



Profiles in Architecture

Summer 2024
Design Awards Edition

Why Masonry?
www.whymasonry.org



*Grand Award, Education Design
Pacific Sky School
obrARCHITECTURE, inc.
Photo by Greg Epstein*



2024

Concrete Masonry Design Awards

Text includes excerpts from each architectural firm's description of the project and jury comments delivered by Jury Chairperson, Timothy Hawk, AIA.



*Grand Award, Public/Civic Design
Anthony Munoz
Community Center
Robert R. Coffee Architect
and Associates
Photo by RMA Architectural
Photographers*

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.

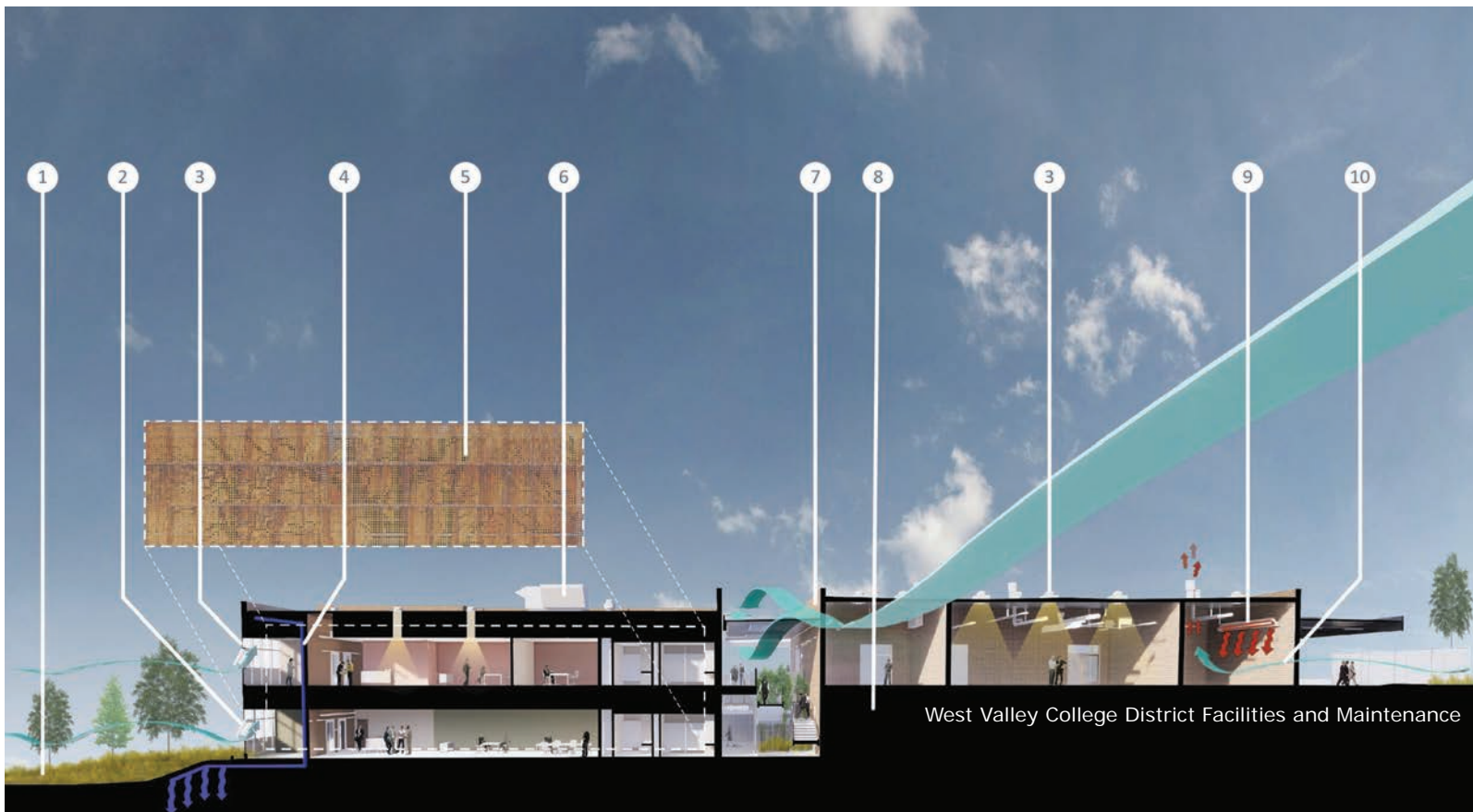
1 Healthy, safe, and secure. Good indoor air quality is essential. It requires minimizing pollutant sources and providing adequate ventilation and air filtration. Using concrete masonry construction is smart; indoor air quality is optimized for occupants because integrally colored concrete masonry materials 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, 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

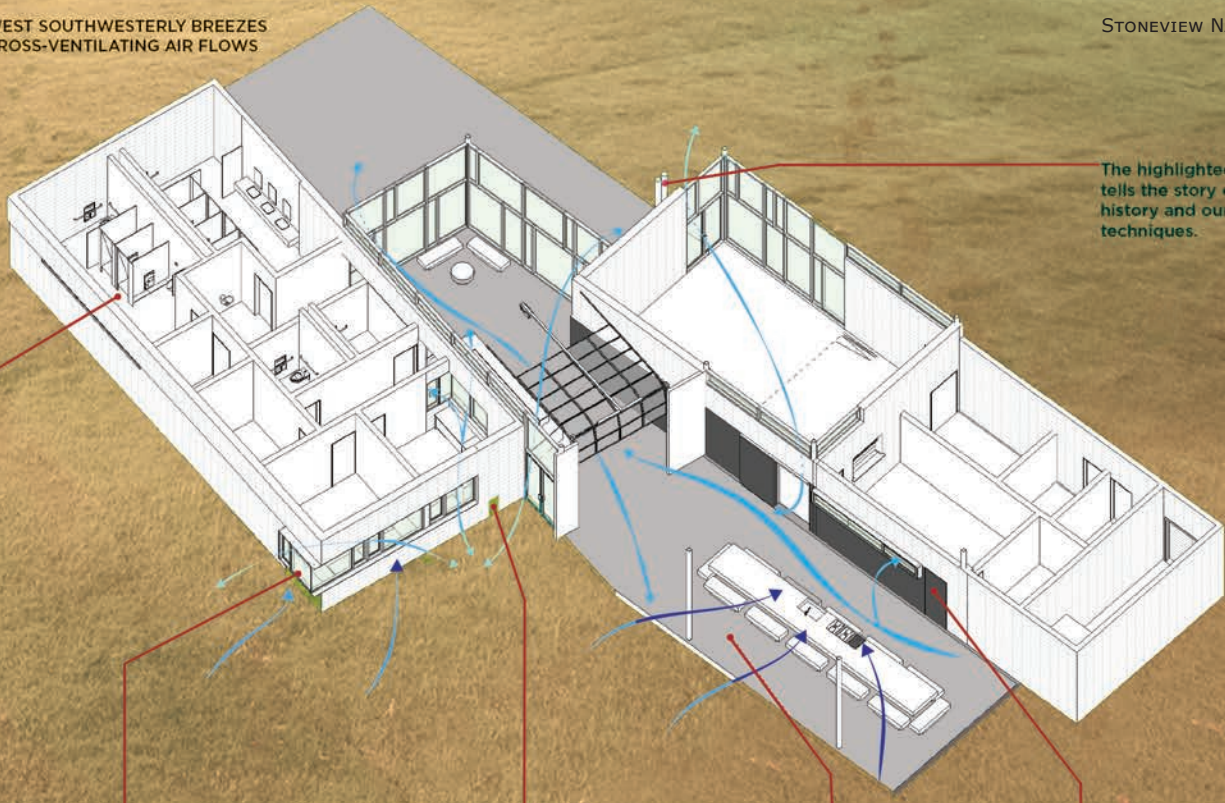
- 1 Native Planting Reduces Water Use by 50%
- 2 Operable Windows for All Office Spaces
- 3 Natural Daylighting for 100% of Occupiable Spaces

