



# PROFILES IN ARCHITECTURE

Concrete Masonry is

## Safe & Sound

[www.cmacn.org](http://www.cmacn.org)

### Featured in this issue:

#### SUSTAINABLE DESIGN AWARDS

- San Elijo Lagoon Nature Center 2
- Playa Vista Fire Station No. 67 3
- LAPD Rampart Police Station 4
- 2299 Via Monte Vista Residence 5

#### EDUCATION DESIGN AWARDS

- Golden West College School of Nursing and Health Services 6
- Helen Bernstein High School 7
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Recreation Center 8

#### PUBLIC/CIVIC DESIGN AWARDS

- Wallis Annenberg Youth Center 9
- Playa Vista Fire Station No. 67 10

#### COMMERCIAL DESIGN AWARD

- 11821 Mississippi Digital Office Building 11

#### RETAIL DESIGN AWARD

- Midtown Crossing 12

#### RESIDENTIAL DESIGN AWARDS

- 700 Palms Residence 13
- Christie Residence 14
- Windnsea Beach Homes 15

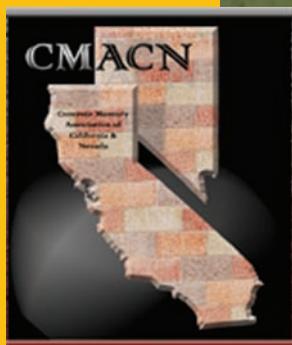
- CMACN Producer Members and 2009 Design Awards Banquet and sponsorship information 16



Photography: Greg Epstein, Greg Epstein Photography



Photography: Grey Crawford, Grey Crawford, Inc.



The 2009 Design Awards Are  
Co-Sponsored by AIA California Council



Photography: Pablo Mason, Pablo Mason Photography

## SAN ELIJO LAGOON NATURE CENTER

ENCINITAS, CALIFORNIA

**ARCHITECT:**  
Zagrodnik + Thomas Architects  
3956 30th Street  
San Diego, CA 92104

Jean Zagrodnik, AIA, LEED AP, *Partner*  
Ruth Fajarit-Davis AIA, LEED AP, *Project Architect*  
Chris Pangilinan, LEED AP, *LEED Administrator and Project Support*  
Kathy Tucker AIA, LEED AP, *Project Support*

**STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:**  
Curry Price Court

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:**  
Riha Construction

**MASONRY CONTRACTOR:**  
Dittmann Masonry, Inc.

**BLOCK PRODUCER:**  
RCP Block & Brick, Inc.

**OWNER:**  
County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation

**Sustainable Jury Comments:** *Submitting for 57 LEED points and a Platinum rating is highly commendable. Paired with a whimsical, telling, and inviting design apparently just made good sense. Everything about this design says Lagoon Nature Center – with an emphasis on the building’s clear connection to nature. Subtle shadings and a lighthearted feeling in the masonry delight one’s design sense. While the balcony – with its PV system clearly complimenting the design – is a space that will have many a contented visitor.*

**Architect’s Commentary:** An organic and environmentally sensitive 5,600 square-foot structure, the Nature Center serves to educate and encourage exploration of the San Elijo Lagoon. The building itself serves as a component of the educational features of the project. Interactive exhibits will educate visitors about the diverse environment of the lagoon. Additional exhibits will educate the users on the “green” features of the building that sits in this very sensitive habitat.

The Nature Center “grew out of the constraints of the site”. In order to preserve the endangered species habitat and wetlands, the footprint was limited to previously developed area. The existing structures on site were either recycled or salvaged, diverting waste from landfill. A demolished CMU restroom building was ground up and recycled into aggregate.

Concrete masonry units were incorporated into the project for its aesthetic qualities, flexibility, durability and affordability. Burnished-face block by a local manufacturer was selected for its exposed aggregate and integral color. The two earthtone colors of CMU were installed in a random pattern for an “earthy organic” appearance complementary to the site. The CMU’s flexibility allowed it to be used for both the straight and angled walls as well as the curved sweeping wall of the entry path. The CMU fin walls provide a contrast with the fluid shape of the metal roof above. The Nature Center’s CMU walls incorporate recycled material, and were made with materials regionally harvested and regionally manufactured for LEED credits. The project is submitting approximately 57 LEED total credits for LEED Platinum Certification for New Construction.

Other sustainable features include green roof, recycled materials, natural daylighting and ventilation, low VOC materials, storm water retention and management, and photovoltaic panels.

Water conservation is provided with 2-button flush toilet, native landscaping, recycled water for irrigation and for flushing toilets.

The project integrates energy saving design by maximizing natural daylighting. There are tall windows in main habitable spaces. When lighting is needed, it is provided w/ high efficiency fluorescent interior fixtures and exterior LED step lights. The windows are also energy efficient low-E dual glazed insulated glass minimizing the need to warm and cool the interior spaces. The windows are strategically located to catch the site’s prevailing breezes. The trellis of the upper deck supports PV panels.



Photography: Jeff Goldberg, Esto

## PLAYA VISTA FIRE STATION NO. 67

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

### ARCHITECT:

**R. L. Binder, FAIA Architecture & Planning**  
7726 W. 81<sup>st</sup> Street  
Playa del Rey, CA 90293

Rebecca L. Binder, FAIA  
*Principal*

Kim A. Walsh, AIA  
*Principal*

### STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

Brandow & Johnston Associates

### GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

Bernards Brothers Construction

### MASONRY CONTRACTOR:

R. E. Williams and Sons, Inc.

### BLOCK PRODUCER:

ORCO Block Company, Inc.

