

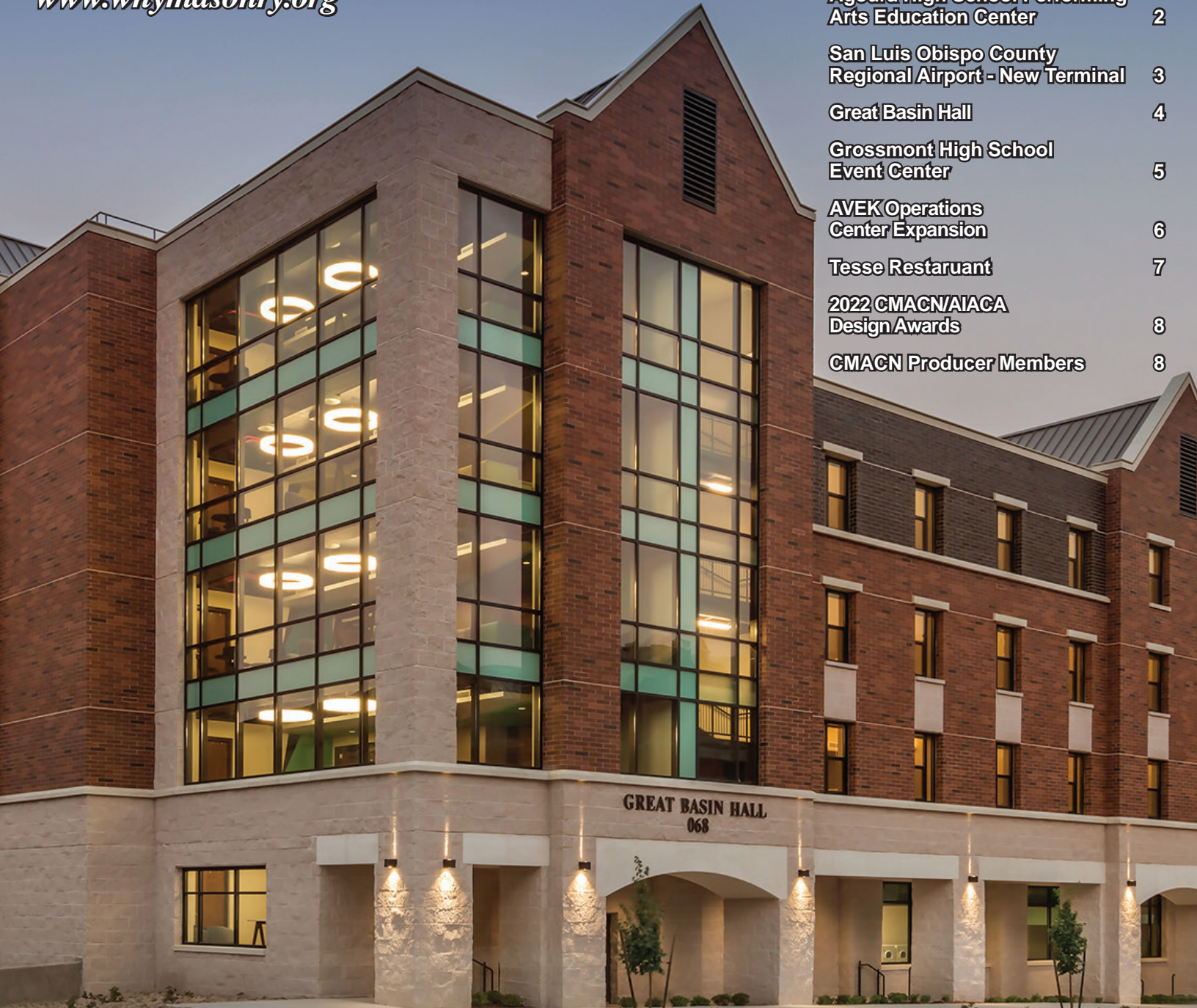
Profiles in Architecture

April 2021

Why Masonry?
www.whymasonry.org

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Vance Fox Photography

Agoura High School Performing Arts Education Center

Agoura Hills, California



ARCHITECT:
John Sergio Fisher &
Associates, Inc.

5567 Reseda Boulevard, Suite 209
Los Angeles, CA 91356

John Fisher, AIA
Principal-in-Charge

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
KPF Consulting Engineers

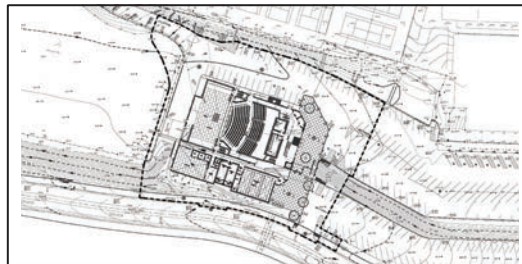
GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
S.C. Anderson, Inc.

