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Architect’s Commentary: The Lathrop Generations Center is a multi-generational facility, designed for and with the combination of multiple program elements to serve the entire community. This 9,600 square foot complex is a blend of community center, teen center and Public Library, and serves as the City’s hub of community events. The facility can be broken down into smaller program spaces, so that multiple activities can occur at the same time without interference from one another. The architectural style of the complex utilizes unique shapes and colors per the teens’ request. In order to achieve building economies, the main program elements share staff cores, common spaces and restrooms.

Why Masonry? Due to its durability, ease of maintenance and its ability to respond to the center’s architectural context, concrete masonry units (CMUs) were the natural choice as the primary building material. Architecturally, CMUs provide a unique opportunity to use a single material to create mass, texture and a base element for the building. Only one color of concrete masonry was used, but in a random blend of multiple finishes. The resulting aesthetic is a monolithic mass that not only anchors the building, but also has a variegated look and provides substantial visual interest. Exterior finishes are split face, shot blast and ground face, while the interior finishes are shot and ground face to create a visual mosaic. Interior clerestory windows wash the interior concrete masonry walls with natural light and highlight subtle differences in the finish. CMUs were also used around the building core and in high noise areas for natural sound barriers.

Currently undergoing evaluation for LEED® Silver certification, the use of concrete masonry units were a logical choice to help with the interior environmental systems. The large mass of concrete masonry units aid in providing a thermal lag to assist in mitigating the effects of the hot Central Valley sun.
**Architect’s Commentary:** Nestled within intersecting mountain ranges and canyon valleys, Bachelor Enlisted Quarters (BEQ) Package 4 at Camp Pendleton offers one of the highest-quality living environments for the men and women serving our country. Developed at Camps Las Pulgas and Horno, each BEQ provides double-occupancy living units and accessible single-occupancy units with supporting facilities. Additionally, the various Community Buildings feature recreational lounges, administrative offices and movie theaters, among other amenities that complement this residential project.

**Why Masonry?** The area is exposed to intense Santa Ana winds, sun, salt and sand throughout the year, with minor relief from coastal breezes. To withstand these conditions, BEQ 4 was designed chiefly with concrete masonry units (CMUs). Moreover, the CMUs at this military base—fairly quick and easy to erect—provide additional defense due to its strength in withstanding blast forces as defined by the Anti-Terrorist Force Protection (ATFP) requirements. Yet, the concrete masonry offers an aesthetically pleasing design, rather than simply an economical one. CMUs come in a variety of colors, sizes and textures, allowing the project team to choose a design palette that distinguishes BEQ 4 from the rest of the projects at Camp Pendleton: the main bodies of the buildings contrast beautifully with the window pop-outs via split-face blocks of a darker color. The same accent color is further used to create trim bands around the façades, defining the buildings’ scales and visually separating the buildings from one another.

Located in an environmentally protected area, categorical exclusions (CATEX) by the government were enacted in order to minimize the project’s effect on sensitive plant and wild life surrounding the site. Periodic environmental assessments of the design plan and the utilization of concrete masonry units resulted in LEED® gold certification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).
Architect’s Commentary: P-610 Recruit Marksmanship Training Facility (RMTF) was designed as a 3-building facility for the Marine Corps. The mission is to provide instruction to recruits in rifle marksmanship, combat field training and designated Marine Corps common skills, and to conduct re-qualification firing for permanent personnel and schooling to train selected personnel in the methods and procedures of marksmanship instruction.

RMTF includes three functional areas: Academic Instruction consisting of 200 and 50-person classrooms; Marksmanship Training consisting of four indoor electronic firing ranges that can be converted into one large space; and spaces for Range Company, which includes trainers’ offices and work areas.

The exterior of the building continues the colors and forms consistent with the Installation Design guidelines, while providing a recall to the rugged qualities inherent in military hands-on training settings. The design uses tall fiberglass and steel trellises forming a strong visual element to tie the three buildings into a campus, while defining the major circulation paths for troop movements.

Why Masonry? From the project initiation, concrete masonry units (CMUs) were selected as the material of choice for the exterior walls based on their rugged aesthetics, durability for wear and tear, local availability and cost. The combination of CMUs and trellises provides Camp Pendleton with a distinctive architectural landmark, while offering the critical readiness training for our troops.

