CTBA Office Building
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

This contemporary 12,500 square-foot office building is the home of Charles T. Bryant and Associates, Inc., (CTBA) located in a mixed-use neighborhood, known for its Craftsman and Arts & Crafts style architecture. Also a general contractor, Mr. Bryant developed, designed and constructed the unique building. He combined forces with his general contracting firm, Masbuild, Inc., and provided project oversight and coordination as the Principal in Charge of the firms and developed a solid conceptual design. “It started with a vision and from there, the idea manifested into the new CTBA Office Building,” says Bryant. “We wanted something that would stand on its own and be unique, something contemporary but classic,” says Mrs. Bryant. Charettes were held where employees had the opportunity for input and critique. Presentations and tours at various stages were provided to the city and the very outspoken community. Originally skeptical of the ability of concrete materials to complement the traditional wood structures, the community was pleasantly surprised by how well the design worked within the context of the area.

The design uses five different types of concrete masonry units in three shades of gray and two distinct textures, which when combined with the ornamental metal, bronze, reflected solar glass, exposed wood beams and standing seam metal roof, creates an exciting and refreshing new addition to the architectural landscape. Design features such as corbelled corners, split faced block reveals, solar screens, metal grids that echo the blocks, and glass awnings all work in concert with the natural light, reflections and shadows to create dramatic elevations throughout the day and night.

The building features spectacular views from the north, west, south and east. Due to its intricate detail work, land, and various fees, it took 14 months to complete. The building has reflective windows, structural light-weight concrete floors, heating ventilation and air-conditioning units placed outside to eliminate roof penetrations, and reduce noise and vibration, exposed ducts and lighting fixtures. The exposed 52-foot long beams support the roof, keep supports to a minimum, and maximize interior space.

ARCHITECT:
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STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
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GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
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MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Eaglelift, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER:
ORCO Block Company, Inc.

OWNER:
Charles and Lynnelle Bryant
SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY RECREATION CENTER
RONHERT PARK, CALIFORNIA

The University had two major goals for this project: one was to create a recreation space that could become a gathering space for students, and the second was to demonstrate the Campus commitment to Sustainable Design.

The Recreation Center is organized about the campus “Living Room”. This two-story volume features the exposed glu-lam beams and wood T & G ceiling, natural slate floor and wood sheathed pavilion at the check-in desk. It is meant to be an extension of the courtyard with operable doors and a seat wall that welcomes all students to engage in a holistic approach to their education.

The facility is composed of a 5,550 square-foot court gymnasium, an 11,000 square-foot two court gymnasium with divider curtain, two multipurpose studios, fitness areas, fitness testing and wellness, locker rooms, common areas, offices and support spaces.

Given the unique character of the Sonoma campus, the building uses a natural palette of materials. Alaskan yellow cedar, cultured stone, slate, glass, standing seam metal roof and CMU are the primary materials. The wood canopies create patterns of shade and shadow against the CMU walls, provide elements of scale and detail at the entrance, and break up the large functional masses of the program space. The project showcases the burnished CMU as a durable material for a university recreation building, unifying the interior and exterior, and a backdrop for the wood details.

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BLOCK PRODUCER:
Calstone Block Company, Inc.

OWNER:
Sonoma State University

Photography: Costea Photography
Providing one location to efficiently serve the needs of city residents was this project’s challenge. Before the Civic Center was open, city offices were scattered across town in rented quarters. Now the building’s three-story wing provides citizens with “one-stop” access to most city services. The goal for staff was to have a single work place environment allowing for better communication between departments and more efficient operation of the city.

The 63,000 square foot, $11 million facility includes a three-story City Hall with offices for Planning, Engineering, Fire Prevention, and Permitting. Adjacent to the City Hall is a two-story state-of-the-art Council Chamber and Galleria. This flexible space accommodates community displays, art galleries, and expanded meeting room space.

The construction is steel frame masonry and tile with stucco exterior wall finishes. Masonry is used for the building’s base, column covers, and lower floor walls. Two integral colors and two face finishes of masonry were used to create visual diversity and develop horizontal banding. Masonry was selected for aesthetics, durability, longevity and lower construction costs.

Additionally, our intent was to provide the most cost effective and energy efficient design solution. Our use of day-lighting, sunscreens, variable volume air conditioning units and efficient lighting resulted in exceeding the Title 24 energy requirements by over 28%.
Surrounded by new residential development, Pacifica High School’s 50-acre campus supports 2,250 students with 205,000 square feet of concrete masonry construction. Major design elements include a 600 seat theater, 25,000 volume library, 2,500 student gymnasium, and a multi-purpose student union and amphitheater. Community, student union, and academic functions are connected by a series of outdoor rooms that foster academic identity, promote educational excellence, meet student and faculty needs for safety and security, and achieve effective learning environments.

