

C M U

Profiles in Architecture



This special issue features the winners of the

1998

Concrete Masonry Design Awards

The text includes excerpts from the architectural firm's description of the project and the actual jury comments delivered by Jury Chairman, Michael S. Watson, AIA

C M U*Profiles in Architecture***GRAND AWARD****PROJECT**

Art Foundation & Photo Studio
San Francisco, California

ARCHITECT

PFAU Architecture
630 3rd Street, Suite 200
San Francisco, California 94107

Jay Serrao,

Associate AIA

Ron Herman,

Landscape Designer

Matthew Millman,

Photographer

Santos & Urrutia,

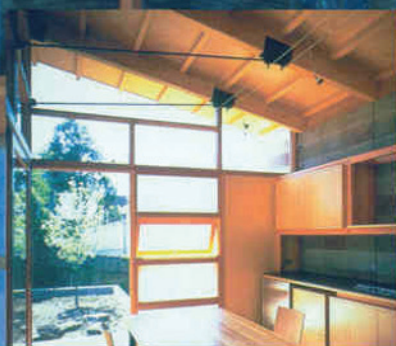
Structural Engineer

Caletti Construction,

Contractor

As an outgrowth of the client's keen involvement with their work and the local arts community, the program of this house is developed as a live/work loft, yet on the scale of the single family dwelling. A spatial unity between the interior and exterior of the building is realized as interior space is bounded by 12 inch concrete masonry walls at both ends, separated only by variable wood and glass windows. Integrally colored concrete masonry walls are employed as the fundamental space-making and structural elements. Unlike typical building practices today, this project revels in the expressive poetics latent in the nuts and bolts of construction and the honest straightforward use of materials.

The jury was simply delighted and excited with this project. It's clarity of purpose, space, and details are superb. It makes no apology in using the concrete masonry block. Its simple elegance, and its beauty, is in its craftsmanship. It was designed in an architect's mind, and clearly executed, no detail is overlooked. Its success lies in the extreme detailing and care. The woodwork and cabinetry never attempts to obscure the concrete block masonry. It's excellent in terms of execution, and has great quality. It also has a wonderful Japanese-like feel to it, yet a suburban feel as well. It is going to be a wonderful place to live . . . a superb project.



CMU *Profiles in Architecture***HONOR AWARD****PROJECT**

McCay Residence
Santa Barbara, California

ARCHITECT

Andy Neumann, Architect
888 Linden Avenue
Carpinteria, California 93013

Andy Neumann,
Principal Architect
David Mendro,
Project Architect
Wayne Labrie,
Architect
Mary B. O'Neil,
Architect

Mark Shields,
Design Consultant
Peter Carlson,
Interior Designer
Paul Franz Construction,
General Contractor
Ehlen & Spiess, Inc.,
Structural Engineer
Lloyd Bush,
Mechanical Engineer

Sally Farnum,
Landscape Architect
Wayne Covert
(Cal Western Landscape),
Landscape Contractor

Charlie Starbuck,
Cabinetmaker
Ambrose Meyer,
Doors & Windows
Pyramid Tile,
Limestone Wall

Harley Kelly & Tarek Neumann
(Windansea Welding),
Stainless Steel Railings
Farshid Assassi,
Photographer

The architect states that the inspiration for the design of this house arises from the powerful curve of the ocean cove and its gradual arc into the distance. In response, a gradually arcing concrete masonry wall with limestone cladding forms the spine of the house and extends beyond the structure at both ends of the house leading one through the house to the ocean. The massive masonry wall is 135 feet long, three feet six inches wide and 12 feet six inches high and is clad with cluny limestone panels. This spine also serves to divide the house into two wings: public and private. Besides serving as the major design element, it serves as the main structural element supporting the floating roof.

The jury felt that this project was opposite in almost every way in comparison to the Smith/Jewett Loft. It's opulent, yet its value is equal to that of the loft. The jury also felt and I quote, "Although it covers the concrete block, it is very accepted. The use of rich materials is very poetic. The architect uses the opportunity of opening up to the pacific, and grabs it. The divider wall works exceptionally well, drawing one inside and out toward the ocean. The architect made sure that each room that needed a view, had one. The plan and layout is very well done, and the result is simply beautiful."

C M U*Profiles in Architecture***HONOR AWARD****PROJECT**

Smith/Jewett Loft
Venice Beach, California

ARCHITECT

Thomas Carson Architects

Thomas Carson, AIA, NCARB

This project required the architect to design a three bedroom, one-half bath loft with a painting studio. Also attached is a one bedroom, one bath rental unit. The program called for the maximum amount of space on a minimal budget.

Concrete block masonry offered a "one-step" construction method and provided an interior and exterior finish in one step. Given the client's use of color in his paintings, the gray and charcoal block was utilized to provide a neutral background for his art.

The jury felt this project was simply outstanding. Its duo warehouse for living and the studio for painting work very well. It is a space that will accept a great deal of things or people. The jury also felt, and I quote, "The use of concrete block masonry, in the interior and exterior, give this project an almost silken and noble quality. It is both austere and, yet poetic. It's great in its context, and uses its urban landscape to its full advantage by exposing the concrete block masonry both inside and outside."



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MERIT AWARD

PROJECT

Pleasanton Community
Aquatic Center
Pleasanton, California

ARCHITECT

ELS/Elbasani & Logan Architects
2040 Addison Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

Donn Logan, FAIA

The architect's challenge was to enlarge a modest swim facility into a larger community-wide aquatic center. Concrete Masonry Units were selected as the primary building material for their structural and aesthetic flexibility. On the wall facing the pool, alternating bands of exposed earth colored block were chosen for their warmth and simple expression. Although not exposed, the concrete block masonry entry offered an inexpensive and structurally sound solution for shaping the curving wall.

The jury was impressed with the conceptual layout of this project. The jury also felt, and I quote, "The architect did an excellent job of taking the existing conditions and transforming an ordinary facility into something special. The transformation was very strong. The bold use of color was not overdone, and was done in a very nice way. It is a simple idea, and a wonderful addition over what the architect started with."

This issue of CMU Profiles in Architecture features the winners of the 1998 Concrete Masonry Design Competition cosponsored by the Concrete Masonry Association of California and Nevada and the American Institute of Architects California Conference. The CMU Profiles in Architecture is published four times per year and features projects which incorporate the use of concrete masonry units in their design. It is distributed throughout California and Northern Nevada to architects. If you have not received this publication in the past and would like to receive future issues, please fax, mail, Email or call us and we will include you in our mailing list.

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

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

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