### OWNER:

Los Angeles City Fire Department

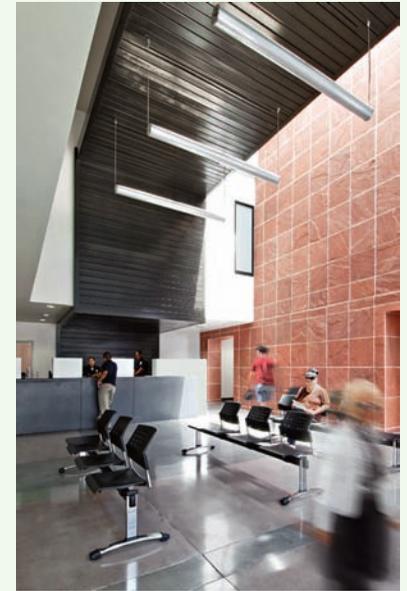
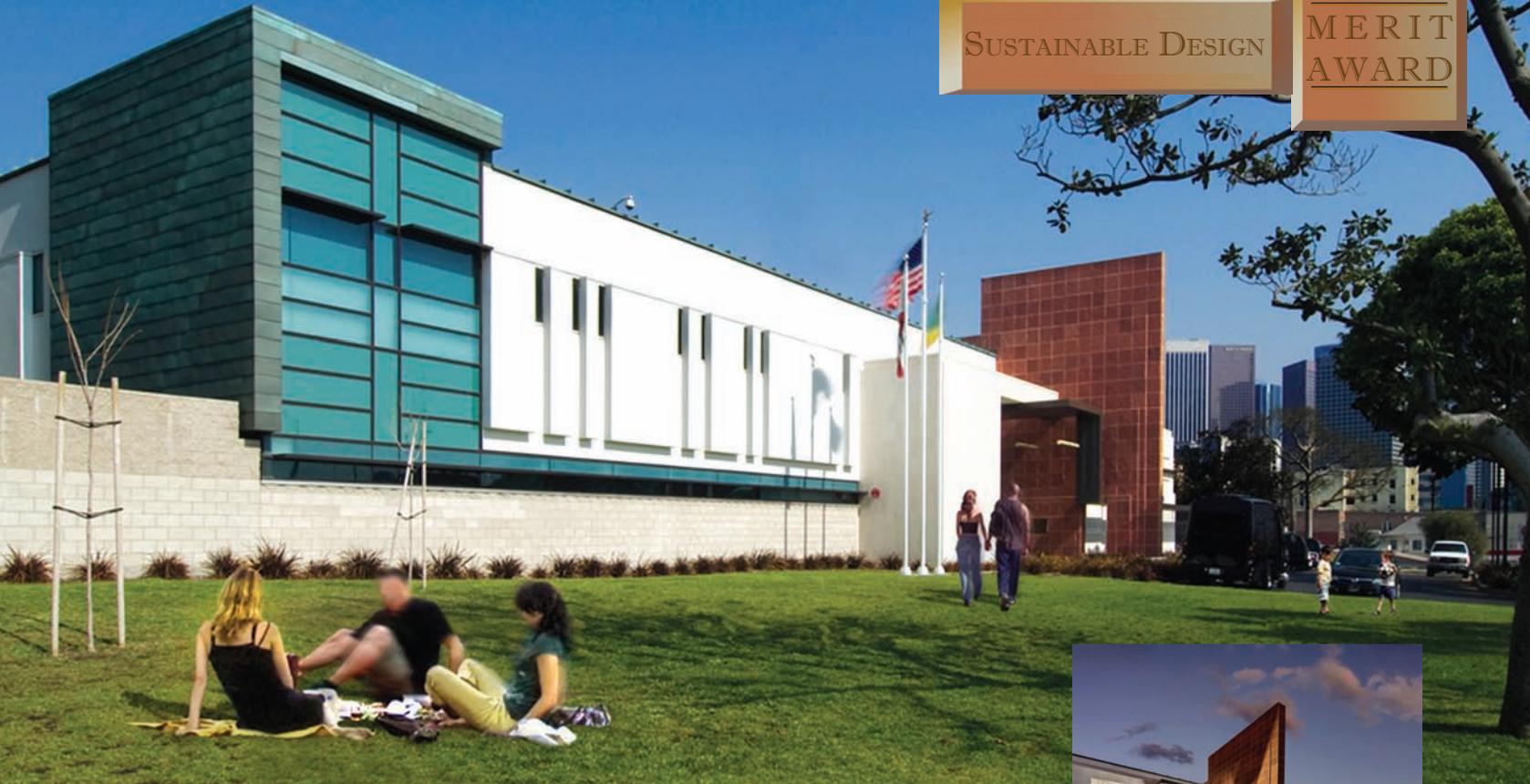
**Sustainable Jury Comments:** *This project is our only double award winner having received a Merit Award in both the Public/Civic and Sustainable categories. A meaningful environmental strategy, achieving LEED Certified status, was applied to an important and integral part of the community. This project is a benchmark for well designed, sustainable, community architecture.*

**Architect's Commentary:** The Playa Vista Fire Station No. 67 was awarded LEED Certified in the Spring of 2008. Several components of the project promote the use of alternate transportation. The project includes showers and bicycle racks for 35% of the planned occupants to encourage non automobile use. Also, the

parking lot was designed to meet the minimum zoning requirements for parking, and provides one carpool space in a priority location to reduce impacts of single occupancy automobile use. In order to encourage public transportation, the Fire Station is located within 1/4 mile of the Los Angeles Metro Bus system.

The design also reduces the impact the building has on the microclimate. The project was designed using a Thermoplastic Membrane Roofing System with an emittance of 0.9 to reduce the heat island effect produced by roofs and specified a high-albedo Portland cement concrete for 66% of the non-roof impervious surface area. Also, to reduce storm water runoff and increase on site infiltration the project uses vegetated swales and catch basins with fossil filters to capture and treat storm water runoff. Light trespass from the site was reduced by specifying exterior down lights. The project received credit for both water and energy efficiency. The use of potable water for irrigation was reduced by 50% by designing the landscape with native adapted plants, using reclaimed water for irrigation, and using efficient irrigation systems. The project was also designed to use 28% less water within the building (20% required) by using low flow water fixtures. The building was designed to achieve a 22.9% below standard energy use by using energy efficient mechanical and electrical systems which used zero CFC- based refrigerants.

Regionally manufactured CMU block, low emitting adhesives, sealants, paints and composite wood materials, as well as, carbon dioxide monitoring were used to ensure the environmental quality of the project.



