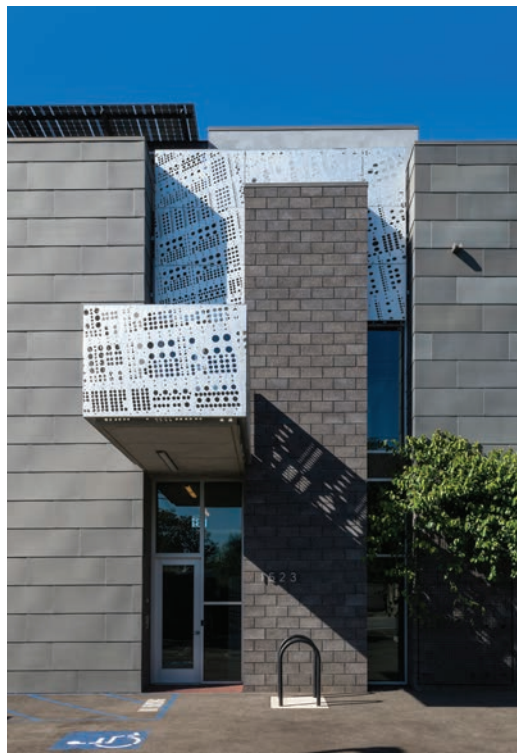
Concrete masonry's thermal exchange can significantly reduce the energy usage of a building, because the consistent temperature helps lower energy costs by shifting peak loads to non-peak hours while ensuring the comfort of those who live and work inside the building. Natural daylight openings in the concrete masonry building envelope integrate well with electric lighting strategies. Constructing concrete masonry building envelopes is smart since the units can be used as indoor or outdoor finishes. The intrigal color of the material, requiring no paints or adhesives, can be chosen to optimize heat resistance, or heat retention, depending on the climate.

4 Material efficient. To the maximum extent possible, the design incorporates building materials that have been produced in a way that conserves raw materials. Such materials may be manufactured with recycled content; are durable; or can be recycled or reused. In addition, the building has been designed and built in a manner that reduces waste and keeps useful materials out of the landfill. Designing with concrete masonry is smart. It lasts longer than other materials, requires little maintenance, and the need to manufacture new materials is reduced with every new concrete masonry

building. Concrete masonry materials can be recycled into new masonry materials or aggregates. The ability to reuse existing masonry buildings, including entire structures, further enhances its sustainable properties and makes concrete masonry a smart choice.

Because of masonry's strength and durability, the need for additional load-bearing framework is eliminated, creating a degree of design freedom not available with other materials.

5 Environmentally responsive. If new materials are required, concrete masonry can often be manufactured locally, reducing transportation requirements. It does not introduce pollutants or degradation to the project site, or the site of production. It uses recycled materials. High content supplemental cementitious grout can be used to lower the structure's carbon footprint. Concrete masonry also requires less specialized equipment for construction, further reducing impacts on the environment.



Photos from left to right, top to bottom: El Camino Fundamental High School Center for the Arts; Remote Control Productions 1523; Yares Residence; Starbucks Fullerton Towers; Crafton Hills College, Public Safety & Allied Health Building; UC Davis Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing

6 Stimulating architecture. Concrete masonry buildings are a smart choice since they never go out of style. They invoke a sense of timeless permanence and pride with their enduring beauty. Concrete masonry is available in a wide variety of shapes, sizes, colors, and textures, offering unparalleled design flexibility. Concrete masonry can be manufactured for specialty applications. It's an excellent surface on which to bond stucco or other finish materials. It's easily integrated into the design of buildings using other materials such as steel, glass, stone and brick, creating endless possibilities. Concrete masonry is the smart choice.

7 Water efficient. Water scarcity is a major problem in much of California and Nevada. Sustainable buildings are designed to use water efficiently, saving money, while reducing the depletion of aquifers and river systems. The building uses as little off-site water as possible to meet its needs, controls and reduces water runoff from its site, and consumes fresh water as efficiently as possible.

8 Commissioned. The building operates the way it was designed to, and meets the needs of the owner and occupant. This happens through a formal commissioning process - a form of "systems check" for the facility. The process tests, verifies, and fine-tunes the performance of key building systems so that they perform at the highest levels of efficiency and comfort, and then trains the staff to properly operate and maintain the systems.



25 YEAR
AWARD

EDUCATION DESIGN

Grass Valley Elementary School

Winnemucca, Nevada



Jury Comments: In a harsh and windy desert climate, this low building that hunkers down in the landscape and requires minimal maintenance makes sense even today. It has stood the test of time well. This school design provides a good example for passive strategies that are still relevant; the use of a thermal mass, overhead daylighting, and a masonry structure nestled in berms to minimize wind are all lessons to embrace. The original unaltered organization of classrooms surrounding public spaces, i.e. the library and adjacent open area daylit from above, appear to create a purposeful sense of community on the interior.



ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: Still reeling from the 1973-1974 Oil Embargo and the Oil Crisis of 1979, this design is a reflection of all the passive and active solar techniques that were so prevalent at the time. Earth berms, sky light roof monitors, active solar panels for domestic hot water, deep overhangs, and low-e glass define the architecture in the most predictable of ways. Winnemucca, a small country town located in the central part of Northern Nevada had a population of 4,000 in 1979. The community embraced the new progressive approach to the design, and the school after 36 years, is operating efficiently and technically, even as time has demanded more out of the school with its inclusion of more modern infrastructure and curriculum changes.

The school is a Pre-K through 6th grade elementary school of approximately 45,000 square feet. The main classrooms are soldiered together, parallel to a central core that houses the library, music room, and special education programs. To decrease the overall length of the building, classrooms are "nested" into one another to form a rhetorical 'Nevada' shaped classroom that allows for intimate teaching zones near windows and other corners that would normally be inefficient in a standard rectilinear classroom. The library is open and sky lit, and the heart of the school.