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Frazier Masonry Corporation

BLOCK PRODUCER:
ORCO Block & Hardscape

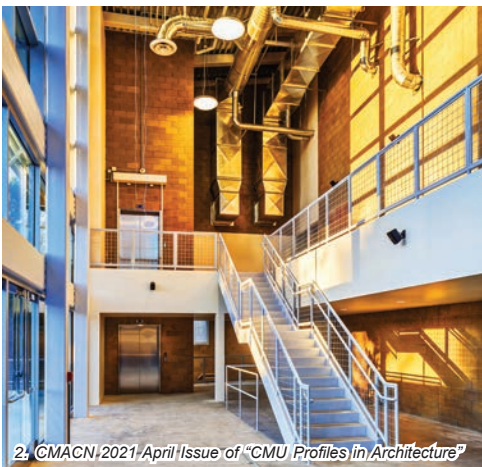
OWNER:
Las Virgenes Unified School District

PHOTOGRAPHY:
Ciro Coelho Photography



ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: The Agoura High School Performing Arts Education Center contains a 660-seat main theatre and 100-seat black box theatre support spaces. It was designed so that the juxtaposition of the curved roofs and lobby glazing creates an icon that serves as a beacon for the arts at the campus entrance.

WHY MASONRY? The building is acoustically ideal with the high curving exposed ceilings/roofs and concrete masonry unit (CMU) bearing walls which allow for long reverberation times for orchestras. Adjustable acoustics are achieved by means of moving draperies dampening the sound for drama and sound systems. CMU is a favorite for all of our performance facilities for three main reasons. The first reason is acoustical. The heavy mass of the CMU provides sound attenuation both externally and internally; the mass also prevents low frequency vibration (flutter) during music performances. The second reason is for achieving green building, whether it is LEED® or other sustainable programs, not only because it is locally manufactured, but also because of its thermal capacity that allows for time lag. The coolness of the evening is stored for release during the heat of the day and vice versa. The third reason is we love the look of running bond masonry walls, including the color choices, which made sure this new building works very well with the pre-existing colors on campus. In addition, the CMU not only gives a solid/durable look, but is also maintenance free. Structurally the CMU also provides bearing walls to make the construction simpler and faster, without the necessity of steel column and base plate shop drawings.



San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport - New Terminal

San Luis Obispo, California



ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: The new 57,651-square-foot terminal at San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport features state of the art lighting and controls, a unique open-air courtyard connecting the landside and airside portions of the terminal building, and glass-sided passenger boarding bridges. The exterior of the building is a combination of glass, stone, and concrete masonry units (CMUs) for economy and durability. The building's energy performance is in accordance with the local building code and CA Title 24, and performs to LEED® Gold standards.

WHY MASONRY? To facilitate passenger circulation between the Airport's main parking lot and the new terminal, the project includes a vertical pedestrian circulation core consisting of a CMU retaining wall, stairs, an ADA compliant ramp, a single cab elevator, and sidewalks.

Immediately behind the terminal's landside building is an open-air courtyard connecting to the airside building. CMUs are used extensively throughout the courtyard to express the outdoor aesthetic and natural beauty of San Luis Obispo area. In addition to this public-facing use of CMUs, much of the non-public exterior and interior of the building also utilizes CMUs. The flexibility, appearance, economy, and durability of CMUs makes them a particularly important part of the overall project.

ARCHITECT:
RS&H, Inc.

369 Pine Street, Suite 610
San Francisco, CA 94104

Joe Jackson, Vice President
Micahel Spitzier, AIA, Vice President
Principals-in-Charge

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
RS&H, Inc.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Q&D Construction, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER:
Air Vol Block, Inc.