Photography: Michael Urbanek, ArchitecturalShots.com

## LAPD RAMPART POLICE STATION

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

**ARCHITECT:**  
Perkins+Will  
617 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1200  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Nick Seierup, FAIA  
*Principal*

**Roth + Sheppard Architects**  
1623 Blake Street, Suite 350  
Denver, CO 80202

Herb Roth, FAIA  
*Principal*

**STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:**  
Miyamoto International, Inc.  
**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:**  
S. J. Amoroso Construction Company, Inc.  
**MASONRY CONTRACTOR:**  
O'Neal Masonry Partners  
**BLOCK PRODUCER:**  
Angelus Block Company, Inc.  
**OWNER:**  
City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Engineering/LAPD

**Sustainable Jury Comments:** *The Jury is assuming that a great deal of community pride exists for this Police Station. This project received Gold LEED certification and meets the Architecture 2030 Challenge. Everyday, the inhabitants of this building put their lives on the line. How deserving that they should be able to work in a healthy, sunlit, wonderfully designed environment such as this.*

**Architect's Commentary:** LAPD Rampart Police Station, located just west of downtown, projects a proud new civic image for law enforcement. Design objectives included providing desperately needed outdoor public green spaces for the dense, urban neighborhood, and providing a secure yet welcoming facility. The program includes a 50,000 square-foot state-of-the-art police facility with community meeting spaces, vehicle maintenance building, and secure 230-car parking structure.

Working against the “bunker” mentality of the 1960’s police stations, public spaces are open and inviting glazed areas filled with natural light. Elsewhere, high glazing coupled with invisible security features provide requisite protection for civil servants within, while also assuring their quality of life. The perimeter warm grey split-face concrete block walls both secure the facility and provide an attractive backdrop to community activities in the parkway. At the south facade, a shadow block marches atop a precision block wall, forming an ornamental cornice that recreates the “ramparts” of lore, while again alluding to local architectural traditions.

The police station is elongated in the east-west direction to orient its primary surfaces to the north and south, minimizing west-facing heat gain. A cool roof was used throughout. Incorporation of overhangs, canopies, deep window pockets, light shades, and high clearstory windows on south, west, and north facades allow for abundant natural diffused light to enter with minimal heat gain. The project meets the 2030 Challenge criteria by saving over 50% of the energy consumption of a benchmark police station. Project energy performance was over 25% better than California’s Title 24-2001 requirements.

All possible low-emitting LEED material credits were achieved through product specifications and diligent submittal reviews. As a percent by value of total building materials, over 21% of the project’s materials were manufactured using recycled materials, over 50% were manufactured within 500 miles of the site, and over 32% were manufactured using raw materials from within 500 miles of the site. Over 50% of the total wood-based building materials were FSC certified.

All stormwater and water used for the car wash system are treated onsite to LEED standards – more stringent than current EPA standards. Low-flow plumbing fixtures reduce water use by over 35%, while the specified plants and high efficiency spray head irrigation control system maintain greenery with over 50% site water use reduction. These strategies (among others) have enabled the project to receive LEED Gold certification.



Photography: Korab Radoni, o2 Architecture

## 2299 VIA MONTE VISTA RESIDENCE

PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

### ARCHITECT OF RECORD:

#### o2 Architecture

1089 N. Plam Canyon Drive, Suite B  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Lance C. O'Donnell, AIA

*Principal*

### STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

Concord Consulting Group, Inc.

### GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

Lance C. O'Donnell, AIA

### MASONRY CONTRACTOR:

Precision Masonry, Inc.

### BLOCK PRODUCER:

Angelus Block Company, Inc.

### OWNER:

Lance O'Donnell and Regina Basterrechea

**Jury Comments:** *This house could serve as one of the pilots for Residential LEED. The integrated PV system offsets electrical use allowing the house to be grid neutral, taking advantage of challenging climatic conditions. Masonry is actually celebrated throughout this project in an unabashed modern style - an honest and clean manner.*

**Architect's Commentary:** This infill/hillside home is located at the base of Mt. San Jacinto in Palm Springs, CA. This Sonora Desert setting is seasonally windy, hot and arid, with cold winter nights and an average of 350 sunny days. Sensitivity to these climatic patterns, current ecological building research, and timeless aesthetics informed the architecture. The result is a forthright 2,300 square-foot sustainable, durable, passive solar home with room for extended family & guests. A 300 square-foot detached guest house lends precedent for planned density as an alternative to sprawl and limited buildable sites. This separate dwelling/

garage volume, along with the front masonry wall, creates a courtyard—a hallmark of desert architecture.

The rock-covered, sloping site created unique opportunities. First, the site's boulders/cobble was situated into a natural perimeter and habitat for displaced fauna. Existing native plants, Palo Verde, creosote, encilia & cacti were plentiful, mature, and retained. Site utility and pad disturbance was carefully planned to preserve 70% of the site's existing features. With an average rainfall of 4.5", coming in 4-6 intense storms, the site still needed thoughtful restoration. The design captures 100% of the site's rainwater into detention swales to recharge the aquifer and protect downhill homes. To further supplement the aquifer, grey water is used to assist the natural recharge process.

Taking advantage of a +10' east/west slope, the home is organized along the natural grade. Low masonry retaining walls - 18' apart - allow seamless indoor/outdoor living. Siting the house's long axis east/west, and opening up to the southern courtyard, provides seasonal heating, deep shading, and expansive views, while protecting from hot and dusty prevailing winds.

The home carefully balances thermal mass (exposed slabs, CMU walls and earth sheltering) with night-flush cooling. Spray foam insulation helps keep cool air in and seals the building envelope from dust and noise. A 7kW solar photovoltaic system reduces electrical demand by 100% resulting in zero net electrical energy. A tankless hot water system decreases natural gas usage and high efficiency fixtures (toilets, showers, faucets) minimize water consumption. To improve indoor air quality and insure healthy indoor air within the tightly sealed envelope, formaldehyde free cabinetry/adhesives and no VOC paints and sealers were used. The home has no carpeting and utilized area rugs made from reused wool carpeting from one of the firm's remodels. Appliances and lighting are Energy Star rated.

The home received a Platinum certification from the USGBC's LEED for Homes program on May 12th, 2009.