WHY MASONRY? The major building material was 8"x8"x16" four-fluted concrete masonry units (CMUs) in a natural gray color. The faces of the flutes are split to provide a textured finish. CMU provided the ideal material for a school district with tight budgets and limited resources. It has performed admirably for 36 years, and it will see many more years in the future. Concrete masonry is durable, maintenance free, and aesthetically beautiful; it is the best of all worlds.



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Angela S. Bigotti, AIA
Principals-in-Charge

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GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
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BLOCK PRODUCER:
Basalite Concrete Products, LLC
OWNER:
Humboldt County School District
©PHOTOGRAPHY:
Vance Fox Photography - Current
Valerie Clark Photography - 1983



ARCHITECT:
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Partner

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MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Cooper Chase Construction
BLOCK PRODUCER:
Angelus Block Company, Inc.
OWNER:
Epoch Estate Wines
©PHOTOGRAPHY:
Casey Dunn Photography

GRAND
AWARD

COMMERCIAL DESIGN

Epoch Winery Templeton, California



Jury Comments: The design of this winery is outstanding on a number of levels. The jury appreciated the thoughtful re-use of the existing CMU, which when skillfully married with new steel, creates an elegant and functional lightness that nestles into the site. Numerous and considered passive environment considerations lifted this entry to Grand Award: the temperature regulating of the wine barrels located in caves, cooling the building at night, and PV panels on the roof that provide most of their electrical needs. This is an exceptionally well-designed complex.



ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: Located 12 miles from the Pacific Ocean along California's Central Coast, the 18,000 square-foot winery nestles itself into the oak covered hills of historic York Mountain and seamlessly fits into the landscape. In an effort to preserve the innate, natural beauty of York Mountain, most of the winery is tucked below grade, allowing the winery to literally blend into the surroundings and in-turn providing the cast-in-place concrete vaulted barrel caves with natural temperature control. Two strategically placed oculi skylights filter natural daylight into these spaces.

Incorporating the existing concrete masonry unit (CMU) walls that were remnants of the old Stephen's Cellar Winery, now stained black, the new winery is comprised of multiple spaces assembled under one large steel-framed roof. The intention was to design a space to reflect how a farmer would have built the necessities to run their operations – with both simplicity and flexibility in mind. The steel framed winery building houses cased goods storage, crush pad, open-air fermentation, and a meeting room. Administrative space flanks beside, banking offices and employee areas, including a well-placed winemaker's laboratory, often referred to as "the heart of the winery."

WHY MASONRY? The fermentation expansion walls, as well as interior barrel aging partitions, were selected to withstand the particularly dry climate, for regional availability, long-term durability, and to minimize the need for maintenance. Walls are fully grouted and reinforced burnished CMU, which is exposed on both sides and is used for structure and finish. Case Goods storage walls are standard utility CMU, painted white on the interior for light reflectance with an insulated outer shell.

The entire winery has integrated night cooling to stay in line with the winery's sustainable strategy to use as little energy as possible. An integrated photovoltaic array produces 95% of the power needed (roughly 46,000 kWh per year), nearly eliminating the dependence of grid-tied power.

MERIT
AWARD

COMMERCIAL DESIGN

The National Monocular Company

Santa Monica, California

ARCHITECT:
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Los Angeles, CA 90013

Joey Shimoda, FAIA, FIIDA
Principal-in-Charge

ASSOCIATE ARCHITECT:
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Andy Waisler
Principal-in-Charge

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
John Labib + Associates
GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Del Amo Construction
MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
HBA, Inc.
BLOCK PRODUCER:
Angelus Block Company, Inc.
©PHOTOGRAPHY:
Benny Chan, Fotoworks

***Jury Comments:** This submission is a sensitive transformation of an older masonry complex of buildings which clearly needed renovations. The solution re-purposed the buildings, extending their life and creating a considerate contributing piece of urban fabric. The jury found the strength of the design lies in an attractive and poetic architectural language that has been inserted on the interior and skillfully blurs the line between indoors and outdoors.*

Architect's Commentary: This project creates an extension to a lifestyle-based entertainment production workplace that celebrates the idea of a "hands-on" creative work space. The space is one of the few purpose-built, screening room/sound stage and post production editing buildings in Santa Monica, California. The space incorporates a ground floor garden that connects the project to its sister building, the National Typewriter Company. This garden is an extension of a communal café and kitchen that serves meals for up to 70 people every day. The roof is a large, shared open space that allows production fill-in shooting and frequent sunset roof parties. Workplace in Southern California encourages people to work outside and this project allows outdoors to be a key element for production. The result is an intimate workshop atmosphere encouraging the highest level of creativity.

WHY MASONRY? Ideas of the filmmaker are rooted in how we perceive and experience space. This project carries these principles within the confines of existing masonry structures. Rather than wiping the site clean, the design team worked to re-use the original industrial structures. Like recreating a cinematic masterpiece, the design focuses on principles of re-imagining the story. A primary goal was to create visual transparency within the confines of maintaining the character of the masonry. The design retained better than 50% of the structural concrete block/large concrete masonry units (CMUs) and better than half of the original wood joists. This sustainable approach to reuse interior and exterior infrastructure while creating new windows in spaces traditionally without natural light, such as editing rooms and post production rooms, allows people to constantly be aware of movement and the presence of others in the space. The hope is that this visual connection will create serendipitous moments where communication is enhanced and the amplitude of creativity is multiplied. Keeping with the design of CMU and other original building materials will help ensure the building and creativity continues to last with use.



ARCHITECT:
nonzero | architecture
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Santa Monica, CA 90405

Peter Grueneisen, FAIA
Principal-in-Charge

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

Gordon L. Polon

Structural Engineering

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

Greeniron Constructs, Inc.

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:

Master Masonry

Concrete Construction

BLOCK PRODUCER:

Angelus Block Company, Inc.