- 4 100% Stormwater Treated on Site Through Bioswales
- 5 Integral Sun Shading with Abstracted Organic Pattern
- 6 Efficient Energy Performance 42% Better than Baseline

- 7 Thermal Massing of CMU
- 8 Building Leverages Existing Topography Reducing Regrading of Site
- 9 Radiant Heating in Shops
- 10 Natural Ventilation in Shops Through Louvers and Fans



LEED Gold Certification



The highlighted methane pipe tells the story of our site's unique history and our remediation techniques.

The project is designed with **sustainability at the core**: waterless urinals, gray water reuse, bioswales, and a retention basin are a few of those components.

Operable windows give users the ability to control their local environment and consume less energy. A breathing building, the project features windows and doors carefully located to maximize cross-ventilation and encourage the overlapping and intermingling of the various programmatic spaces.

Materials are recycled, local and naturally finished: local block, concrete with fly ash, and recycled lumber. Asphalt and brick from the existing buildings are reused as the base course for the parking lots and trails.

The Community Porch, an indoor-outdoor space, is designed to be pleasantly shaded during the hottest times of the day.

Walls become more than just walls, integrating programmatic functions. They feature chalkboards, sliding doors that bridge indoor and outdoor spaces, and pegboards that display garden tools for borrowing.

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 intrinsic 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.

ARCHITECT:
Dunbar Architecture
12314 La Maida Street
Valley Village, CA 91607

Jen Dunbar, AIA, LEED® AP
Principal-in-Charge

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT:
EPTDESIGN

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Structural Focus

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Swinerton

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Trademark Concrete Systems, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER:
Angelus Block Company, Inc.

OWNER:
Los Angeles Arboretum
Foundation, Inc.

©PHOTOGRAPHY:
SKA Studios, LLC

25 YEAR
AWARD

PUBLIC/CIVIC DESIGN

Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden Gate House Building

Arcadia, California



Jury Comments: *This is a calming, beautiful building. The gently sloping mid-century roof form directs views to and connects the building to the courtyard while it allows plenty of natural light to flood the interior space. The building also benefits from the raked joint application, which furthers its connection to the landscape and provides timeless appeal.*



ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: The Gate House building at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, designed by the Los Angeles architectural firm of Allison & Rible, was constructed in 1956 as the primary entry point and ticketing counter for the gardens. The adjacent Administration building, designed simultaneously with the Gate House, was completed shortly after the Gate House and received an award from the Concrete Masonry Association in 1956.



WHY MASONRY? Originally consisting of a small, concrete masonry unit (CMU) building at one end of an expansive, low-pitched, exposed wood framed roof that was supported by two free standing CMU walls on the other end, the building was completely enclosed in 1983 to accommodate a gift shop. The original south facing windows and paneling were covered along with the original ticket windows. The original covered pavilion space was enclosed along with the opened trellis framing at the north end of the roof.

In addition to removing the walls that enclosed the original open-air pavilion, work to rehabilitate the building back to its original configuration consisted of infilling openings in the CMU walls from previous mechanical, electrical, and plumbing penetrations of the later remodels. Where new replacement infill occurred, matching the original size of the material and the horizontal raking of the mortar joints was continued in order to maintain the intentional horizontality of the courses. The original freestanding walls supporting the roof at the north end were structurally retied to the roof for seismic stability, allowing the building to return to its original open pavilion design.

The interior functional aspect of the Gate House as a ticketing and information desk was rehabilitated to accommodate additional staff and an accessible ticketing counter for visitors. Interior CMU was left exposed wherever possible, which allowed maximization of the small interior spaces.



MERIT
AWARD

COMMERCIAL DESIGN

Sangiaco Flynn Building, Meals on Wheels San Francisco San Francisco, California



ARCHITECT:
Jackson Liles Architecture
2325 Third Street, Suite 206
San Francisco, CA 94107

Julie Jackson, AIA
Brian Liles, AIA
Principals-in-Charge

Katie Gollup, AIA
Project Architect

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
KPFF Consulting Engineers

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Plant Construction
Company, L.P.

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
John Jackson Masonry

BLOCK PRODUCER:
Basalite Concrete Products, LLC

OWNER:
Meals on Wheels San Francisco

PHOTOGRAPHY:
Craig Cozart Photography



Jury Comments: *The entry façade is well done. There is great use of material to express the mass and the façade is proportioned to improve the aesthetic. The use of shading devices helps with potential heat gain. On the interior, there is nice access to a daylit stair from the lobby. The building benefits from good, clean craftsmanship.*



ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: Completed in 2020, the Sangiaco Flynn Building is a bold and modern example of industrial architecture, housing a cutting-edge kitchen that serves as the vibrant heart of Meals on Wheels San Francisco (MOWSF). Confronted with the challenge of an irregularly shaped site and the necessity to integrate an active loading dock, a welcoming pedestrian entrance, and a safe van loading zone within a confined urban space, this two-story, 36,000-square-foot project seamlessly blends functionality with bold aesthetics.

The \$41 million endeavor was made possible through a combination of New Market Tax Credit financing, private donations, and government funding. Despite stringent budget constraints, the project was completed under budget, standing as a testament to innovation, sustainability, and fiscal responsibility. Thanks to the dedication of the project team and the invaluable guidance of MOWSF, the Sangiaco Flynn Building is poised to make a lasting impact on the community it serves.