## GOLDEN WEST COLLEGE SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH SERVICES BUILDING

HUNTINGTON BEACH, CALIFORNIA

**ARCHITECT:**  
Perkins+Will  
617 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1200  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Nick Seierup, FAIA  
*Principal*

Bob Lavey, AIA  
*Principal*

Christopher Waight  
*Project Architect*

**STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:**  
Thornton Tomasetti Group  
**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:**  
DJM Construction Company, Inc.  
**MASONRY CONTRACTOR:**  
J. A. Lynch Masonry, Inc.  
**BLOCK PRODUCER:**  
Angelus Block Company, Inc.  
**OWNER:**  
Golden West College, Coast Community College District

**Jury Comments:** *This project is a great example of what higher-ed buildings should be. A very special learning environment integrated into a layered, complex and very thoughtful design. The use of concrete masonry material at once is the focal point and the anchoring backdrop to an accomplished set of details and marriage of materials. The exterior circulation, various daylighting techniques, and other CHPS design elements provided the Jury with a clear Grand Award Winner – proving that good design and sustainable design are, and should be, one and the same.*

**Architect's Commentary:** The new Golden West College School of Nursing and Health Services Building is a three-story facility that will become a significant gateway building to the college campus. The College decided during the master planning phase that the student health services center and the nursing school could be joined into a new facility that will become one of the anchors of the Golden West campus.

Simulating a hospital environment, this facility will focus on integrating the Nursing Center and the Student Health Center. The focus for the Nursing Center will be hi-tech classrooms and skills labs, which include a human patient simulation center, a technology lab, and a multimedia skills lab. The Health Center consists of a lobby, nurse's station, exam rooms, infirmary room, and a reception area with lockable medical records.

The building integrates CHPS sustainable design criteria and green features such as the facility's east/west orientation to maximize day lighting opportunities and thermal performance. The service tower buffers the building from the west sun. Classrooms are single loaded and equipped with light shelves and operable windows for natural ventilation. The building also has a "cool" heat-reflective roof, and all planting materials are low maintenance and drought tolerant climatic natives. The building materials include cedar siding, metal siding, concrete masonry block, and smooth plaster, each providing a different natural texture and color.

The ground floor includes faculty/administrative space and Campus Health Center, with exam/treatment rooms. The second floor houses the Health (Nursing) Sciences curriculum, including Patient Simulation, Nursing Skills and Computer Labs. Third floor contains three flexible multi-use classrooms. This project creates a centralized home for students in Health Sciences, increasing exposure of this academic program by bringing students of other disciplines to the building via the shared classrooms. Outdoor study areas adjacent to the portal and at each floor will foster informal learning/social interaction outside the classroom environment.

Open stairways covered with vines encourage quick and visible movement vertically. "Learning" gardens, with traditional medicinal herbs and shrubs, chosen specifically for their historic relationship to medicine and human health, surround the building and will become a part of the teaching curriculum.



Photography: Greg Epstein, Greg Epstein Photography



Photography: Cheryl Stieffel and Peter Leifer, New York Focus

## HELEN BERNSTEIN HIGH SCHOOL

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

### ARCHITECT:

**Perkins+Will**

617 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1200  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Nick Seierup, FAIA

*Principal*

### STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

ARUP

### GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

Tutor-Saliba Corporation

### MASONRY CONTRACTOR:

Reyes Masonry Contractors

### BLOCK PRODUCER:

Angelus Block Company, Inc.

### OWNER:

Los Angeles Unified School District

**Jury Comments:** *The jury agreed this project is a 21st century response to the great high schools of the 20th century. A terrifically difficult site, to be sure, this project rose to the challenge with the coordinated yet design specific resolve of each façade. The use of masonry adds to the visual texture of an exciting and enticing place to come to learn. A complex program with urban concerns was met with openness and dignity.*

**Architect's Commentary:** Los Angeles Unified School District's new Helen Bernstein High School is situated on a 12.4-acre site that is possibly the most visible gateway to Hollywood and the Sunset Strip. The school serves an expanding population from the dense local residential community and relieves overcrowding at two existing nearby high schools. Designed for 2,625 students and

incorporating a continuation school, the project is part of LAUSD's very ambitious building program.

The guiding concern in the design of the school was to maximize the use of the valuable urban site for the school and the local community while providing an exciting, safe, and humane educational environment for students and educators. The design also takes into account the varied learning approaches the district may implement and allows opportunity for opening up various components of the building, such as the library, theater, and gym to the community. Concrete masonry creates a solid base element for these public areas—providing stability and strength, long-term low maintenance, and cost/value.

The six-story building stacks three floors of classrooms in a long bar bridging across the CMU base of public components and parking garage. These components also frame a raised outdoor gathering space that is the heart of the campus. This arrangement allows two-thirds of the site to remain open for play fields, addressing both a major component of the high school program and a serious lack of open green space within the community.

The primary materials, detailing, and architecture successfully reflect the strong local/regional context of Hollywood studio architecture, with references to the scale and streaming texture of the adjacent Los Angeles freeway system. The material palette addresses the very demanding budget and goals of sustainability, long-term durability, maximum flexibility, and a warm, inviting environment celebrating a new vision for education.



Photography: Gary Zee, Opulence Studios

## UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS, RECREATION AND WELLNESS CENTER

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

**ARCHITECTS:**  
AECOM Design in Association with Hastings & Chivetta Architects, Inc.

**AECOM Design**  
2777 East Camelback Road, Suite 200  
Phoenix, AZ 85016

Steven A. Lichtenberger, AIA  
Principal

**Hastings & Chivetta Architects, Inc.**  
700 Corporate Park Drive, Suite 400  
St. Louis, MO 63105

Erik Kocher, AIA, LEED AP  
Principal

**STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:**  
Bennett & Jimenez, Inc.  
**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:**  
Kitchell  
**MASONRY CONTRACTOR:**  
Frazier Masonry Corporation  
**BLOCK PRODUCER:**  
Trenwyth Industries, Inc.  
**OWNERS:**  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

**Jury Comments:** *The creative break-up of forms helps to belie the size and complexity of this project. With a challenging site and multifaceted program, the results are inviting and visually stimulating. Various forms of masonry are used throughout successfully as a compliment, never a distraction, to the design. While daylight is well integrated in many of the spaces, once the Jury saw the interior of the Natatorium, we were sold.*

**Architect's Commentary:** This project is a new 187,000 square-foot recreation center for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The facility, which replaced a building originally constructed in 1968, includes a 4-court gymnasium, multi-activity courts, classrooms, a fitness center, multi-purpose meeting rooms, administrative offices, racquetball courts, jogging track, a bistro, and a natatorium featuring a 25-yard, 6-lane lap pool and separate indoor recreation pool.