OWNER:

14th Street Grille, LLC

©PHOTOGRAPHY:

Photography Juergen Nogai

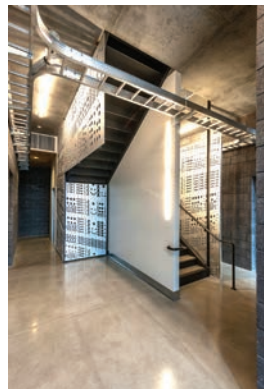
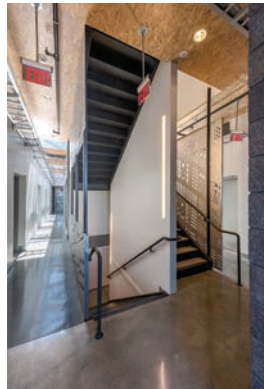


Remote Control Productions 1523

Santa Monica, California



Jury Comments: This compact infill building fits on a tight urban site and is playful and fun. Although it feels slightly impenetrable from the outside, the interior core is purposefully carved out to make it surprisingly light and airy. Concrete masonry units were carefully and thoughtfully used, and respond to the functional need for sound reduction.



ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: The 7,400 square foot building is part of an ongoing master planning effort for the owner's campus of several buildings. The design is part of a continuing endeavor to develop a cohesive campus and to create a sustainable and environmentally sensitive neighborhood while reinforcing the strong social and artistic networking aspects within the growing group of users. It includes two music composition suites plus sixteen small audio production studios with lounge and auxiliary areas.

The project attempts to create a unified identity for the company and its artists, while preserving the varying scales and characters of the different buildings, typical for the eclectic neighborhood. Materials reflect the industrial heritage of the area, but their detailing and applications hint at the building's contemporary use. A strategy of offering a variety of naturally lit and exterior spaces was pursued to provide relief from the intense process of commercial music creation in the mostly windowless and hermetically sealed studios. Aluminum screens for shading, guardrails and privacy, some of them moveable, are perforated with a pattern derived from vintage synthesizer modules, a tool used by many of the resident composers.

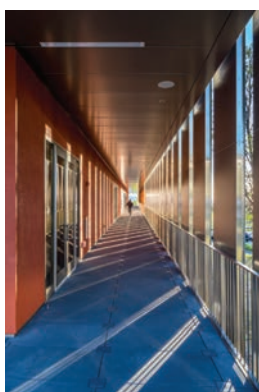
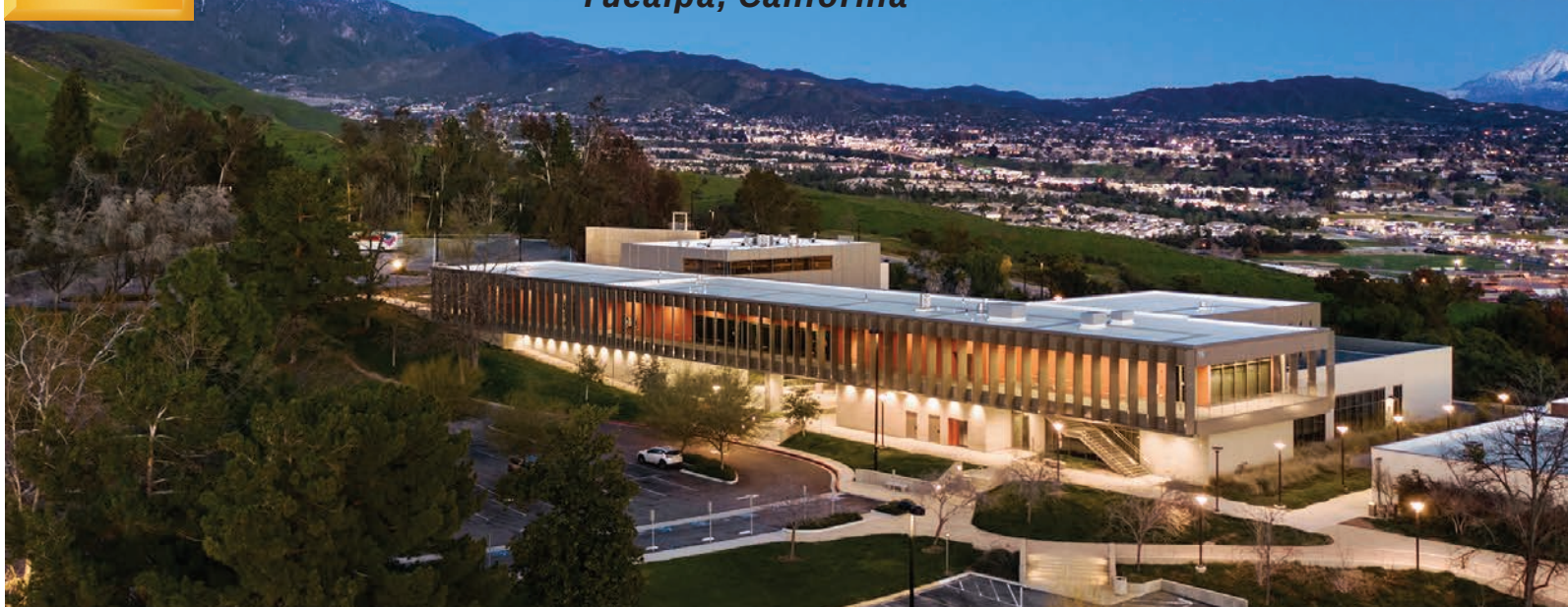
WHY MASONRY? A very dense studio layout required careful acoustic planning, aided by the use of concrete masonry units (CMUs) as the structural and sound absorbing element. The structural walls on the ground floor are made of grouted CMU and support a poured-in-place slab. The elevator shaft also consists of exposed CMU and is visible on both levels on the exterior and the interior of the building. Standard gray CMU is used where it is placed behind additional walls or clad on the exterior, but the large exposed areas on the interior are made with smooth burnished CMU with a dark black pigment. They form a crucial element of the interior look and contrast with the aluminum of the perforated screens.

GRAND
AWARD

EDUCATION DESIGN

Crafton Hills College, Public Safety & Allied Health Building

Yucaipa, California



Jury Comments: Sometimes the utilitarian functions of complex buildings like Crafton Hills College, Public Safety & Allied Health Building can create convoluted or unresolved solutions, but here spaces and functions are elegantly decipherable and create a clear architectural statement. The interiors and exteriors address the climate, create place, and serve a plethora of necessary functional needs. This complex could have easily felt like an homage to brutalism, but it is more sustainable and sensitive, and deliberately respectful of its site.