WHY MASONRY? Drawing inspiration from the organization's spirited ethos and dedication to seniors, the building mirrors Meals on Wheels San Francisco's dynamic visual identity, infusing the industrial landscape with bursts of vivid green against an armature of dark grey ground face concrete masonry units (CMUs). The strategic use of varying CMU widths not only enhances the exterior visual appeal but also ensures durability, while ground face CMUs provide sophisticated materiality to interior public areas.

Embracing sustainability at its core, the project utilizes the concrete masonry units as a cornerstone of its sustainable approach by providing a single system for structure, enclosure, and interior finish, while promising longevity and minimal maintenance for the non-profit organization. Furthering its commitment to environmental stewardship, the project utilizes the thermal mass of the CMUs along with efficient HVAC systems and a photovoltaic system to surpass California Title 24 energy standards.



ARCHITECT:
obrARCHITECTURE, inc.
2419 El Cajon
San Diego, CA 92104

Garrick Oliver
Principal-in-Charge

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

aark Engineering

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

Erickson-Hall Construction Co.

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:

Haxton Masonry, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER:

RCP Block & Brick, Inc.

OWNER:

Del Mar Union School District

©PHOTOGRAPHY:

Greg Epstein - Exteriors

Ian Patzke Photography - Interiors

GRAND
AWARD

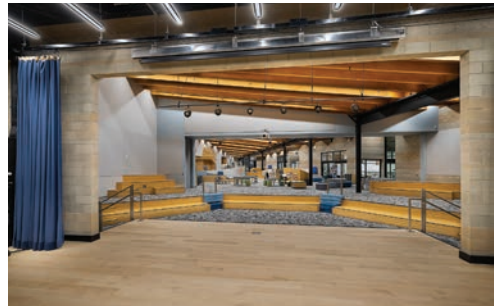
EDUCATION DESIGN

Pacific Sky School

San Diego, California



Jury Comments: *The jury felt that this building created a place, a landscape to explore within the existing context. There is a thoughtful combination of concrete masonry units at the base with a light butterfly mass timber roof, and the wood adds warmth to the palette. The masonry is detailed well and there is a sophisticated application of color that brings richness to the project. On the interior, beautiful detailing is continued, and the potential to experience spaces through the planning elevates this project to be an elegant solution, both inside and out.*

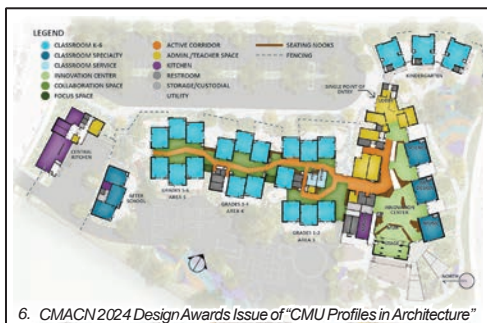


ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: This 65,000-square-foot K-6 elementary school is located on a 10-acre site, housing approximately 450 students. The building's aesthetic is inspired by the site's neighboring canyon. Concrete masonry units (CMUs), exposed heavy timber structure, and ample glazing have been selected not only for their durability and functionality, but also as a natural connection to the site, with indoor and outdoor learning spaces and biophilic interventions.

Classrooms and supporting spaces are within one building, allowing dual use of circulation as extended learning space, with flexible gathering, reading, and tinkering spaces folded into a larger innovation space. Typical classroom size is reduced to maximize flexibility with glass doors that open to interior and exterior.

WHY MASONRY? CMUs are a dominant building material, efficiently used for thermal mass as well as finish. With a striated, textured pattern, the use of CMUs connects back to nature. Major openings in the building function as carvings through the masonry walls, like water rushing through a canyon, with beautifully exposed sedimentary layers.

Designing for sustainability, the project complies with CALGreen and CHPS "Design" standards and includes clerestory windows, skylights, and glazed walls for natural daylight and cross ventilation. Energy efficiency is achieved through rooftop solar, building material, and mechanical, plumbing, and electrical components throughout the project. The flooring is polished concrete as well as carpet with recycled material. All finishes meet or exceed the requirements for low VOC levels. Large overhangs support lower heat gain and continue the wood finish and CMUs to the exterior. Water conservation is also celebrated through low-water use, native planting, and reclaimed water for irrigation. Stormwater bioretention areas complement hardscape play areas and allow students to cross-over and walk along them, interacting with the natural-scape.



HONOR
AWARD

EDUCATION DESIGN

Elliot N. Duchon Concert Hall

Jurupa Valley, California

ARCHITECT:
Architecture for Education,
Inc. (A4E)
41 North Fair Oaks Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91103

Rachel Adams
Olivia Graf Doyle

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Englekirk
GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Neff Construction, Inc.
MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
New Dimension Masonry, Inc.
BLOCK PRODUCER:
ORCO Block & Hardscape
OWNER:
Jurupa Unified School District
(JUSD)
PHOTOGRAPHY:
Inessa Binenbaum



Jury Comments: *The overall form is simple, yet each individual volume of the building is distinct and appealing in its own right. The application of the various materials and masonry detailing adds richness to the composition of the façades and leverages concrete masonry as a decorative material. The site is well integrated and allows the interior program to expand, and the interior spaces benefit from the strategic placement of the building in the landscape.*



ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: JUSD addressed Rubidoux High School's need for a dedicated performing arts venue after extensive input from students and faculty revealed the necessity for dedicated infrastructure for the music program, including band, orchestra, and choir. The new Elliott N. Duchon Concert Hall showcases JUSD's commitment to equity by providing top-tier amenities to an underserved community, offering specialized acoustics and flexible spaces for rehearsals and classes to enhance functionality and aesthetics.

Beyond serving as a venue for school performances, the Elliott N. Duchon Concert Hall serves as a cultural hub for the broader community, fostering collaboration between students and professional musicians. By providing access to high-quality facilities and fostering partnerships with local arts organizations, the hall enriches educational experiences and promotes a sense of belonging within the musical community.

WHY MASONRY? The architectural composition embodies the design philosophy of space through rhythm, with bold stripes of fluted concrete masonry unit (CMU) block and vibrant window frames creating a rhythmic pattern akin to musical notes. This motif extends to colored concrete stripes in the hardscape, enhancing the beauty of the CMU material. Inside, the CMU's texture contrasts with transparent glass, separated by a metal-clad overhang. The intentional visibility of the striped CMU ensures a seamless visual connection from all angles, accentuating the musical staff motif through strategic stacking and strong control joint lines. Additionally, protruding fluted CMU adds depth and movement to the façade, showcasing the dynamic function of the facility.