The design team studied many conceptual alternatives and, in consultation with the steering committee, selected concepts, which were multi-story because of the limited size of the site. Entry into the facility is on the north end of the complex to facilitate internal control of users. A free-zone of activity areas are accessible from the main lobby or lounge. From the main lobby/atrium space, visitors can see into many of the recreational activity areas including the fitness center, weight and cardio room, natatorium, racquetball courts, multi-purpose rooms, 4-court gymnasium and jogging track.

The Wellness Center is accessible from the main lobby and is outside of the building's controlled zone. The Wellness Center is connected over three floors and is secured separately from the rest of the facility. The pharmacy, check-in, waiting and health education classrooms are on the first level; administrative offices and the clinic are on the second level; and counseling is on the third level.

The interior design was developed to be visually open and be finished in appropriate and maintainable materials. The exterior design is self-sustaining, but shares textures and materials from many of the more recent buildings on campus.



## WALLIS ANNENBERG YOUTH CENTER

WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA

### ARCHITECTS:

**Gensler**

2500 Broadway, Suite 300  
Santa Monica, CA 90404

Jim Lefever, AIA  
Project Architect

Hector Ayala, AIA  
Project Architect

Ramon Hone  
Project Designer

Fong Liu, AIA  
Project Designer

Jim McNett  
Project Manager

### HNTB Architecture

601 W. Fifth Street, Suite 1010  
Los Angeles, CA 90071

Sunil Parab, AIA  
Project Architect

Joe Diesko, AIA  
Project Principal

Vernon Pounds  
Project Manager

### STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

KPFF Consulting Engineers

### GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

Braaksma Construction, Inc.

### MASONRY CONTRACTOR:

Masonry Masters, Inc.

### BLOCK PRODUCERS:

Angelus Block Company, Inc.

### OWNER:

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

**Jury Comments:** *The unapologetic design and use of concrete masonry in this structure is what made the Jury take a second look. That there was such attention paid to details on a Pro Bono project, the Jury could easily elevate this project to Honor Award status. The Center is urban and edgy with clean lines and straight talk - complimenting the mission of a Center that has an exceptional purpose. Safe and inviting, we wish a place like this for all inner city youths.*

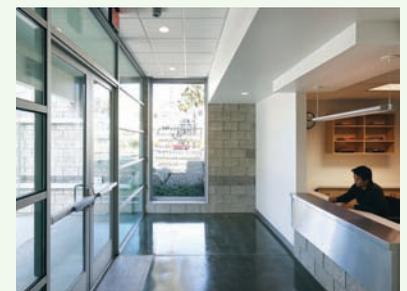
**Architect's Commentary:** The 7,100-square-foot Wallis Annenberg Youth Center provides a safe and comfortable destination for at-risk youth in Los Angeles County's San Gabriel Valley. Designed pro bono for the LA County Sheriff's Youth Foundation, the building comprises two discreet components: an airy gymnasium with facilities for boxing and martial arts instruction, and a more traditional classroom setting with computers and desks. The foundation, which is supported and administered by the Sheriff's Department and an associated citizens committee, has found the new building brings an effective mix of instruction and recreation, and effectively develops focus and discipline for the target population.

On the campus of a Sheriff's Department training facility, the project was built largely with striated concrete masonry units, which simultaneously express strength, stability and warmth. The block is low-maintenance and durable, and finished with a graffiti-resistant coating. Steel, glass and a polycarbonate thermoplastic complete the building and bring a lightness to the sturdy base structure. The gymnasium and classroom bar are connected with an indoor/outdoor T-shaped entrance corridor that allows light and breezes to penetrate into the project at the same time access is secured.

The gymnasium's roll-up glass doors open to canopied areas on the east and west facades. Polycarbonate thermoplastic panels ring the gymnasium, above the CMU base, allowing in natural light by day and creating a glowing lantern when lit from within at night. The classroom portion is an articulated CMU bar that contains two classrooms, a high-tech training room and men's and women's locker rooms and an administrative office.



Photography: Ryan Gobuty, Gensler



Photography: Jeff Goldberg, Esto

## PLAYA VISTA FIRE STATION NO. 67

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

### ARCHITECT:

**R. L. Binder, FAIA Architecture & Planning**  
7726 W. 81<sup>st</sup> Street  
Playa del Rey, CA 90293

Rebecca L. Binder, FAIA  
*Principal*

Kim A. Walsh, AIA  
*Principal*

### STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

Brandow & Johnston Associates

### GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

Bernards Brothers Construction

### MASONRY CONTRACTOR:

R. E. Williams and Sons, Inc.

### BLOCK PRODUCER:

ORCO Block Company, Inc.

### OWNER:

Los Angeles City Fire Department

**Jury Comments:** *This is a Fire Station that any community would hold in high regard. A disciplined design in the use of various forms of masonry is the key to the sense of importance that this project type needs to project. The masonry has a sense of strength about it, while dovetailing nicely with the other materials. With accomplished daylighting, storm water management, and a reflective roof, the Fire Station was awarded LEED Certified status, providing the Jury with an example of good design and sustainable design in one package.*

**Architect's Commentary:** This 16,000 square foot fire station for Playa Vista includes heavy and light apparatus bays, crew and chief dormitories, dayroom,

kitchen, dining, fitness center, and administration, as well as a conference and community room. The one-acre site design provides for drive through access at the large apparatus bays, secure parking, hose drying tower, private courtyard, drought resistant planting, and water retention systems.

The architecture is the expression of the building program and its interior spaces. The subtly patterned concrete masonry ground floor, which defines the entry and the apparatus bays, creates an animated base for the composition and is effectively a cradle for the second story mass of the building. The CMU combines all the qualities necessary to provide the durability, structural integrity, and character required of this fire station and community facility. Its randomly banded 4" courses add visual interest and a "fabric like" quality to the mass.

The second story, clad in pre-fabricated Hardieplank and sheet metal panels, sits between the two high volume apparatus bays, above the support spaces and into the concrete masonry base, much like a 3D "puzzle piece" creating bass relief, unexpected geometries, and changing shadow patterns throughout the day. The steel rooftop framework, an extension of the second story, which loosely serves as a mechanical enclosure, completes the "massing" and integrates the rooftop equipment into the building design.