ARCHITECT:
Steinberg Hart
818 West 7th Street, Suite 1100
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Michael Miller
Principal-in-Charge

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Englekirk Structural Engineers
GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Sinanian Development, Inc.
MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
New Dimension Masonry, Inc.
BLOCK PRODUCER:
ORCO Block & Hardscape
OWNER:
Crafton Hills College
©PHOTOGRAPHY:
Nico Marques/Photekt

ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: The Public Safety & Allied Health Building at Crafton Hills College is designed to accommodate a group of related, but separate disciplines into a singular building while providing a new destination on the eastern edge of the campus. The building links the existing Fire Academy with the EMT and Respiratory Care programs. Each program is focused on skill-based learning through simulation of real-life activities. Working within the existing topography, the Steinberg Hart team designed a building that bridges from the upper level fire training yard across to the two-story classroom building, which houses EMT and Respiratory Care.

As important as the interior program space, the exterior space was designed to extend the indoors programs outside. A large roof terrace outside of the lecture halls serves as a formal gathering spot for students, with views of the campus and the surrounding mountains. The first level courtyards also create space for a physical connection to the campus context and provide a quiet zone for study and reflection amongst views of the desert landscape.

WHY MASONRY? In keeping with the architectural palette of the existing campus of cast-in-place concrete structures, the new building is primarily four-inch shot-blast concrete masonry units (CMUs) with an aluminum plate metal panel. The CMU exterior cladding the first level program is used to help ground the building within the natural landscape of the campus unifying the building and site. Ample amounts of glazing throughout the building successfully creates a sunlit, open, and welcoming environment, allowing daylighting of classroom spaces and reinforcing the connection to the outside landscape. As part of the project's LEED® Gold sustainability strategy, the direct effects of the sun and the solar heat gain along the southern and western façades were also carefully considered and addressed through the incorporation of vertical fins and horizontal projections where appropriate.



HONOR
AWARD

EDUCATION DESIGN

El Camino Fundamental High School Center for the Arts

Sacramento, California



Jury Comments: The judges felt strongly about the beautifully executed masonry on this small, charmingly modern performance hall. The clever choice of CMU, the shape, color and details add interest without complexity. The proportions of the entry canopy are excellent. Inside, the elegant, subtly designed performance space gives the impression it will never overwhelm the activities to be performed within.

ARCHITECT:

HGA

1200 R Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95811

Creed Kampa, AIA, LEED® AP
Principal-in-Charge

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

HGA

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:

Cornerstone Masonry, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER:

Basalite Concrete Products, LLC

OWNER:

San Juan Unified School District

©PHOTOGRAPHY:

Davies Imaging Group, LLC



ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: This facility is a project that has been planned and dreamed of by the school and site backers, such as the El Camino Arts group, for many years while the school has used an inadequate cafeteria or rented church venues for performances. The project is the culmination of their efforts to provide long sought facilities for the site. During its construction, the design-build team took pride in the design and craftsmanship, including the concrete masonry units (CMUs). Now that it is complete, the events and performances that will be held at the Center will be a source of school, community and family pride for decades to come.

WHY MASONRY?

Concrete masonry was instrumental to executing the design concept. As a "signature" project on campus, the design of this building is an inviting and gracious facility that will support a wide range of school and community events. The building relies on simple and elegant forms which act as an acoustical container for the spaces within. The CMUs are dynamically variegated by using three subtle shades of gray and charcoal blocks, with eight-inch high units as the predominate size and four-inch high accent courses also incorporated into the pattern. These solid forms anchor the building and contrast with an elegant, transparent glass lobby and a delicate roof overhang that invites in the community.

The project, which employed the equivalent of LEED® v3 criteria in its design, includes many high performance and sustainability features. Most notably, the CMU mass walls provide superior acoustic attenuation and thermal performance. The envelope design coupled with LED lighting, including theatrical lighting, produces a building that will be 10% more energy efficient than Title 24 baseline. This building with its high-performance systems will support great performances on stage.



MERIT
AWARD

EDUCATION DESIGN

West Valley College District Facilities and Maintenance Saratoga, California



Jury Comments: Seldom are buildings of these types designed to such a high standard. The jury commends the intentional and attentive planning. The building sensitively responds to the needs of its users as well as the climate and its site. Passive and active energy considerations have carefully been integrated in the design, raising it to LEED® Gold.

ARCHITECT:

LPA, Inc.

5301 California Avenue, Suite 100
Irvine, CA 92604

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

LPA, Inc.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

Gilbane Building Company

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:

Cornerstone Masonry, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER:

Basalite Concrete Products, LLC

OWNER:

**West Valley-Mission Community
College District**

©PHOTOGRAPHY:

Cris Costea, Costea Photography, Inc.

ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: The 19,000 square-foot West Valley College Maintenance and Facilities project provides offices, warehousing, maintenance, and shops for the District General Services, Facilities Construction and Maintenance Departments for the College. The west wall of the office is protected by a corten steel screen with a pattern based on the native oak trees on campus. The project uses the site topography to bridge the one-story shops programs and the two-story office and warehouse programs with a breezeway that provides an outdoor gathering area while promoting natural ventilation. The two-story office portion fronts the main loop road and announces this important sustainable building and its services to the campus. This new LEED® NC Gold facility is a model of energy efficiency and cost-effective sustainable building practices for the campus.

WHY MASONRY?

The building has operable windows, exterior louvers, solatubes, ceiling fans, and utilizes concrete masonry units (CMUs) as a part of an integrated passive system. This system promotes daylighting and natural ventilation that are coupled with efficient MEP systems creating a building that is 42% better than the LEED® benchmark for energy cost. The durability, thermal mass properties, and cost efficiency of CMU provides both structure and skin (block exposed on interior typically) which made it an ideal material for this locally funded project. The CMU walls are a 4" x 16" burnished block with a vertical score at the center in a stacked pattern.