The attractiveness and versatility of CMU shaped the decision for inclusion, improving both the Hall's appearance and practicality. Its cost-effectiveness and natural acoustics, achieved through paneling, reinforce its energy efficiency and durability, confirming the choice. This decision seamlessly integrates form, function, and sustainability, enhancing the design's integrity and influence. The building's look uses CMU's inherent patterns and texture to depict movement, music, and the dynamic essence of the concert hall.



ARCHITECT:

VanWoert Bigotti Architects

1400 South Virginia Street,
Suite C
Reno, NV 89502

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

Shields Engineering, inc

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

CORE Construction

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:

Kemper Masonry

BLOCK PRODUCER:

Basalite Concrete Products, LLC

OWNER:

Great Basin College

©PHOTOGRAPHY:

Vance Fox Photography

HONOR
AWARD

EDUCATION DESIGN

*William N.
Pennington
Health, Science,
and Technology
Building
Winnemucca, Nevada*



Jury Comments: *This is a very nice project. It is well done in terms of the material application, scale, and form. Throughout the project there is thoughtful detailing, and the material application reflects the building's environment. On the interior, the application of wood is lovely, and these spaces benefit from shading considerations integrated into the form.*



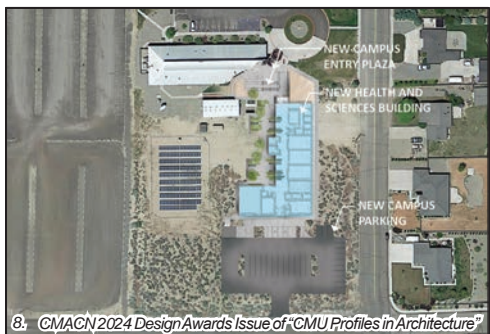
ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: Located in a small rural community in central Nevada, Great Basin College (GBC) hosts a small community college campus that now consists of two buildings. The first building, built with concrete masonry units (CMUs) in the 1980's, set a primary precedent for the campus. GBC requested that this Health Sciences and Technology building be designed to emphasize a stronger connection to the outdoors with a positive ambiance that would create more of a campus feel for the college while respecting the neighboring context.

This 16,000-square-foot building houses lab spaces, classrooms, and collaborative learning spaces. CMUs offered this project a simple yet interesting and cost-effective strategy to honor durability, permanence, and aesthetic integrity for both the campus and neighborhood context.

Sustainable features include: maximized daylight to reduce electrical demand, extended overhangs to reduce direct solar gain, efficient plumbing fixtures to reduce water use, utilized recycled content and low-emitting materials, low water use landscaping, use of CMUs for longevity, low life-cycle cost, and energy efficiency and use of local materials.

WHY MASONRY?

Concrete masonry units played a key role in the materials palette. This is the second building added to this campus in Winnemucca, Nevada. The building is situated on the east side of the campus along a residential street and adjacent to the other campus building composed of CMUs. Confronted with a tight budget, CMUs became a viable material to complement the adjacent building, provide a "quiet" yet appealing elevation facing the neighborhood, and offer a modern use of CMUs to the campus context. The main field of CMUs is ground-face charcoal with a pattern of randomly placed split-face and precision. Small vertical openings allow natural light in and views out while preserving the security of the school and a respectful non-invasive statement to the homes across the street. CMUs' durability, thermal mass, cost efficiency, and sound barrier characteristics provide structure, skin, sound isolation and respectable aesthetics for this state funded facility.



MERIT
AWARD

EDUCATION DESIGN

Del Oro High School Bakersfield, California



ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: Situated amidst the expansive agricultural canvas of Bakersfield, California, our vision for Del Oro High School emerged as a testament to sustainable innovation on a constrained budget. With a commitment to creating future-focused learning environments for 2,500 students at less than \$500 per square foot, our team designed a Zero Net Energy facility that transcends traditional educational paradigms. Drawing inspiration from the quilted landscape formed by the diverse farms viewed from above, Del Oro mirrors the collaborative essence of agriculture in education. Just as each subject contributes its unique value, the synthesis of science, engineering, art, and mathematics empowers students to achieve extraordinary feats. This analogy guides our design, fostering a holistic educational experience.

WHY MASONRY? Del Oro distinguishes itself through high-performance measures, surpassing Title 24 expectations and projecting a 20% improvement in performance. Innovative features include high-efficiency windows, exterior sunshades, cool roofs, and bioswales for stormwater management. Anticipating a remarkable 100 percent reduction in Energy Use Intensity (EUI), Del Oro strives to be the region's first Zero Net Energy High School. The campus achieves an efficient Lighting Power Density of 0.69 W/ft², exemplifying a conscientious approach to energy consumption. The commitment to carbon reduction goes beyond operational carbon with design choices that would also reduce embodied carbon. One example is the selection of the locally produced concrete masonry units that ensure durability and supports the goal of exceeding a 100-year facility lifespan. Del Oro stands as a beacon of sustainable architectural innovation, weaving together affordability, functionality, and ecological responsibility into the fabric of education's future.

ARCHITECT:
HMC Architects
201 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Suite 200
Solana Beach, CA 92075

James Krueger, AIA, NCARB
Principal-in-Charge

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Hohbach-Lewin, Inc.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
S.C. Anderson, Inc.

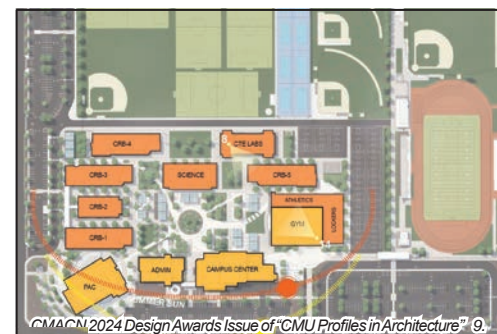
MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Bratton Masonry, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER:
Angelus Block Company, Inc.

OWNER:
Kern High School District

PHOTOGRAPHY:
Lawrence Anderson Photography

Jury Comments: *The masonry material, its scale, diversity of texture, and detailing make this building an excellent solution, and together, the materials tell an effective story which clarifies entry and brings understanding to the massing. As a campus concept, the architects put a lot of thought into providing a consistent level of detail throughout which makes the building successful.*



ARCHITECT:
HPI Architecture
115 22nd Street
Newport Beach, CA 92663

Lawrence Frapwell
Principal-in-Charge

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
MHP Structural Engineers

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Tilden-Coil Constructors, Inc.