The project is LEED® Platinum certified and incorporates extensive sustainable features including:

- Low-impact design for stormwater quality and quantity control
- 125 kW photovoltaic system with annual output of 182,634 kWh, saving $244,690 over 20 years (equivalent to saving 42 acres of trees)
- High efficiency HVAC and central plant system reducing energy cost (51.7%) and consumption (48.7%) from ASHRAE 90.1-2007 baseline
- High performance exterior wall system with 8” CMUs and 6 inch steel studs with R-19 insulation
- Low-water use for landscaping (reduced by 72%) and interior fixtures (reduced by 35.4%)
Architect’s Commentary: This project is an innovative, secure correctional campus designed for women using program and operational criteria envisioned to strengthen the concept of normalization within a secure perimeter. The campus concept supports efficient security operations and effective management of 1,216 residents with different security classifications in a supportive and high quality environment. This is accomplished by balancing the normative landscape elements of the campus with proven security logic that includes manageable zoning, unobstructed sightlines and efficient staff response times. The residents participate in various treatment and educational programs, helping them prepare for reintegration back into the community. The project targeted LEED® Gold certification.

Why Masonry? High performance insulated concrete masonry units (CMUs) (ORCO Hi-R H Wall System) with integral water repellant were selected for exterior walls of resident housing and other campus buildings because of insulation values, security, maintenance, sustainability, color range and surface finishes. Exterior finishes included colored precision, split face and shot blast treatments. Interior walls were constructed with medium weight, precision finish CMUs with high quality paint systems for color and ease of maintenance. CMU use in security applications included reinforced fully grouted cells, and campus building structural systems included CMU bearing walls for economical structural solutions and security perimeter integrity.

Specific LEED® credits for the CMU systems used include:
• MRc4: Recycled Content - with 3% post and 21% pre-consumer recycled content.
• MRc5: Regional Materials - qualifying as 100% “regionally” sourced and manufactured.
• EAp2 & EAe1: Optimize Energy Performance - buildings' envelope performance, reduced cooling load.
Architect’s Commentary:
Sited between the beaches and the foothills of San Diego, this new 72,320 square foot Critical Care Pavilion and 10,680 square foot Central Energy Plant expand the existing campus of Scripps Encinitas Hospital. A new Emergency Department (ED) on the first floor houses 24 ED treatment areas, state of the art imaging and a new entry and shell space, while 36 new medical surgical beds (including six larger special care rooms) are housed on the second floor.

Why Masonry?
The coastal communities that the campus serves inspired the design concept for the building. References abound to the beach, to sailing, to water and to the indigenous plant life of the hillside. Sand colored, burnished concrete masonry is the primary material cladding the ground floor and the vertical circulation core to the rooftop mechanical penthouse. The masonry is detailed in a stacked bond pattern to subtly signify that it is not structural; horizontal joints are struck, while vertical joints are detailed flush to reinforce the horizontality of this beach-like base. On the west (beach) façade, second floor massing reflects a nautical reference through the curved wall panels, reflecting sails on the nearby coastal waters, and oiled hardwood ceiling soffits continue the sailing metaphor. Concrete walkways utilize broken shells and glass in blue and green, evoking the Pacific waters.

On the east (foothills) side the plant materials of the hillsides are used in a variety of ways to create a series of gardens for staff, patients and families. A green roof is created along the east edge of the second floor patient room area, planted with sedums and native grasses. This roof, in addition to providing energy savings over time, provides a landscape relief for the patients that gaze out towards the top of the adjacent hospital and the hills of Southern California beyond.
Architect's Commentary: Designed by Langdon Wilson International, the Castaic Sports Complex Aquatic Center features a competition-sized, 6,425 square foot pool, splash pad with integrated 4,435 square foot recreation pool, and 12,500 square foot pool building. The masonry is a warm gray color, with custom white aggregate and a burnished surface texture.

The pool building contains locker rooms, showers, staff offices and toilet facilities, all controlled by a central operations core. Separate life guard facilities are also included. The pool equipment area is segregated from the public areas. Programs and services available at the center include swimming lessons, a junior lifeguard program, aqua aerobics, synchronized swimming and more.

The entrance to the Aquatic Center features public artwork, entitled Bubbles, by visual artist, Bob Zoell, in cooperation with the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. The 330 square foot piece consists of 21 glass panels depicting bubbles in water. The Aquatic Center, completed in 2013, was undertaken and jointly designed by the County of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks and local stakeholders, which included the local schools, senior programs and the community at large.

The facility was awarded LEED® Silver certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Why Masonry? The client’s design goals were for the building to be functional, efficient and durable, with an expected life span of 50 years. Quality and low maintenance are very important to the operation of the facility, which serves hundreds of users per day during summer months. The design was also to be compatible with existing structures in the park.

For this high-traffic public facility, concrete masonry was selected due to the durability and ease of maintenance, as well as the compatibility with water-repellent and anti-graffiti coatings. The material is compatible with neighboring structures and the surrounding area as well.
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- Providing technical information on concrete masonry for design professionals.
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- Developing new and existing markets for concrete masonry products.
- Coordinating Members’ efforts in solving common challenges within the masonry industry.

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