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MERIT
AWARD

EDUCATION DESIGN

UC Davis Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing Sacramento, California



Jury Comments: This educational building is very well designed both inside and out. The north and east elevations feel dense and powerful, but the courtyard created on the west opens up to create a very human-scale plaza well-protected from the sun. The jury found the play of light and shadow on the façade, the change in color, and the interesting block pattern all contributed to making the overall design very successful.

ARCHITECT:

WRNS Studio

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Principal-in-Charge

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

Thornton Tomasetti

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:

Cornerstone Masonry, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER:

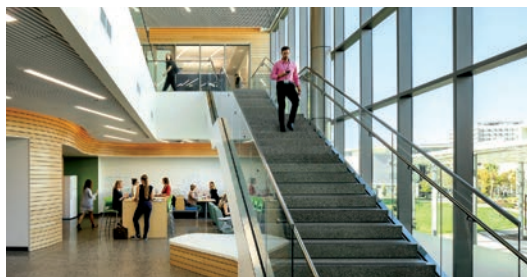
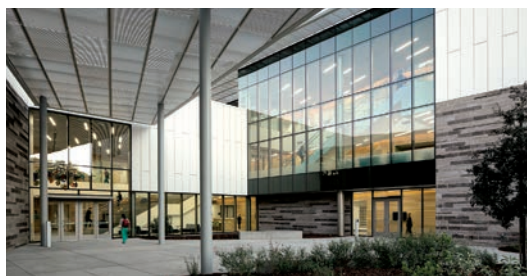
Basalite Concrete Products, LLC

OWNER:

UC Davis Health

©PHOTOGRAPHY:

Jeremy Bittermann Photography



ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: The Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at University of California, Davis creates skilled and nimble nurse leaders, agents of change in the evolving health care environment who know how to teach others, leverage interprofessional partnerships, and work outside the traditional boundaries of nursing. Graduates care for their own patients and work with other medical professionals to deliver top-of-the-line health care as the profession shifts towards being performed at home as much as it is in the hospital.

A model of the hybrid buildings emerging to support new learn/work modalities, Betty Irene Moore Hall ("Moore Hall") offers a variety of multi-media innovation environments that support collaborative, interdisciplinary, active, and social learning. Clinical skill and stimulation suites, an apartment simulation room, and adaptable group-work classrooms advance the school's commitment to blending instruction with clinical practice.

WHY MASONRY?

Located adjacent to several academic and clinical buildings on the UC Davis Medical Center campus, Moore Hall draws back and helps define a burgeoning academic quad, Vanderhoef Commons. As a departure from the light corporate appearance of the rest of campus, Moore Hall is clad in a darker, earthier concrete masonry units (CMUs). Found at the pedestrian realm around level 1, the non-repeating pattern brings variation and randomness into the horizontal layers. The striated CMU creates a visual contrast between rough and smooth textures as it transitions into white metal panels on the upper floors and the curvy wood walls of the building's interior. The different colors have different surface treatments (ground face/split face), which brings another level of depth to the material. The CMU was manufactured in central California, within 500 miles of the project, helping to achieve LEED® Gold for the project.



MERIT
AWARD

EDUCATION DESIGN

San Francisco State Mashouf Wellness Center

San Francisco, California



Jury Comments: The jury appreciated the straightforward boldness and sweeping nature of the complex as well as the numerous sculptural forms created inside and out. The masonry units are carefully scaled and serve to anchor the buildings. The large daylight interior spaces are impressive and pleasantly welcoming.



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Mitch Fine, AIA, LEED® AP
Partner

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GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
C.W. Driver LLC

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
John Jackson Masonry

BLOCK PRODUCER:
Basalite Concrete Products, LLC

OWNER:
San Francisco State University

©PHOTOGRAPHY:
Jeremy Bittermann Photography

ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: The Mashouf Wellness Center (MWC) at San Francisco State University is a new center of student life and an iconic campus gateway. Located on a prominent intersection at the edge of campus, the facility includes a mix of social, recreational, and competition spaces: a two-court gym, a multi-purpose activities court (MAC), pools for both competitive and recreational swimming, fitness areas, a running track, and meeting rooms. The project supports a holistic take on student success that values physical, emotional, social, and psychological wellbeing as integral to academic achievement. Recognizing the reciprocal relationship of wellness and sustainability, the MWC is targeting LEED® Platinum and models sustainability in a building type that historically consumes large amounts of energy and water.

The massing and design are crisp, modern, and fluid, reflecting both the forward-leaning ethos of the campus and the dynamic activity within. The MAC situated at the northwest corner of the site, reaches into the heart of campus and presents the building's public face to its community. Its large entry plaza also serves as a pre-function area for important campus events, such as graduations or performances. The natatorium, situated at the northwest corner, engages passersby on its well-traversed intersection with a large expanse of glazing – a gateway beacon showcasing life within, and glowing at night. The two-court gym located at the southeast corner captures views of a nearby park and a stunning eucalyptus grove. Playfields to the east serve as an active and green welcome mat.

WHY MASONRY? Concrete masonry units (CMUs) were selected as an affordable alternative to stone that were able to deliver on the goals for the MWC relative to aesthetics, durability, and pedestrian experience. Ground face 4-inch high CMUs were selected to create the desired proportion, touch, and feel for the project that typical 8-inch by 16-inch units could not achieve.



ARCHITECT:**o2 Architecture**

1089 North Palm Canyon Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Lance C. O'Donnell, AIA
Principal-in-Charge

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

Saiful Bouquet Structural Engineers

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

Matt Construction Corporation

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:

Pro Structural, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER:

Angelus Block Company, Inc.