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Majestic Masonry, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER:
ORCO Block & Hardscape

OWNER:
Riverside Community College District

PHOTOGRAPHY:
RMA Architectural Photographers



Moreno Valley College Welcome Center

Moreno Valley, California



Jury Comments: *The application and creative use of masonry is tasteful and skillfully applied, with sophisticated detailing and clear articulation of the building's façade. The building also fits very well into its landscape and many of the creative moves are applied with a scale and color that reinforces the integration to the site context.*

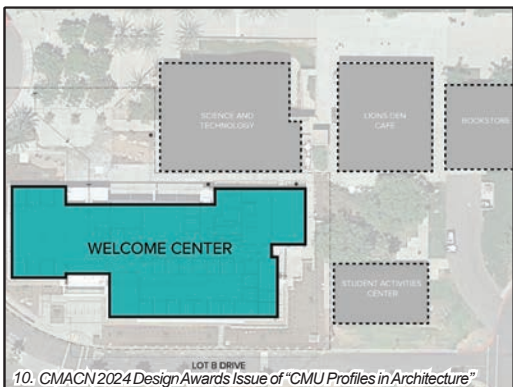


ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: The Welcome Center provides a place on campus to support the Student Services Department's mission of fostering student success. The building is designed to welcome students to the college, provide clear and easy wayfinding to service desks and departments, and allow staff and student ambassadors to easily assist first-time and returning students.

Spanning a single story and encompassing 17,300 square feet, the Welcome Center hosts a range of essential programs to the student population including Outreach, the Dream Center & First Year Experience, Admissions and Records/Cashier Services, Student Financial Services/Student Employment, Counseling, and the Common Ground Center, providing dedicated support for LGBTQ+, Umoja, and Puente communities.

WHY MASONRY? The building uses concrete masonry units (CMUs) in shades of natural gray and tan as well other complementary materials and textures to tie into the existing campus vernacular and surrounding landscape of Moreno Valley, California. CMUs, renowned for their durability, strength, and cost efficiency, serve as the foundation of the Welcome Center. The design of the Welcome Center integrates sustainable principles; from its energy-efficient design to its conscientious use of resources, every facet of the building integrates eco-conscious innovation. The thermal properties and sustainability credentials of CMUs, play a pivotal role in ensuring the building's environmental footprint remains minimal. It stands as a shining example of how architectural design can harmonize seamlessly with environmental stewardship.

Ultimately, the Welcome Center serves as the new front door of Moreno Valley College; a hub for collaboration, growth, and community building, ensuring a smooth journey for all MVC students.



10. CMAGN 2024 Design Awards Issue of "CMU Profiles in Architecture"

MERIT
AWARD

EDUCATION DESIGN

Pacific High School - Transportation and Advanced Technology Center

San Bernardino, California

ARCHITECT:
Ruhnau Clarke Architects
3775 Tenth Street
Riverside, CA 92501

Roger Clarke
Principal-in-Charge

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
RTM Engineering Consultants

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Oakview Constructors, Inc.

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Haxton Masonry, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER:
ORCO Block & Hardscape

OWNER:
San Bernardino City
Unified School District

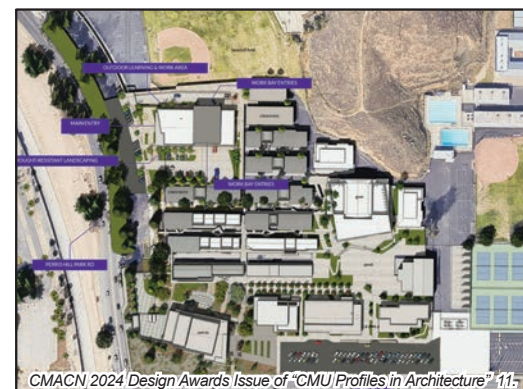
PHOTOGRAPHY:
RMA Architectural Photographers

Jury Comments: *This project is a great use of form and feels appropriate to the use, a transportation and advanced technology center. The use of masonry is straightforward, and the modularity of the material is well considered. The site lighting strategy highlights the texture of the concrete masonry, improving the visual interest and providing richness to the wall assembly.*



ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: As a community grappling issues of social and economic inequity, San Bernardino Unified School District's new facility is a beacon of hope and progress. Pacific High School's Transportation and Advanced Technology Center is designed to be a state-of-the-art facility to support career technical education. The center's placement on the site and strategic building construction reduces exterior heat transfer into the building, optimizing comfort. Continuous insulation along the footprint of the building through concrete masonry units (CMUs) add increased thermal resistance and performance. Materials and patterns such as perforated screens and variable depth CMUs reflect the industrial nature of the program while promoting energy and movement within and between spaces. The CMUs used along the exterior were a mix of precision and specifically placed projected block. The projected block protrudes out varying degrees to create a sense of visual movement across the façade reminiscent of water or waves, a prominent element of the school's beloved mascot (the Pirates).

WHY MASONRY? The District aimed for a minimum LEED® Silver Certification with focus on energy, environmental comfort, and building life-cycle. High efficiency electrical, lighting and mechanical systems and controls coupled with solar panels and naturally insulating CMUs help regulate the building's total energy consumption, achieving 20% below California's Title 24 minimum requirements. The CMUs selected also protect against abrasion and frequent cleaning to increase durability and help with air quality control which contributes to student comfort and increased productivity. CMUs with their low embodied energy provide a multi-functional system of sustainability and resilience with the most minimal of materials. Additionally, the CMUs were locally sourced, reducing both transportation costs and minimizing environmental pollution. Consideration was given to providing a high tech, "clean" environment where students can feel that they are immersed in a sophisticated facility where state of the art learning and research can occur, as opposed to a repair garage/shop.