The fire station is designed to be an extremely functional facility that is easily maintained by the station staff, a wonderful place for personnel to reside, and a civic resource. It utilizes the site to its best advantage with excellent apparatus bay access, and is a legible public facility adding to its context of mixed commercial and residential uses. The front entry is enhanced by a public art component that celebrates rescue workers.



Photography: Ardeshir Nozari, Nozari + Nozari Architects

## 11821 MISSISSIPPI DIGITAL OFFICE BUILDING

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

### ARCHITECT:

**Nozari + Nozari Architects AIA NCARB**  
1460 7th Street, Suite 203  
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Ardeshir Nozari, AIA  
*Principal*

Roshan Ghaffarian Nozari, AIA  
*Principal*

Julie Herrera  
*Project Manager*

Farzad Ebrahimzadeh  
*Design Support and 3-D Modeling*

### STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

Namdar Engineering

### GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

Xebec Construction, Ltd.

### MASONRY CONTRACTOR:

Reicon Builders, Inc.

### BLOCK PRODUCER:

Angelus Block Company, Inc.

### OWNER:

KABD, LLC

**Jury Comments:** *The Jury greatly appreciated the solution to a difficult and challenging site. As though airlifted in, the construction crew deserves a mention as well! The creativity used to resolve the parking issues alone are worthy of comment. A deft use of the concrete masonry as a functional and textural component is evident throughout as the exterior integrated itself to the interior quite seamlessly.*

**Architect's Commentary:** The creative design of this project responds to the program requirement for additional office space and parking in an existing one-story 12,000 square-foot, reinforced brick building in Los Angeles, California. One half of the existing building was removed to create a 7,500 square-foot area, where the new 10,000 square-foot, two-story office building was designed with a 36-stall, cantilevered rooftop parking and a 4-stall on-grade parking area. The new building was designed and constructed while the adjacent offices were fully operational.

The structure consists of a combination of exposed poured in place concrete, as well as reinforced concrete masonry walls with steel framing and decking on both levels. Forms and materials follow function in this exquisitely designed building. The cantilevered steel based rooftop with the stainless steel parapet walls expand beyond the building. The yellow and red exposed concrete masonry and poured in place colored concrete walls create a rich and dynamic façade. The main entrance to the building sits in a two-story glass wall and is marked by a steel sculpture.

The design implements a storm water management plan by discharging storm water into a planter basin that results in a 25% decrease in the volume of storm water runoff from the two-year, 24-hour design storm. The waterproofing membrane over the roof deck provides a Solar Reflectance Index higher than 29. The project uses over 20% regional materials manufactured less than 30 miles of the site. The design achieves a minimum glazing factor of 2% by the use of operable glazing and the installation of glass blocks into the concrete roof deck.



Photography: Tom Bonner, Tom Bonner Photography

## MIDTOWN CROSSING

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

**ARCHITECT:**  
Studio One Eleven at Perkowitz+Ruth Architects  
111 W. Ocean Blvd., 21<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Alan Pullman, AIA  
*Principal*

**STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:**  
Nabih Youssef and Associates  
**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:**  
Rudolph & Sletten, Inc.  
**MASONRY CONTRACTOR:**  
Masonry Masters, Inc.  
**BLOCK PRODUCER:**  
Angelus Block Company, Inc.  
**OWNER:**  
CIM Group, Inc.

**Jury Comments:** *The Jurors agreed this project is a very creative response to a transit related development..... where transit users and neighbors can enjoy a minute or an hour. The masonry compliments the design intent throughout and is an integral part of a very positive experience. With its graffiti resistant skin, it satisfies very urban aspirations.*

**Architect's Commentary:** This project is an urban retail development located at the busy intersection of Pico and San Vicente Boulevards just west of downtown Los Angeles. It is comprised of approximately 20,000 square feet of street-facing retail shops and a new twelve bus Metro transfer station. Complimented with new streetscape improvements, parking is located behind the shops to allow active storefront uses to front Pico Boulevard, transforming it into a pleasant and walkable environment.

Challenging economics and demanding site and user conditions necessitated the use of a durable exterior finish that would provide a cost-effective structural solution. In addition, the material needed to be consistent with the scale and textural quality found in the surrounding neighborhood's mid-century roadside commercial architecture.

The field block used throughout the project is designed in a stacked bond pattern with raked joints to emphasize the horizontal lines of the buildings and create a graphic element on the façades. The block beneath the storefronts is selected to provide a structural bulkhead capable of withstanding a lateral load imposed by a three foot flood zone. The wall is accented with randomly arranged blocks of varied thicknesses to create a dimensional pattern and texture intended to enhance pedestrian interest.

Graffiti is a potential problem and re-painting will be required. Therefore, the concrete masonry is painted in a selection of warm and contrasting colors designed to enliven the project and establish an inviting and attractive exterior compatible with the neighborhood character.

The use of concrete masonry as the primary building material on this project solved a number of challenging issues and the result is a durable, cost-effective, vibrant and well articulated retail center.

GRAND  
AWARD

RESIDENTIAL DESIGN



Photography: Erhard Pfeiffer (Photos 1, 3-5)  
Photography: Julius Shulman & Juergen Nogai (Photo 2)

## 700 PALMS RESIDENCE

VENICE, CALIFORNIA

### ARCHITECT:

**Ehrlich Architects**  
10865 Washington Blvd.  
Culver City, CA 90232

Steven Ehrlich, FAIA, RIBA  
*Design Principal*

Thomas E. Zahlten, AIA, LEED AP  
*Principal-in-Charge*

Mathew Chaney, AIA, LEED AP  
*Associate/Project Architect*

### STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

Parker Resnick Structural Engineering

### GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

Mark Shramek Construction

### MASONRY CONTRACTOR:

Creative Masonry

### BLOCK PRODUCER:

ORCO Block Company, Inc.