OWNER:

The Annenberg Foundation Trust
at Sunnylands

©PHOTOGRAPHY:

The Annenberg Foundation Trust
at Sunnylands/Marco Carocari

GRAND
AWARD

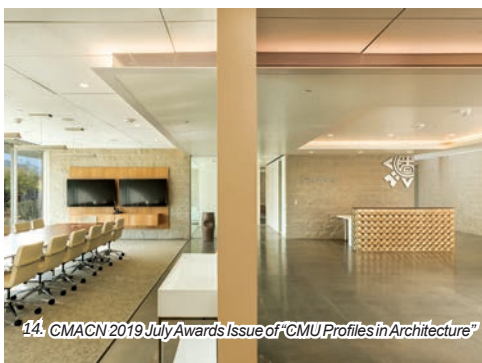
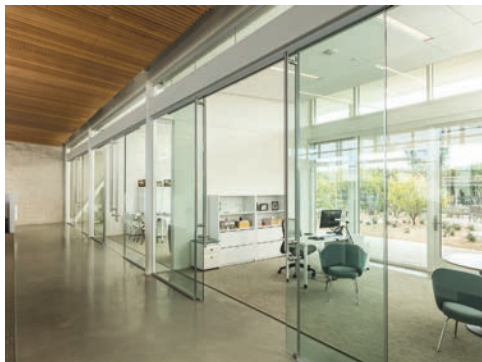
PUBLIC/CIVIC DESIGN

Sunnylands Administration and Operations Campus

Rancho Mirage, California



Jury Comments: The jury described this project as “a delightful mirage in the desert.” There is an excellent balance between the use and placement of textured CMU and extensive glazing that creates a timeless aesthetic. The color of the CMU creates lightness, yet roots the entire campus into the desert. Inside/outside connections are seamless, and once inside it feels protected and comfortable. There are countless positive active and passive sustainability considerations that should understandably make this building LEED® platinum.



ARCHITECT’S COMMENTARY: The Administration and Operations Campus at Sunnylands is a 17-acre addition located adjacent to the existing Sunnylands Center & Gardens and the Annenberg’s historic estate. It is composed of discrete, but interconnected areas: a 2-acre Operations Yard for estate management, and a 4-acre Administration Campus with Office and Archive Buildings, intimate outdoor spaces for outdoor gatherings, and a unique engineered wetland which serves as an ecological wastewater treatment system supporting Sunnylands’ sustainability goals.

The campus utilized local, enduring, utilitarian materials for cost-effectiveness and maximum impact with the simplest means. The buildings are aesthetically compatible with the existing context and timeless materials, lending consistency across the Sunnylands property. The campus exploits clean modern forms utilizing concrete masonry units (CMUs), steel, plaster, and well-shaded glazing.

WHY MASONRY? CMU has excellent thermal performance in the intense desert heat, requires little maintenance, and provides the perfect color and façade for the desert. The buildings optimize solar orientation and minimize east/west glazing and accompanying heat gain. This strategy allows for optimum daylight. Large windows allow for daylighting, provide spectacular views, and when combined with the chosen CMU, give the feeling of being outside. Adjacent micro-climatic gardens can also be viewed, optimizing employee satisfaction and promoting a sense of joy and wellbeing. Additionally, indoor air quality is optimized by innovative roof ventilators and low-energy “heat-exchange” cooling. The project is awaiting final LEED® Platinum certification.

HONOR
AWARD

PUBLIC/CIVIC DESIGN

Stoneview Nature Center

Culver City, California

ARCHITECT:
Ehrlich Yanai Rhee Chaney
Architects

10865 Washington Boulevard
Culver City, CA 90232

Patricia Rhee, FAIA, DBIA
Principal-in-Charge

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

Degenkolb Engineers

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

Ledcor Group

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:

Kretschmar & Smith, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER:

ORCO Block & Hardscape

OWNER:

Los Angeles County
Department of Public Works,
Architectural Engineering Division

©PHOTOGRAPHY:

Paul Turang Photography - left and
bottom right building photos
Melinda Castro - right nature photos



Jury Comments: The jurors appreciate how the two small buildings interact to create interesting outdoor places while inviting the public in and to the nature center. However, it is the shade canopy, which is the lynch pin, bringing the complex together as a whole. This spirited building earned LEED® Silver through the successful integration of many sustainable methods.



Architect's Commentary: This Design-Build project remediated a five-acre brownfield site into a healthy place for the community to experience nature by strolling through the art gardens or partaking in activities like salsa making, dancing, and yoga.

A glass lobby links visitors to two primary outdoor gathering spaces: the Observation Deck connects the site to nearly panoramic views of LA, while the Community Porch offers a central connection point to the lobby, multipurpose room, demonstration kitchen, and gardens beyond. Set under a large red canopy, an expansive communal table offers visitors opportunities to engage in fruit-oriented activities and classes about nature, wildlife, fitness, and food. The Civic Artists' work across the site uses fruit, California history, and visitor-provided social content to support the program.

WHY MASONRY? Concrete masonry units (CMUs) were selected as the primary building material, as they are durable, economical, and require only minimal maintenance. They fit the intended aesthetics of the Nature Center, where the exposed blocks become a means to visually connect the indoors with the outdoors, and their sustainable features (thermal mass, recycled content, locally sourced, natural finish) helped the project achieve a LEED® Silver certification.



GRAND
AWARD

RESIDENTIAL DESIGN

Yares Residence

Palm Springs, California



Jury Comments: This project is an elegant residential design reminiscent of the modern Case Study Houses of the mid-century. The home positively exploits its small site and uses a multitude of passive energy methods to promote shade and cross ventilation, all very carefully and sensitively detailed. CMU is used to promote an effective sense of mass and solidness which is delightfully juxtaposed to the lightness of the glass. This home is sophisticated, stylish, and absolutely timeless.

ARCHITECT:

o2 Architecture

1089 North Palm Canyon Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Lance C. O'Donnell, AIA
Principal-in-Charge

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

Peyton-Tomita & Associates, LLC

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

D.W. Johnston Construction, Inc.