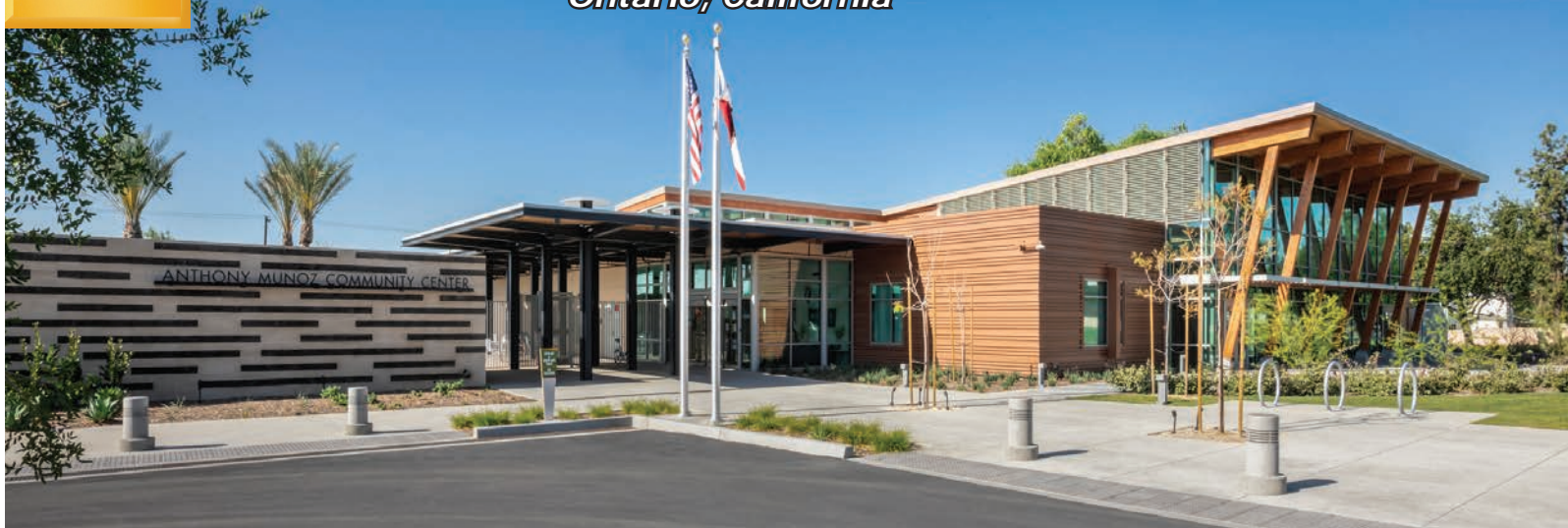


GRAND
AWARD

PUBLIC/CIVIC DESIGN

Anthony Munoz Community Center

Ontario, California



ARCHITECT:
**Robert R. Coffee Architect
and Associates**
183 McKellar Road
Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Robert Coffee
Principal-in-Charge

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Nelson Consulting Engineers
GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Hamel Construction, Inc.
MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Haxton Masonry, Inc.
BLOCK PRODUCER:
ORCO Block & Hardscape
OWNER:
City of Ontario
©PHOTOGRAPHY:
RMA Architectural Photographers

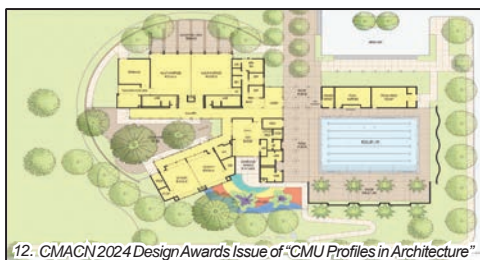


ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: Anchoring the prominent southern edge of the Anthony Munoz Park in Ontario, California, the 13,000-square-foot single story intergenerational community center includes a 2,500-square-foot multi-purpose room, teaching kitchen, two activity/classrooms, tot room with outdoor play area, administrative office space, and a 25-yard recreation pool with an enclosed outdoor patio area. A series of steel and wood shade structures provide a shaded seating and lounging area along the southern edge of the pool

patio. The building is organized along an east-west sky-lit gallery connecting the pool area on the east with an open courtyard to the west. Located on the north side of the gallery, the multipurpose room opens to a large outdoor patio with immediate views of the park playing fields and distant views to the San Bernardino Mountains. The entry canopy to the building is punctuated by a series of "acrylic-disc-umbrellas" acting as indirect light sources at night and skylights during the day.

WHY MASONRY? Concrete masonry was chosen for this project for its aesthetic and sustainable properties, long term durability, cost and energy efficiency and the opportunities it presented for texture and color. The walls enclosing the pool area use a combination of a low profile 6" burnished concrete masonry units (CMUs) with intermittent bands of split face block in a contrasting color. This economical construction solution provided a visually distinct and sound reducing enclosure for the pool area. Used in combination with wood, steel, plaster and glass, the CMUs provided an opportunity to develop a strong architectural statement that clearly defined the building's organization and reinforced the architect's goal of allowing the building's detail to be expressed in how the building is constructed. Additionally, the CMUs were locally produced and the architectural detailing provides a subtle visual link to many of the mid-century concrete masonry buildings found in the City of Ontario.

Jury Comments: *This is a very nice design which creates a really inviting place. The plan of this building is handled really well, and when combined with the massing, creates a collection of places with their own, unique relationship to the adjacent exterior environment. The use of masonry helps to reinforce the overall massing strategy and breaks down the façades, giving them a stronger pedestrian scale.*



12. GMACN 2024 Design Awards Issue of "CMU Profiles in Architecture"

HONOR
AWARD

PUBLIC/CIVIC DESIGN

Santa Monica City Yards

Santa Monica, California



ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: Since the 1940s, Santa Monica City Yards has housed manufacturing and repair facilities for the city's vehicles, traffic signals, maintenance crews, and public works administrative staff. It has also been home to a 15-acre urban clay mine turned landfill. Although critical to the city's flow and functionality, the Yards had gone into disrepair after 80 years of use, becoming both unsightly for the community and unsafe for the workers. Buildings began settling into the landfill, while site circulation commingled pedestrians and large trucks without a buffer.

Today, the site is undergoing a city-funded multi-phase renovation to create a more efficient working environment with modern buildings and equipment, protected circulation, and a public-friendly design that engages the surrounding community. Sustainability features include Net Zero and PV Ready, micro grid capability, water neutrality, xeriscaping, and use of recycled water for vehicle washing, toilet flushing, and irrigation.

To date, three of the seven buildings of Package A have been completed: the Fleet, the Admin, and the Fire buildings. The Fleet Building functions as a hub for the city's operations and maintenance, providing repair services to the city's vehicles. The Admin Building unites previously disparate public works divisions under one roof and facilitates employee interaction and collaboration. It also provides dispatch and locker room facilities for the refuse and recycling fleet. The Fire Building offers firefighters a safe and humane environment in which to train and learn best practices.

WHY MASONRY? All three buildings share a similar form and material palette, featuring concrete masonry unit (CMU) block, exposed steel structure, shed roofs, extensive glazing, insulated side panels, and coiling doors. The Fleet building is a hybrid steel and CMU structure and is laterally supported by CMU wall piers, which also serve to elevate the utilitarian design, modulating the long façade with white columns in stacked bond burnished block.

ARCHITECT:

The Miller Hull Partnership, LLP
4980 North Harbor Drive, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92106

Scott Wolf
Partner-in-Charge

DESIGN/BUILD CONTRACTOR:

Hathaway Dinwiddie
Construction Company

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

DCI Engineers

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:

Frank S. Smith Masonry, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER:

Angelus Block Company, Inc.