OWNER:
San Luis Obispo County

PHOTOGRAPHY:
Mark Nakamura - Bottom left and
bottom right photo
Dustin Wise, SLOtography - Top
three photos



ARCHITECT:

Van Woert Bigotti Architects
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Principal-in-Charge

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

Shields Engineering, Inc.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

CORE Construction

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:

Silver State Masonry

BLOCK PRODUCER:

Basalite Concrete Products, LLC

OWNER:

University of Nevada,
Reno - Residential Life

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Vance Fox Photography

Great Basin Hall

Reno, Nevada



ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: Great Basin Hall (GBH) is a new 115,000-square-foot, 411-bed, STEM residence hall at The University of Nevada, Reno. The building site is adjacent to two historic, seminal buildings of the original campus — the Old Gym and Lincoln Hall, built in 1938 and 1896, respectively. Red brick serves as a thematic design premise and material requirement at the University. Consequently, the material can be seen across many of the campus buildings. GBH takes its main aesthetic clue from Lincoln Hall with its iconic red brick

walls, stone foundation, and gabled roof form. GBH's profile echoes the "top, middle, base" design element prevalent in many of the campus's historic buildings. The building starts as a five-story structure to the north where it is adjacent to the Old Gym, and terraces to the south down to three stories where it relates comfortably with historic Lincoln Hall.

WHY MASONRY? One of the most unique features of GBH is the "stone" base, which comprises one third of the façade. Originally, the design called for stone to emulate the base of Lincoln Hall, but when the budget could not accommodate the design decisions, the architect sought an alternate solution. The architect, mason, and block manufacturer collaborated to develop a 12"x16"x4" split face white cement concrete masonry unit (CMU) veneer for the "base" of the building. These CMUs were the perfect choice for the project with their durability, ease of construction, and economical cost, resulting in the use of 169,173 CMUs in the entire structure. This creative solution saved the client \$500,000 and cemented its relationship architecturally with Lincoln Hall. Upon its completion, the project received a LEED® Gold certification. GBH serves a testament to creativity, collaboration, and history, and can now await its place in history.



Grossmont High School Event Center

El Cajon, California



ARCHITECT:
Sprotte + Watson Architecture
and Planning, Inc.
450 South Melrose Drive, Suite 200
Vista, CA 92081

Patty Sprotte, AIA, AOR
Principal-in-Charge

Joe Kelly, LEED® AP
Senior Project Architect

Karyn Malmgren, LEED® AP
Project Architect/Designer

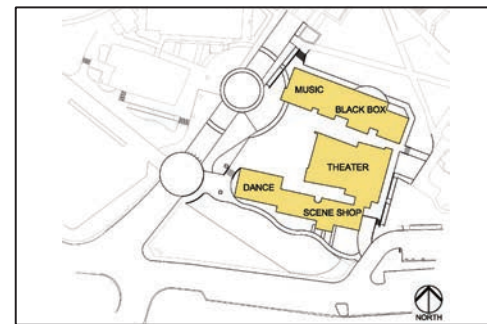
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Wiseman + Rohy Structural Engineers

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER:
Erickson-Hall Construction, Co.

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Nexgen Building Group, Inc.
Cleavanger Masonry

BLOCK PRODUCER:
RCP Block & Brick, Inc.

OWNER:
Grossmont Union High School District
©PHOTOGRAPHY:
Pablo Mason Photography



ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: The recently finished Grossmont High School Events Center is the final phase of a now complete design - forming a dramatic gateway into this well-known campus. Both phases of the total project are composed of five buildings totaling 46,527 square feet. Building porticos welcome students and parents to an array of Student Services, Art Classes, and Performing Arts facilities. The Events Center is anchored by a 475-seat Theater. Located on opposite sides of the Theater are two classroom wings, providing spaces for Choral Studies, a Digital Music Lab, a Black Box Theater, a Dance Studio, a Scene Shop, and the required support spaces. A strong sense of place is created by the juxtaposition of the building forms and pedestrian spaces. Students enter into the campus environment through a series of plazas and courtyards connected by sloped walks and ramps interspersed with shade trees and lush green planters.



WHY MASONRY? The overall design of the complex has continuity with a simple clean aesthetic, combining a contemporary treatment of smooth exterior plaster, concrete masonry units (CMUs), curtain wall, and high-performance glazing. CMUs were found to be a sustainable product that worked well with the District's construction budget, while the architect recognized CMUs as ideal for the building envelope and structural system use. The Structural Engineer preferred the system of CMUs (providing load-bearing and shear walls) with a steel frame roof - allowing for longer spans without interior columns. Additional attractive aspects about utilizing CMUs were its permanent quality and its minimal maintenance requirements over the life of the building. For educational facilities such as the Events Center, the heavy mass of the CMUs is another advantage, helping to mitigate unwanted noise pollution from the nearby freeway, successfully acoustically isolating the interior of the Theater and learning spaces from disruption.

ARCHITECT:
Antelope Valley
Engineering, Inc.
129 West Pondera Street
Lancaster, CA 93534

John W. Svalbe
Principal-in-Charge

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Antelope Valley Engineering, Inc.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Cal-City Construction

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Schaffer Masonry, Inc.