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:

RAS Masonry, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER:

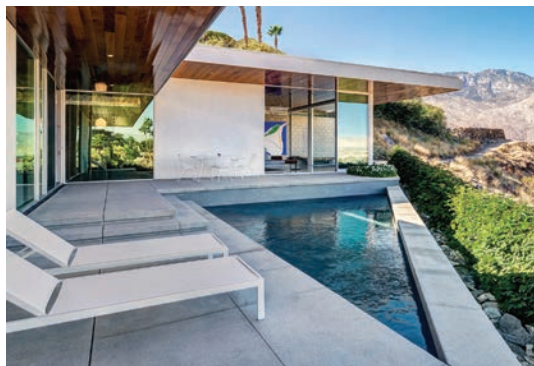
Angelus Block Company, Inc.

OWNER:

Yares/Blessey

©PHOTOGRAPHY:

David Blank Photo



ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: This residence is located above Palm Springs in the community of Southridge, an exclusive 1960's neighborhood developed during the heyday of Palm Springs' Midcentury Modern experimentation, home to celebrities like Bob Hope, Steve McQueen, William Holden and their architects Lautner, Cody, Wexler, and Kaptor. This modest two-bedroom, two-bath 2,700 square-foot home is perched securely on what, 50 years ago, was a small triangular site for the Southridge sales office.

This contemporary take on desert modernism unfolds over a split-level open floor plan. Gallery-style interiors provide plenty of room to display an art collection - a program objective for the art dealer homeowner. The result of this owner collaboration is a home suspended over the city, where one is perpetually stunned by the desert setting and the ever-changing light and shade of the natural landscape.

WHY MASONRY? The project utilized local, timeless concrete masonry units (CMUs) to secure the home to the limited building pad. Likewise, CMUs' aesthetic compatibility with the existing hillside context, lending consistency and timelessness to Southridge's 50-year experimental history, was important. In order to exploit the demanding site conditions with clean modern forms, the home also utilized steel, plaster, and abundant strategically placed glazing.



HONOR
AWARD

RESIDENTIAL DESIGN

Broadway

Santa Monica, California

ARCHITECT:
Telemachus Studio
670 Moulton Avenue, Suite 5
Los Angeles, CA 90031

Carl Smith, AIA
Principal-in-Charge

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

Joel Aguilar

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

BAA Investments, Inc.

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:

BAA Investments, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER:

Angelus Block Company, Inc.

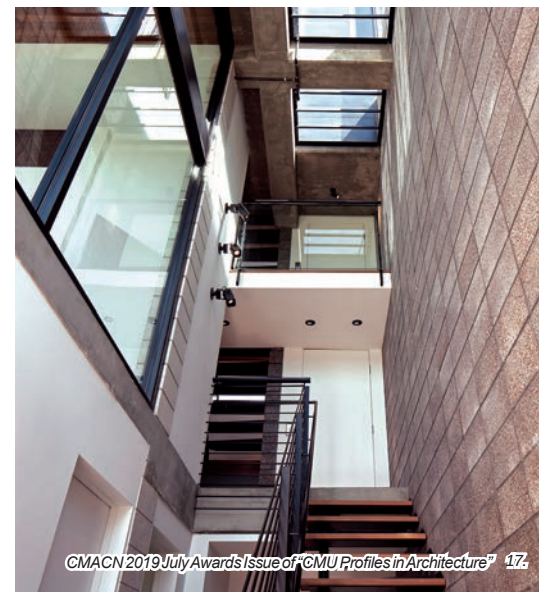
OWNER:

BAA Investments, Inc.

©PHOTOGRAPHY:

Tom Bonner Photography

***Jury Comments:** Tailored for a challenging urban location, this residence sets an example for successful compact vertical solutions on tight infill sites. As you circulate up and through the building it is an experiential journey through a sculptural space that terminates onto a fantastic roof terrace. CMU is essential to solving the construction of a difficult site and adds a warm and welcoming human scale to both the interior and exterior.*



ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: Set on an extremely small, 29-foot by 50-foot commercial lot in the city of Santa Monica, this project presented an unusual set of development challenges. Parking requirements associated with commercial and multi-family use meant this site could only be developed as a single-family residence. Given the commercial zone required minimal front and side setbacks, but allowed significant height, the only choice was up.



This four-story house has all building functions arranged vertically on seven individual occupiable levels. The building steps back as it goes up to allow exterior space at almost every level. Private spaces are placed near the bottom allowing the public living space to open toward the exterior as you move up. The top level provides an open roof deck and observation level with 360-degree views.

WHY MASONRY? The building site is mid-block on a busy street with no alley. The city of Santa Monica would not allow sidewalk or lane closures, removing the ability to use a crane for any part of the construction. All building components needed to be designed for hand-carry to the upper levels of the project. Further, both adjacent buildings have minimal side yards, preventing scaffolding on either side of the building to construct the required fire-rated walls.

Concrete masonry units (CMUs) were the clear choice for the construction on the lower levels of the house. This allowed fire rated construction, built entirely from our side of the property line, all the way up to the 3rd floor. Burnished charcoal-colored CMUs were used for the public side of the building, and burnished white-colored CMUs were used to soften and distinguish the more private areas of the house.

ARCHITECT:
Architects Orange
144 North Orange Street
Orange, CA 92866

Jeff Rabbitt, Partner
Principal-in-Charge

Pedram Shokati
Lead Designer

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
AES Consulting Engineers

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
CM Corp

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Pro Structural, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER:
Angelus Block Company, Inc.

OWNER:
Birtcher Anderson Realty, LLC

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Jeri Koegel Photography

HONOR
AWARD

RETAIL DESIGN

Starbucks Fullerton Towers Fullerton, California



ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: The intended program to create drive-thru Starbucks for busy professionals at a highly visible intersection presented an opportunity to reawaken the apex of drive-in culture. Designed to complement the iconic Fullerton Towers office complex, the resulting café exudes all the cool and polished charm of mid-century modernism while employing cutting-edge construction techniques.