OWNER:

City of Santa Monica

©PHOTOGRAPHY:

Chipper Hatter

Jury Comments: *Here, there is a nice, thoughtful use of material and detailing to provide a clean, crisp series of transitions. The roof line is simple and distinct and overall, the project is an exercise in restraint, that should make the building stand the test of time.*



ARCHITECT:
Paul Halajian Architects
389 Clovis Avenue, Suite 100
Clovis, CA 93612

Paul Halajian
Principal-in-Charge

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

Parrish Hansen Inc

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

Quiring General, LLC

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:

McCurley and Day Masonry

BLOCK PRODUCER:

Basalite Concrete Products, LLC

OWNER:

Fresno Pacific University

©PHOTOGRAPHY:

David Jon Photography - Exteriors

Paul Mullins Photo - Interiors

MERIT
AWARD
PUBLIC/CIVIC DESIGN

Fresno Pacific University Warkentine Cultural Arts Center

Fresno, California



Jury Comments: *The jury was drawn to the simplicity and intentionality of this project. There is a straightforward use of masonry throughout with a break at the main entry to reinforce the entry, and the juxtaposition between this exterior with the warm wood finishes of the interior adds depth to the project. Additionally, there are some nice sustainable benefits from the site placement.*



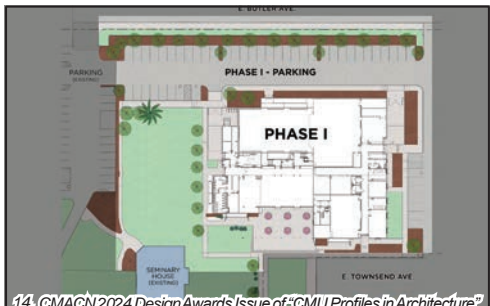
ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: This \$11.5 million building was entirely donor-funded, demanding maximum economy from each design decision. Concrete masonry units (CMUs) were the obvious choice because of the multiple attributes inherent in this material.

Performance spaces require both acoustic isolation and a measure of reverberance to achieve richness and depth for musical performance. The "black box" nature of the performance spaces requires very little fenestration. The most difficult architectural challenge was making a large building with few openings, a benchmark for architectural expression to inform future campus buildings. Highlighting the very essence of the CMUs became the overarching design driver.

WHY MASONRY? Sourced from a plant 15 miles from the site, masonry reduces the project's carbon footprint and creates a tight, well-insulated envelope, while providing thermal mass, structural capacity, durability, fire resistance, and a singular attractiveness that requires no additional finish application.

Subtle exterior color and texture changes fully express the hand-crafted nature and aesthetic range of concrete masonry. Using a stacked bond pattern, a perimeter base of a 12" ground face block is terminated at a precast concrete cap with an 8" precision face block above. Within the large undifferentiated expanses of 8" precision-faced walls, a 10" ground face block of the same color was introduced and trimmed with powder-coated steel angles to "picture frame" large panels that suggest the framed art exhibited within.

To create a seamless transition from outside to inside, the exterior perimeter base reoccurs inside and blends with the stained polished concrete floor. Above the base, maple veneer wall panels rise to become sloped ceiling panels separated by linear light fixtures that span the width of the space. The maple wall panels are "peeled" away to highlight the white ground face CMU structure that imparts a quiet subtlety and creates a sense of modern elegance within the space.



MERIT
AWARD

RESIDENTIAL DESIGN

M.H. Lair
Los Angeles, California



ARCHITECT:
Claret-Cup
600 Moulton Avenue, Suite 405
Los Angeles, CA 90031

Bojana Banyasz, AIA
Donatella Cusma, AIA International
Association
Architects/Designers

Misako Ohno
Paulina Ocampo-Felipe
Competition Team

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Nous Engineering
GENERAL CONTRACTORS:
Prime Construction & Development Inc.
Viken Sanossian

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Calixto Masonry
BLOCK PRODUCER:
ORCO Block & Hardscape
PHOTOGRAPHY:
Content Production

Jury Comments: *The use of material here is successful both functionally and aesthetically. The way the house terraces takes advantage of the sloped site and provides opportunities for indoor/outdoor spaces that have a natural feel. The band of high windows continuing from the interior to the exterior site walls shows attention to detail and reinforces the indoor/outdoor concept.*

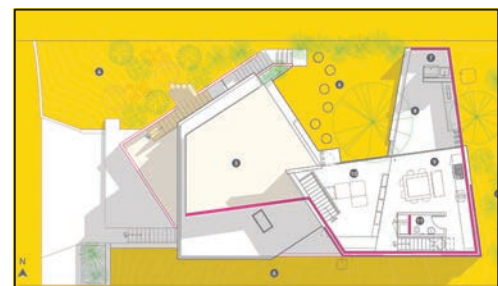
ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: Designed for a client with a love for architecture and recyclable, low-maintenance, yet durable finishes, the project proposes a streamlined material palette where function and form overlap. Burnished CMU walls were deployed throughout the project, each type with a specific function, always structural, and mostly exposed to avoid any additional finish materials.

In this residence, concrete masonry unit (CMU) block walls retain the hillside, create a datum throughout the project and direct the circulation from outside, to inside, and out again at the various levels.

Through a procession of stairs that start at the entrance by the garage, the circulation path winds in and out of the landscape and branches into the house. Evoking a nature trail, leading through "caves" (sound of pebbles in the first courtyard), entering through the guest unit and spilling back out to the landscape at the courtyard level entertainment space, it ends at the primary suite at the top.

WHY MASONRY? The physical restrictions of the site, the hillside building code, and the views were the inspiration for the folded geometry of the three-story house as it zig-zags from the street below to the top of the site. The use of concrete masonry units (CMU) was incorporated into the architectural and structural concept from the outset, and the 3,600+ locally produced blocks became the signature and structure of the project.

A meticulous strategy of selective furring at concealed locations and double wythe walls allowed for the placement of the insulation needed to offset the ample use of glazing and to comply with the energy efficiency goals set for the project. Selected in burnished Natural Gray for the two lower levels, the blocks turn Jet Black at the main level forming a ribbon wall, a spine that acts as a sound barrier, provides thermal mass, and orients the view towards the outside clarifying the layout of the rooms.



ARCHITECT:

CRHO

1833 East 17th Street, Suite 301
Santa Ana, CA 92705

Russell Hatfield

Principal-in-Charge

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

CDC Engineering Inc

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

On-site Builders, Inc.

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:

GR Salquist, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER:

ORCO Block and Hardscape

OWNER:

Chick-fil-A

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Ryan Hills

MERIT
AWARD

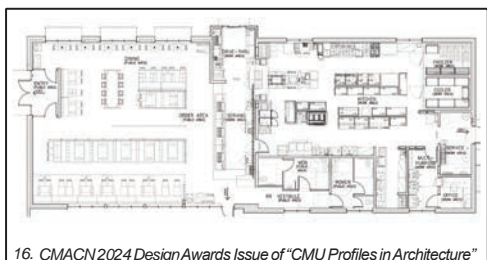
RETAIL DESIGN

Chick-fil-A

El Segundo, California



Jury Comments: *This building benefits from a clean, nice, and simple application of masonry which clarifies the massing and scale. This allows the brand to be more accessible, and present. The site is handled well, with the parking garage bringing organization to the overall composition.*



ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: Nestled amidst the hustle and bustle of El Segundo's Pacific Coast Highway, a notable quick-serve restaurant commands attention with its striking presence. Chick-fil-A, a culinary staple with a meticulously cultivated brand image, has invested years refining its store prototypes. Through a two-decade-long collaboration, an intimate understanding of their unwavering dedication to excellence has emerged, extending seamlessly into their architectural vision.