Adaptive architectural features resulting from open-plan building design and technology infrastructures allow for future expansion and change. A strong commitment to energy efficiency, environmental quality, permanence, and the desire for a distinguished architecture inspired the use of contextual masonry forms and features, and produced a model for green building design. Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) design considerations were widely implemented to create energy-saving thermal mass, employ natural daylighting and cross-ventilation features, and to preclude the need for air conditioning in most academic areas. Masonry building strategies insured timely delivery and conformance with State allowable building costs.

The civic minded, university setting encourages students and staff to meet the challenges of economic and cultural diversity, technology, and globalization with new attitudes and thinking by the creation of integrated instructional neighborhoods, encouraging cross curriculum teaching, and by the robust use of interactive learning technologies, Seen as a community focal point, the campus responds with a clear and open plan that invites optimum use and community participation, integrates education and design, optimizes available funding resources, and produces optimum efficiency, flexibility, and facility use.

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MASONRY CONTRACTOR:  
Reyes Masonry

BLOCK PRODUCER:  
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OWNER:  
Oxnard Union High School District
LOVONYA DE JEAN MIDDLE SCHOOL
RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA

The West Contra Costa Unified School District’s new Lovonya de Jean Middle School represents the desire of the people of Richmond to place the finest middle school in the state at the heart of their urban neighborhood. Their goal was to build an extremely durable facility with a sense of place and community pride, which would last one hundred years. Concrete masonry units were the natural choice for construction, because of the high quality, flexibility, and permanence.

Grey block of various textures and scoring patterns articulate the structures. The CMU’s are coated in warm colors with an elastomeric to appear inviting to the neighborhood and provide moisture protection in this rainy climate. Multiple colors of glazed CMU’s provide accents at key entrances and throughout the project. The block is exposed at the interior of the large public spaces for durability and to tie the interior and exterior together. CMU’s provide a human scale to a large campus and integrate successfully with the glass and steel imagery.

The campus is designed around a central quad area with ample student gathering spaces, seating, clear circulation, and landscaping. The Administration/Media Center Building is located at the main entrance to facilitate access and control. At the east side of the quad, two-story classroom buildings are designed to maximize limited site area. The large Physical Education/Multi-Use/Performing Arts Building locates all of the shared functions in one area anchoring the west side of the campus quad, while providing easy after-hours access to the public from Harry Ells Way.

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BLOCK PRODUCER:
Basalite Concrete Products, LLC.

OWNER:
West Contra Costa Unified School District

Photography: Steve Whittaker
The Grant Elementary School Classroom Building is a new two-story classroom building constructed on an existing elementary school site. The building consists of seven classrooms, instructional support service rooms and restrooms. The existing campus sits on a two level site with access from the street to the main building. The existing student campus was through the lower level parking lot past classrooms to the main building and was considered unacceptable.

The new building bordering the street provides a stronger school presence in the neighborhood. The lower level entrance into the campus is through an exterior gap between the two classroom and five classroom structures into a paved court. This provides a clear and safe student pedestrian entrance into the campus. The two-level structure allows for easy access to the upper and lower levels of the campus.

The building’s exterior and interior structure is exposed to provide students with a clearer understanding of a buildings construction. The colors and materials chosen reflect some of that found in the existing campus, while retaining some individuality to the building. The exposed concrete block and steel construction lends a feeling of permanence to the project.

North and south facing windows let in natural light and ventilation to provide a bright comfortable classroom space without the need for air conditioning. The ceilings’ heights were raised to create a lighter and dynamic environment in the classrooms. Sound attenuation is achieved with the use of sound absorbent materials at the floor, ceiling and walls.
The Santa Maria Juvenile Justice Center enhances the existing fifty-bed, single courtroom Juvenile Complex for the North County of Santa Barbara. The new buildings comprise housing, courtroom, and intake/release areas.

The public face of the ensemble, the Courthouse, contains juvenile judicial services and secure departmental offices. Three thirty-bed, self-contained housing bays are designed for direct staff-detainee contact. Each housing bay contains a dining area, kitchenette, recreation yard, sleeping and day rooms. Views from the housing for juveniles are to northern rolling grass hills.

The exterior organization and image of the buildings are in a direct response to the neighboring suburban condition of the site, as well as to the proximity to the local airport. Materials include colored block and concrete floors, natural wood, and galvanized steel roofs. Due to its capability to be manipulated as structure and skin, its cost effectiveness, low maintenance, and aesthetic value, concrete masonry block is used in a variety of patterns and colors as exterior and interior finish.

CMU is traditionally a very good choice for these types of long lifecycle, heavily used Civic structures. Interior large light scoops and northern glazing throughout the scheme provide generous amounts of daylight, which is reflected into communal, staff, and waiting areas. The use of natural light is especially helpful to create a positive environment for the staff, as well as the detainees. The introduction of natural light into these areas will provide a calming, pleasing environment that will support the rehabilitative efforts of the programs staff, as well as reduce staff turnover rates, which provide better value to the taxpayers.
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