Breezy palm-themed landscaping and the drive-thru loop lane buffer the Starbucks oasis from the congested public intersection. The main street frontage offers a subtly textured façade, decorative lighting patterns, and modernist horizontal canopies punctuating rectilinear forms. Decorative steel columns sport groovy fins that form a rhythmic colonnade. Supported by the columns, a deep, oval shaped structure offers an inviting canopy which faces the quieter parking lot frontage. An ornamental palm tree shoots toward the sky through an offset circular cut-out within the canopy, symbolizing the optimism of the era. Underneath the oval, an outdoor patio offers a variety of designer seating arrangements, from lounge seating to communal dining, which encourage intimate and lively gatherings alike. Large anodized aluminum storefront systems contribute visual and physical connections which echo the connection between indoor and outdoor environments of midcentury modernism.

WHY MASONRY? The coffee shop's tonally captivating façades result from the precise application of two different concrete masonry unit (CMU) patterns. White CMU walls provide a smooth canvas to slate-colored precast projected CMU walls which bracket the building and cast dynamic shadow patterns that shift throughout the day. In design and execution, this effervescent coffee shop is an ideal addition to the historic Fullerton Towers.

Jury Comments: The jury applauds the effort to create architecture with a capital "A" for what is often bland cookie-cutter retail solutions. The site context is thoughtfully considered, as the building turns its back on the road while creating covered outdoor seating protected from moving cars on the opposite side. The carefully chosen patterns used in the CMU raise the level of interest on the details. It is an unusual, but delightful, free-standing Starbucks - modern and architecturally clean.



The Jury

The Jury is comprised of a Base Jury of three leading architects from across the nation selected by AIACA and a Sustainable Design Award Jury which is comprised of two professionals significantly involved in the promotion of sustainability in California or Nevada. The Jury has the duty to view projects, remain impartial, and select winning entries that best exemplify outstanding sustainable architectural design incorporating concrete masonry construction.

The Distinguished Base Jury for the 2019 Concrete Masonry Design Awards Program includes:



Head Juror: Joyce Owens, FAIA, RIBA

Joyce Owens FAIA, RIBA, a University of Notre Dame graduate, left her London-based practice after 15 years in the UK and relocated to Florida in 2004 - just after her firm was named in the 13 Top Emerging Architectural Practices in the UK

(Architectural Review - April 2002).

She established Architecture Joyce Owens LLC in 2007. The work of her firms has garnered attention and international publicity for numerous award-winning buildings & designs appropriate for their place.

Joyce was the 2017 AIA Florida President, and in recognition of her commitment to the profession, she was elevated to Fellowship in 2018. For a number of years, Joyce was the Architectural Columnist for local Gannet Papers and USA Today's 10Best, writing about appropriate buildings and good design.



Timothy C. Hawk, FAIA

As a leader and innovative practitioner, Timothy Hawk, FAIA, has increased design awareness in a mid-sized city and advanced knowledge exchange among architects and allied professionals through improved digital access, collaborative models, and educational programming.

Hawk is the President of AIA Ohio Gold Medal firm, WSA Studio in Columbus, and has been an architectural educator for more than twenty years. Currently, Hawk is an At-Large Director on the AIA National Board and a Director and the AIA Liaison on the National Board for the American Institute of Architecture Students.



Shannon Christensen, AIA, NCARB, LEED® AP BD+C

Shannon Christensen, AIA, is an Associate Principal at CTA Architects Engineers, a multi-disciplinary firm with over 470 team members in 14 offices. She joined CTA's Billings, Montana office in 2006 after receiving her Master of Architecture degree from Montana

State University. She currently manages the 40-person Billings architectural team and leads CTA's project management initiative.

Shannon has served as AIA Montana Associate Director and the AIA Northwest and Pacific Region Young Architect Regional Director. She received the AIA's 2017 Young Architects Award and served on the 2019 AIA Architecture Awards jury.

In Addition to the Base Jury, The Distinguished Sustainable Jury for the 2019 Concrete Masonry Design Awards Program includes:



Stephan Castellanos, FAIA

Mr. Castellanos received a Bachelor of Architecture from CA State Polytechnic College in 1971. While with the AIA Sierra Valley, he served as Director from 1986-87, Treasurer from 1987-88, First VP/ President Elect in 1989 and as President in 1991. His accomplishments with the AIA

California Council include BOD from 1992-94 and 1997-2000, and Governmental Relations Legislative Committee from 1993-98. He served as Chair Diversity and Political Outreach Task Forces in 1994, Vice-President, Communication/Public Affairs from 1995-96, ARC PAC Board of Trustees from 1997-98, and Vice-Chair, California Hospital Building Safety Board from 1997-2000. He has also served as First Vice President and President of the AIACA from 2006-08, and was the AIACA Regional Director from 2006-08, and served on the board of C.H.P.S. Mr. Castellanos completed his term as AIACA Regional Director in 2009, and was president of the California Architecture Foundation in 2009.

Mr. Castellanos has also served on the AIA Board of Directors from 1998-2000, Board Rep., National AIA Diversity Conf. in 1998, as Chair, Committee on Licensing from 1998-2000, Chair, Interior Design Task Force in 1999, Intern Development Program (IDP) Commission Coordinating from 1998-2000, and as Secretary from 2000-2002. He served as California State Architect from 2001-04. His professional career includes Partner of Derivi Castellanos Architects 1979-2019.



Charles Eley, FAIA, P.E.

Charles Eley is an architect, mechanical engineer, and author with 40 years of experience in energy efficient and sustainable design. His latest book is *Design Professionals Guide to Zero Net Energy Buildings* (Island Press 2016). During his career, Mr. Eley has made significant contributions to the California energy standards,

ASHRAE Standard 90.1, and energy codes in Hong Kong, Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa and Australia. Mr. Eley worked as the lead consultant to the California Energy Commission to update the state energy efficiency standards for five code update cycles.

In addition to his energy codes and policy work, Mr. Eley has also developed a number of important technical manuals and publications. He has served as the founding executive director of the Collaborative for High Performance Schools and was the technical editor of the CHPS Best Practices Manual. He has also developed a number of energy analysis software applications and has served as energy consultant for a number of landmark green buildings.

Mr. Eley currently writes, serves on non-profit boards, provides specialized consulting, and teaches building energy efficiency and green technologies classes.



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