### OWNER:

Steven Ehrlich, FAIA, RIBA and Nancy Griffin

**Jury Comments:** *A fabulous design – a Net Zero Energy building. The perfect example of what is possible. Supremely livable, while adeptly incorporating technology is clear with every view. The spaces are open yet defined, having innovative daylighting techniques as the star of the show. The concrete masonry becomes a critical backdrop to intersecting materials, exterior landscaping, and art. It is essential to the design, yet is in no way overwhelming. The integrated sustainable properties of this house left no doubt in the Jury's mind that our Grand Award Winner had been found.*

**Architect's Commentary:** This eco-friendly residence is designed as a high-performance home, dissolving the

barriers between indoors and outdoors. It utilizes raw, honest materials appropriate to the bohemian grittiness of the surrounding community and has a small carbon footprint in balance with lifestyle.

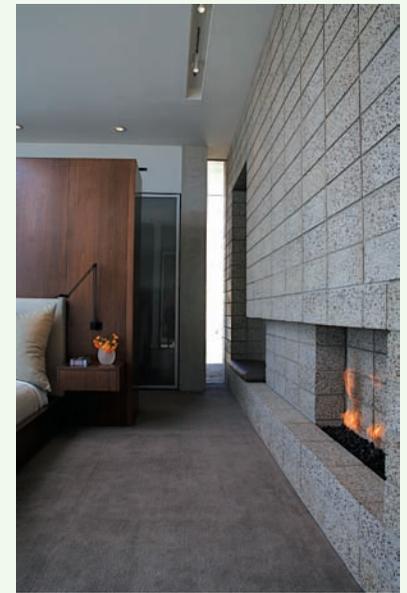
Three garden courtyards embrace three 80-year-old trees. The courtyards afford privacy and enhance the well being of its occupants. The overall massing maximizes volume and natural light on the narrow lot, yet displays sensitivity of scale to the eclectic neighborhood. Exterior sunshades on an exoskeleton of steel control the heat gain from the Southwestern exposure. Flexible, transformative spaces were created through the use of extensive operable glass doors. When open to the elements, the living area is transformed into an airy pavilion.

The design takes full advantage of the local climate such that a net zero energy building is obtained. This was done by employing a highly efficient building envelope and incorporating passive solar gains. Radiant floors and solar thermal energy are utilized for space heating and domestic hot water heating. The house also relies on natural ventilation, thermal mass provided by concrete masonry walls and concrete floors and operable shading to eliminate mechanical cooling, despite the large glazing areas. Finally, by employing ultra-efficient appliances and lighting and by incorporating solar electric power for the remaining loads, the house achieves its goal for a net zero energy home.

The exterior landscape employs native plants, in tune with the local climate for minimal water usage. The chosen coating and maintenance-free exterior finish materials, including CMU block, Cor-ten steel and TREX (a recycled, sustainable material), weather naturally, while all interior surfaces rely on varying tactile materials such as pumice-aggregated CMU, carbon steel and plaster which are left unpainted. As a result, there are practically no VOC emissions for enhanced indoor occupant health.

HONOR  
AWARD

RESIDENTIAL DESIGN



Photography: Lance Gerber, Nuvue Interactive, LLC (1)  
Photography: David Glomb, David Glomb Photography (2, 3, 4)

## CHRISTIE RESIDENCE

PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

### ARCHITECT:

**Schmidt Architecture**  
4380 Irvine Avenue  
Studio City, CA 91604

James Schmidt, AIA  
*Principal*

### STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

RF Structural Consultants, Inc.

### GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

Solterra Development

### MASONRY CONTRACTOR:

Solterra Development

### BLOCK PRODUCER:

ORCO Block Company, Inc.

### OWNER:

Rick Christie

**Jury Comments:** *Stunning. Classic. Timeless. Meaningful, agreed jurors, in that the design doesn't just follow, but advances the deep modernist tradition of the desert region. This house is predominantly concrete masonry of various types, yet has an inviting warmth about it that is quite difficult to accomplish. The glass to masonry detailing, particularly, is a high achievement.*

**Architect's Commentary:** The design objective was to capture, frame, and celebrate the spectacular views from the site of the surrounding San Jacinto Mountains and vast Coachella Valley below. Additionally, the goal was to seamlessly integrate and unify interior and exterior spaces.

The primary programmatic requirements were organized in a linear partii to take advantage of the views in all directions. Placing the guest wing perpendicular to the

main axis of the house provides privacy and separation of the entry loggia / motor court on the north side from the private, primary outdoor living areas on the south side. Pocketing and pivoting walls of glass embrace the views, while clerestory windows and vertical slits of glass capture the ridge of the mountains and frame distant vistas.

The material palette is simple, honest, and architectural to pay homage to the city's rich mid-century context. The home responds to the severe climate with deep overhangs, thick block shade fins, and pivot doors, which act as wind scoops to capture the cooling northern breezes. Burnished concrete masonry blocks were chosen for the project for their rich texture, which reflects the rugged desert surroundings in pattern and color, while adding a refined finish. Atypical 6" blocks provided a simple module to easily accommodate alignment with 8', 9', and 10' doors, as well as 9', 10' and 13.5' ceilings. In addition, the concrete masonry block elements provide architectural massing that serves as an anchoring counterpoint to the floating roof planes and abundant walls of glass.



## WINDANSEA BEACH HOMES

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA

**ARCHITECT:**

**Dominy + Associates Architects@domusstudio LLP**  
2150 W. Washington Street, Suite 303  
San Diego, CA 92110

John Pyjar, AIA  
*Principal*

Jeff Burns, AIA  
*Project Architect*

**STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:**

HTK Structural Engineers

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:**

Jaynes Corporation

**MASONRY CONTRACTOR:**

New Dimension Masonry, Inc.

**BLOCK PRODUCER:**

RCP Block & Brick, Inc.

**OWNER:**

Stratos Development

**Jury Comments:** *A terrific example of accommodating single family homes on a challenging site that might otherwise have fallen the way of the massive apartment building. Though clearly new, a community with complimenting vernaculars was created. The use of the concrete masonry inside skillfully joins the outside. The extensive use of differing masonry on the exterior deftly allows for a playful individuality to call home.*

**Architect's Commentary:** This irregular and curving 40,000 square-foot lot was previously occupied by the typical "50's" two-story box apartment complex. The project was a neighborhood eyesore and very run down. These detached homes completely changed this

neighborhood upon their completion. They are sited to give each a glimpse of the ocean ½ block toward the West end of the site. Each home has +/- 5,000 square feet in three levels of living space and a finished basement, varied ceiling heights and overlooks from levels above. Careful window placement also affords privacy, while accommodating light and ventilation. Floor to ceiling glass occurs throughout, providing an indoor/outdoor open feeling. Burnished and colored masonry walls, zinc roofs, nautical stainless handrails, and Kynar finish windows anticipate the harsh ocean environment. Color is used to add to the individuality of each home, all of which also have variations on their individual floor plans. Light enters the finished basement through large light wells—some of sufficient size for patios.