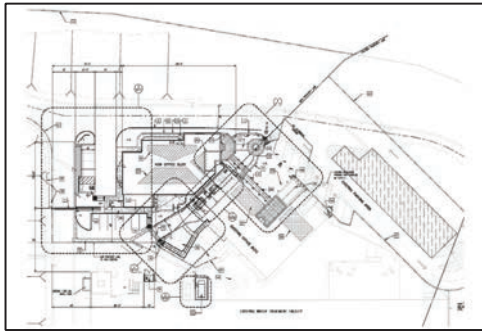
BLOCK PRODUCER:
Angelus Block Company, Inc.

OWNER:
AVEK

©PHOTOGRAPHY:
Cal City

AVEK Operations Center Expansion

Palmdale, California



ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: The Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) is the third largest State Water Project Contractor in California. They encompass 2,300-square miles in the Mojave Desert area and include over twenty municipal users. They also serve as one of the state's Department of Water Resources watermasters.

AVEK was seeking to expand its administration operations. Any new expansion was required to be adjacent to their existing Administration Building and be accessible both from the existing building and parking area. The only available area was a hillside triangular site to the east with views of the valley. The new building would be the first structure seen entering the facility.

WHY MASONRY? The new building needed to complement the existing building, achieve LEED® Gold certification, and be adequately sized for future growth. The required spaces in the new building include Board of Directors offices and Conference Room, a Board Room for public hearings, and a new laboratory. The Conference Room and Board Room needed to have views overlooking the valley. The laboratory needed a public entrance, directly from the outside, separate from the main building entrance. It was decided that the main level, or upper level, would be occupied by the offices, Conference Room and Board Room while the lower level would contain the laboratory and lab offices.

The existing building is constructed with poured in place concrete and standing seam metal roof panels. Due to the difficulty of the site's shape and limited access, concrete masonry unit (CMU) block was chosen as the primary building material for its aesthetics, durability and sustainability. Various shades of grey textured CMU block were selected to complement the existing building and be aesthetically pleasing. This project achieved LEED® Gold certification with the use of sustainable design, recycled materials, CMU block manufactured nearby, energy conserving equipment, and low water fixtures.



Tesse Restaurant

West Hollywood, California



ARCHITECT:
Preen Inc.

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Los Angeles, CA 90012

Alexis Readinger
Principal-in-Charge

ASSOCIATE ARCHITECT:
Ozzi Design

Oswaldo Maiozzi
Principal-in-Charge

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Barling Construction

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Barling Construction

BLOCK PRODUCER:
Angelus Block Company, Inc.

OWNER:
LA Restaurant Group

©PHOTOGRAPHY:
Brandon Barré Photography - Top,
left, and right column photos
Augusta Quirk Photography -
Middle center photo



ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: The restaurant is a refined, relaxed, and earthy Los Angeles outpost featuring a take on French classics and the California bounty of the land. The restaurant is part of a Sunset Boulevard renewal that partners retail, hotel, and restaurant, attracting a plethora of visitors from all over the world. Paired with an internal wine shop, the restaurant brings a casual, serious kitchen back to the well known Sunset Strip area of West Hollywood.

The restaurant talks to Laurel Canyon circa 1979. The design draws the mood from a sensual moment in time – back when parents got ready for a night at the disco. The mood is warm, it's wood, it's pink terra block, it's mellow – it's all things sultry, graced by an awakening of the night and a much earlier Los Angeles.

WHY MASONRY? Created in partnership with an iconic clothing shop of Southern California, the restaurant presents a brand conceived as the darker, wilder partner to the clothing brand's classic SoCal Americana. Drawing from their white concrete masonry units (CMUs) and trained ivy, the restaurant façade matches and deviates with thickened pink terra CMUs and deeply embedded greenery walls that breathe life into this striking Los Angeles retreat.

Flaunting CMUs, the restaurant is beautiful inside and out, with the rare ease of a space that has no transition from public to private. It is the same, from the deeply textured, turned and sometimes twisted façade to the interior face. It is the same wall, the same language, making the restaurant welcoming and warm. It repackages wine and gorgeous food and the spirit of terroir into its language, literally turning hospitality inside out. Outwardly, this pixelated CMU façade signifies terroir, blinking back out to the pixelated billboard environment of the Sunset Strip, a message of California depth, beauty and inclusion for all to come and enjoy.



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NOTE: Some photos may have been altered to fit the page format.

