

2026 CMACN/AIACA Concrete Masonry Design Awards Competition Overview

Do not use this form in place of instructions in the Submittal Materials, which will be e-mailed from info@cmacn.org

Background

The Concrete Masonry Design Awards program recognizes and encourages outstanding architectural design that incorporates the use of concrete masonry within the building envelope. The program also recognizes the Designers, Builders, Structural Engineering Firms, Concrete Masonry Suppliers, and project Owners. This program is sponsored by Concrete Masonry Association of California and Nevada (CMACN) and co-sponsored by AIA California (AIACA).

Calendar

Opening date for request of entry materials: Monday, January 5, 2026
Closing date for postmark of completed submittals: Monday, April 20, 2026
Jury deliberations: Friday, June 5, 2026
CMACN Design Awards Banquet: Friday, September 25, 2026

Entry Fee

Each project entered in the Concrete Masonry Design Awards Program must be accompanied by a non-refundable \$150 entry fee. **The fee should be included with the Request for Entry Form and should be post marked, ordered on line, or faxed with credit card information no later than April 13, 2026. Please contact the CMACN office for more information.** When the form and fee(s) are received, submittal materials will be e-mailed to your specified e-mail address with instructions for completion.

Eligibility

Projects must be located in California or Nevada and have been constructed and completed within the last five years (January 1, 2021 to present) to be eligible. An exception is made for the 25 Year Award category where the project must be 25 years or older as of January 1, 2026. All projects must be completed and inherently sustainable.

Projects must be submitted by the architect of record. An exception is made for the 25 Year Award in the event the original architect of record is unavailable or unclear. In this case, any architect from the design firm (original or current if the firm has been sold) that designed the original structure or who designed any renovations or updates to the original structure may submit the project.

All projects must incorporate a minimum of 30% concrete masonry units in the building envelope as load bearing, infill, or veneer materials in combination with load bearing or infill walls to be eligible for this awards program. Projects may be either a single structure or a group of related structures, including parks, school buildings, and shopping centers.

Not eligible

Projects still under construction; projects completed prior to January 2021 (25 year submittals exempt from date requirement); non-sustainable projects; projects constructed of stone, clay brick, clay brick veneer, brick block, tilt-up, rammed earth, or precast panels simulating concrete masonry units or any other materials simulating concrete masonry units.

Awards

A single outstanding project in each category may be selected as a Grand Award winner by the Jury to receive the Concrete Masonry Award. At the discretion of the Jury, two additional distinguished awards, Honor and Merit, may be presented to an undetermined number of projects. Only one project may be awarded the 25 Year Award.

All awards will be presented the evening of Friday, September 25, 2026, at The Langham, Pasadena, California.

Entry Format: Do not use this entry request form in place of instructions in the Submittal Materials Packet. All completed entry materials must be contained on a Windows compatible USB Drive or FTP File.

Categories for submittals must be clearly stated and selected from one of the following:

Basic Categories

Commercial
Education
Public/Civic
Residential
Retail

Additional Category

*25 Year

* The 25 Year category is a stand-alone category, but you must also select one of the five basic categories that best describes the **original** intent of the building.

Entry materials must be provided on a Windows compatible USB drive or FTP file and consist of a **300 maximum-word** project description outlining the unique and distinguishing factors or advancements/resolutions, etc. of the project, **clearly explaining the selection/use of concrete masonry units for the project**, providing a detailed explanation of the sustainable design strategies utilized in the design of the project, and specifying LEED®, CHPS, or other recognized “green/sustainable” ratings achieved by the project. Attached should be any documents supporting performance claims. All descriptive data must be in Word format on the USB drive or FTP file. **See submittal materials for the 25 Year 300 maximum word project description requirement details.**

Include a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 12 high-quality color digital project photos and digital site and floor plans (JPGs) on a Windows compatible USB drive or FTP file. All images must have a minimum print quality of 300 dpi at 5”x 7”. Photo explanations are encouraged and are to be placed at the bottom or beside each photo - **NOT ON THE PHOTO**. Explanations on site and floor plans are acceptable. All photographs submitted must have a signed release form on the USB drive or FTP file. Entrant must provide clear rights to photos, and plans for incorporation into CMACN and AIACA competitions and their future publications. Entrants are responsible for any royalties or copyright photography fees. **Entrants must also have the project owner’s approval to submit the project(s) for this and any stated future uses.**

Of the 8 minimum required photos, include a photo of each exposed side of the building or project environment and one additional photo showing the context of each exposed side of the building. For a group of buildings, include one photo that sufficiently illustrates the completed project, including its relationship to its environment. A minimum of two photos are required to show the interior aspects of the building. If concrete masonry is a primarily interior building material, supply images to illustrate the product’s use. Include digital copies of the site plan and floor plan(s).

*Instructions for 25 Year Award photos: include a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 16 high-quality color digital project photo JPEGs as described above on a Windows compatible USB drive or FTP file, and in addition, show both the original building at the time of completion and as the building appears today. All images must have a minimum print quality of 300 dpi at 5” X 7”. Original site plan and floor plan(s) are requested, if available, as are current site and floor plans for its present day form if the building has been altered. Photo explanations, where necessary, are encouraged and are to be placed at the bottom or beside each photo- **NOT ON THE PHOTO**. Explanations on site and floor plans are acceptable.

A 20” x 20” photo board for each project entered must be provided by the submitting architect as outlined in the specifications on the “Photo Board for Concrete Masonry Design Award Entries” sheet. It must be submitted at the same time as the completed USB drive or FTP file.

USB drives, FTP files, and the 20” x 20” boards become property of CMACN. Completed entries postmarked/shipped after April 20, 2026 will be disqualified. Extensions MAY be granted.



REQUEST FOR SUBMITTAL MATERIAL
2026 CMACN/AIACA
CONCRETE MASONRY DESIGN AWARDS

Deadline to Enter Submittal Materials is April 20, 2026

(Extensions for Submittal Materials Requests may be granted. Please contact the CMACN office for more information.)

For Online form and payment, log onto www.cmacn.org. To mail or fax, complete the form below.

Please send _____ entry materials packet(s). For each project entry I have enclosed a \$150 non-refundable fee by payment indicated below:

☐ My check in the amount of \$150.00 **per entry** payable to CMACN is enclosed.

☐ Payment by credit card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Credit card number _____ Expiration Date _____ 3 Digit Security Code _____

(Do NOT provide credit card numbers via regular e-mail)

Name on card _____ Billing phone number (____) _____

Billing address for card _____

City, state and zip code for card _____

Project Name _____

Project Address _____

Entrant (*Name of Architect of Record*): _____ E-mail _____

Contact Person (*If different from entrant*) _____ E-mail _____

Architectural Firm Name _____

Firm Address _____

Telephone (____) _____ E-mail for Entry Material _____

Block Producer _____

Mail or Fax Request for Entry Materials to:

CMACN 2026 Design Awards
7844 Madison Avenue, Suite 140
Fair Oaks, CA 95628
Tel: (916) 722-1700
Fax: (916) 722-1819
E-mail: info@cmacn.org

NOTE: Submittal materials will be e-mailed to entrant.