The use of concrete masonry with horizontal reveals pays homage to the adjacent historic concrete beach homes in the historic district of El Pueblo Ribera Court by Rudolf Schindler and built in 1923.

The zero-lot-line master plan maximizes useable yard area as well as privacy in the high density neighborhood. Concrete masonry provides the required fire walls at the zero-lot-line facades, while breaking down the scale of the tall windowless walls with anthropomorphic proportions inside and out. Sunlight that reflects off of the burnished block wall of the adjacent home provides a soft diffused light quality in the courtyard and in the home. Floor to ceiling glass and sliding and stacking glass doors extend the living areas out into the exterior patio/court and deck areas. Natural wood siding and ceilings compliment the permanence of the concrete masonry.



Photography: Jay Dominy, Jay Dominy Photography (1, 2)  
Photography: Cameron Akers, Cameron Akers Photography (3, 4)



# PROFILES IN ARCHITECTURE

Concrete Masonry Association of California and Nevada

6060 Sunrise Vista Drive, Suite 1990

Citrus Heights, CA 95610-7004

Visit our web site at [www.cmacn.org](http://www.cmacn.org)

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

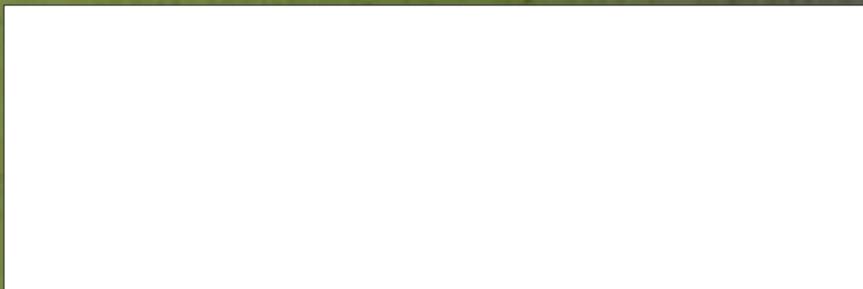
PRESORT STANDARD

US POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT NO. 604

SACRAMENTO, CA



## 2009

### CMACN/AIACC

#### CONCRETE MASONRY DESIGN AWARDS COMPETITION BANQUET

The 2009 Concrete Masonry Design Awards Banquet will be held Friday, September 25, 2009 at The Island Hotel, Newport Beach, California.

### 2009 SPONSORS

CalPortland

CEMEX

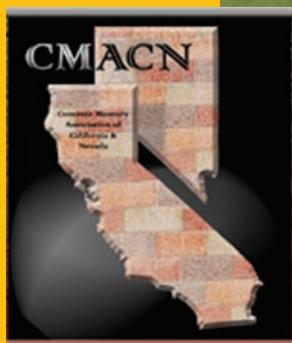
Lehigh Southwest Cement Company

Masonry Institute of America

Mitsubishi Cement Company

#### CORRECTION:

In our January 2009 Edition the Masonry Contractor for Vegas PBS Virtual High School should have been stated as A-1 Sandblasting and Masonry, Inc.



### ARCHITECTURAL CONCRETE MASONRY

Concrete Masonry Units are dimensionally and aesthetically pleasing for ANY of your existing or future designs. CMU's can be integrally pigmented and textured to meet a wide range of client and project demands. CMU's are design flexible, versatile, noncombustible, durable, economical and locally available.

*Funding for the production and publication of the CMU Profiles in Architecture is provided by:*

**AIR VOL BLOCK, INC.**  
(805) 543-1314  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

**ANGELUS BLOCK COMPANY, INC.**  
(818) 767-8576  
Fontana, CA 92335  
Gardena, CA 90248  
Indio, CA 92202  
Orange, CA 92668  
Oxnard, CA 93030  
Rialto, CA 92316  
Sun Valley, CA 91352

**BASALITE CONCRETE PRODUCTS, LLC**  
(707) 678-1901  
Carson City, NV 89706  
Dixon, CA 95620  
Sparks, NV 89431  
Tracy, CA 95376

**BLOCKLITE (a subsidiary of Basalite Concrete Products, LLC)**  
(559) 896-0753  
Selma, CA 93662

**CALSTONE COMPANY, INC.**  
(408) 984-8800  
Galt, CA 95632  
San Martin, CA 95046  
Sunnyvale, CA 94086

**CASTLELITE BLOCK, LLC**  
(707) 678-3465  
Dixon, CA 95620

**CIND-R-LITE BLOCK COMPANY**  
(702) 651-1550  
North Las Vegas Area  
(702) 365-6955  
South Las Vegas Area  
Las Vegas, NV 89081

**DESERT BLOCK COMPANY, INC.**  
(661) 824-2624  
Mojave, CA 93501  
Bakersfield, CA 93307

**OLDCASTLE APG WEST, INC.**  
(602) 302-9605  
Needles, CA 92363

**ORCO BLOCK COMPANY, INC.**  
(800) 473-6726  
Banning, CA 92220  
Indio, CA 92203  
Oceanside, CA 92056  
Riverside, CA 92509  
Romoland, CA 92585  
Stanton, CA 90680

**RCP BLOCK & BRICK, INC.**  
(619) 460-7250  
Lemon Grove, CA 91946  
San Diego, CA 92154  
Santee, CA 92071

**TRI DELTA (a subsidiary of Oldcastle, APG West, Inc.)**  
(702)633-5787  
North Las Vegas, NV 89030

*Concrete Masonry Association of California and Nevada (CMACN) a nonprofit professional organization established in 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.

For further information contact us at:  
Concrete Masonry Association of California and Nevada  
6060 Sunrise Vista Drive, Suite 1990  
Citrus Heights, CA 95610-7004

Tel: (916) 722-1700  
Fax: (916) 722-1819  
Email: [info@cmacn.org](mailto:info@cmacn.org)