WHY MASONRY? Faced with the challenge of appeasing a discerning design review committee, the directive was clear: no generic, cookie-cutter establishments. Instead, the design had to mirror the city's evolving identity while paying homage to its rich history. The result was a fusion of Chick-fil-A's commitment to quality and the committee's vision for the city's transformation.

Concrete masonry emerged as the cornerstone of this innovative design, serving both functional and aesthetic purposes. Its thermal mass properties provided unparalleled energy efficiency, tempering temperature fluctuations and dampening external noise from the adjacent highway carrying the heavy traffic to LAX airport. Moreover, the solid grouted concrete masonry units (CMUs) offered a passive 4-hour fire rating, ensuring the safety and well-being of patrons.

From a visual standpoint, the choice of burnished CMUs infused a modern flair into the structure, accentuated by specialty aggregates for added texture. Vibrant hues, reminiscent of the Chick-fil-A brand, were meticulously selected for the masonry veneers, harmonizing with the burnished blocks to create a cohesive and engaging façade.

Ultimately, this architectural masterpiece embodies the seamless integration of Chick-fil-A's philosophy of quality with the city's vibrant spirit of reinvention. It stands not only as a beacon of culinary excellence but also as a testament to the transformative power of thoughtful design.

The Jury

The Jury is selected by AIA California and comprised of three leading architects from across the nation. 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 within California and Nevada.

The Distinguished Jury for the 2024 Concrete Masonry Design Awards Program includes:



Head Juror Timothy Hawk, FAIA, President WSA Studio

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 CEO of AIA Ohio Gold medal firm WSA Studio in Columbus and has been an architectural educator for more than twenty-five years. His national leadership has included service on the AIA national Board of Directors, the Strategic Council, and the AIAS board. Currently, Hawk is a member of the Board of Directors for the Architects Foundation, a member of the Board of Directors for Neighborhood Design Center (Columbus), and a member of the Grandview Heights Planning Commission.



Marisol Foreman, AIA, CPHD, NCARB, LEED® AP BD+C Partner, Sustainability Manager

Pairing aesthetics with analytics, Marisol Foreman

seeks to integrate data-informed and sustainable design principles into daily practice. As Partner and Sustainability Manager at Rowland+Broughton, she is known for her ability to approach projects with a creative solution-oriented perspective, utilizing data to make informed decisions and advocating for the best sustainable solutions to fit each project's key objectives, resulting in a building that achieves high performance goals as well as an aesthetically pleasing and award-winning design. An active volunteer, she is a Board Member of the Colorado Green Building Guild and Co-Chair of the AIA Colorado Committee on the Environment.



Pat Ballasch, AIA, LEED® AP

Pat Ballasch, AIA, LEED® AP is a principal and president of DAG Architects.

He received his Bachelor and Master of Architecture from the University of

Florida, was a State Director and President of AIA Northwest Florida, and for several years has been the head juror for the Florida Masonry Association Awards program. He has received multiple Honor Awards for Masonry Design, Unbuilt and Completed designs, and received the AIA Northwest Florida Honor Award for service to the profession. Currently he serves as the University of Florida College of Architecture Advisory Committee Chair. Pat is an accomplished artist, skilled in pencil drawing, painting, and digital art.

CMACN
AWARD

DIRECTORS CHOICE

Directors Choice Awards are stand-alone awards selected by the CMACN Board of Directors to recognize outstanding Architectural Firms which have demonstrated exemplary support of the concrete masonry industry and incorporation of concrete masonry in project designs.

CMACN Board of Directors Comments:

domusstudio architecture provides undeniable support of the concrete masonry industry. Over the years they have incorporated masonry into numerous project designs and pushed the limits on what can be done with concrete masonry regarding structural design and aesthetics within their projects.

domusstudio architecture continues to successfully push the boundaries of concrete masonry design in many areas such as educational, public, sacred, and residential projects.

ARCHITECT:

domusstudio architecture
2800 Third Avenue
San Diego, CA 92103

domusstudio

ARCHITECT:

Lionakis
2025 19th Street
Sacramento, CA 95818

LIONAKIS

CMACN Board of Directors Comments:

Established in 1909 by California's first State Architect, George Sellon, Lionakis has played a significant role in shaping the built environment. Headquartered in Sacramento, Lionakis has over 180 architectural and engineering professionals across four offices to serve civic, education, healthcare, and commercial clients throughout all of California.

Lionakis has designed hundreds of projects for public clients consisting of more than 30 counties and cities, as well as 40 government agencies. Building on more than a century of diverse project experience and committed to developing lasting relationships, Lionakis excels at providing value-based, tailored design solutions for all their clients.

CMACN Board of Directors Comments:

LPA, Inc., headquartered in Irvine, has demonstrated exceptional achievement in masonry design and sustainability. Since 2000, LPA has earned an unprecedented 18 CMACN/AIACA Design Awards. While the panel of nationally recognized judges changes each year, LPA consistently stands out as one of the best, particularly in the Education and Public/Civic categories.

LPA continues to push traditional boundaries by utilizing the full range of block textures, heights, scoring, and offset cores. Projects such as the Temple City Campus, Santiago Canyon College, and Paramount High School Athletic Center are excellent examples of creative, functional, and sustainable designs that are influencing the entire design community.

ARCHITECT:

LPA, Inc.
5301 California Avenue, Suite 100
Irvine, CA 92617



ARCHITECT:

o2 Architecture
1089 North Palm Canyon Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92262

o2 Architecture

CMACN Board of Directors Comments:

o2 Architecture knows a thing or two about the desert - how to live in it, work in it, and build in it. Even in that extreme climate, they know how to achieve Net Zero in elegant, timeless designs with concrete masonry.

o2 Architecture has won many awards in the CMACN/AIACA Concrete Masonry Design Awards, revealing a daring and deft hand at featuring concrete masonry. They understand the system does so much more: structure, resilience, design, and heavy mass properties that are ideal for passive energy design, including Net Zero.

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

- Providing technical information on concrete masonry for design professionals.
- Protecting and advancing the interests of the concrete masonry industry.
- Developing new and existing markets for concrete masonry products.
- Coordinating Members' efforts in solving common challenges within the masonry industry.

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