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Why Masonry?
www.whymasonry.org

Mission Lutheran Church Ministry Center
Photo: Martinez-Kuch Architects
Architect's Commentary: The existing Ventura High School Field House was aging rapidly. It had supported the stadium activities for over 5 decades and was worn out. An overview meeting with the Division of the State Architect quickly revealed that the structure was straddling an active seismic fault. No mitigation could be developed that made the structure safe. The response was to replace the building with a new structure located away from any active faults.

The review of existing studies highlighted a sliver of land that was suitable for placement of the building and allowed the re-use of an existing modular toilet building, which was lifted from its foundation, rotated 90 degrees and integrated into the west end of the new facility. This site would also take greater advantage of the slope and ocean view, and serve as a gateway for an enhanced entry experience to the stadium and would be central to all of its functions.

Flexibility and shared use are key elements of the building design. The locker and shower rooms are used at various times for home and visiting teams, boys and girls PE, multiple sports activities in the stadium and as an academic facility for PE curriculum. The conference room that highlights the west side of the building is used by the PE and coaching staff, offering them inspiring views. The decks and balconies that surround the building provide additional meeting space and multi-function support for pre and post game celebrations.

Why Masonry? The heart of the building design is its sustainable development philosophy. Utilizing concrete masonry units (CMUs) as the principal building material was central to meeting the sustainable goals of this project. Selected for its recycled content, high thermal mass, integral finish, ability to withstand earthquakes and the day to day use of the facility, it is exposed on the interiors and exteriors to complement the high tech finishes of the structure.

Created to meet both LEED® and CHPS criteria, the design includes the re-use of a previously developed site, utilization of native plant materials and water reducing landscape irrigation. Non-pervious surfaces have been reduced and stormwater management is mitigated through bio-filtration as well as management of the quantity of run-off.

In addition to the high fly ash content grout, other building materials with high recycled content include corrugated metal siding and studs, floor and wall tile, toilet partitions and structural elements integrated throughout. A cool roof and abundant natural light and ventilation combine to reduce energy loads. Skylights and clerestories illuminate the interior without electric lighting for most occupied times. This strategy is coupled with the installation of energy efficient lighting and HVAC units, and water saving fixtures. All glass is dual glazed low-e to further enhance building performance. The entire facility is highly insulated, and the thermal mass of the CMU walls regulates interior temperatures throughout the day and night. The result is a sustainable structure that is easy and cost effective to operate and maintain. CMU’s durable nature is well-suited to the demands of competitive high school sports teams.
In an age of environmental and financial uncertainty, the MIX @ Monterey represents a 21st century solution of responsible and sustainable urban redevelopment. This ground-breaking, eco-friendly mixed use project showcases environmentally conscious redevelopment in a modern day setting. The MIX @ Monterey is a 15,000 square foot, vertically integrated retail, commercial and residential facility specifically designed to leverage sustainable opportunities for the mutual benefit of users, tenants and the environment alike.

The MIX @ Monterey seeks to set the standard for sustainable and responsible architecture and development for the downtown area in San Luis Obispo. In addition to implementation of many Smart-Growth and Low Impact Development (LID) concepts such as high density urban infill, brown-field redevelopment, compact urban form, on-site biofiltration, and integrated mixed uses, the project has been designed to the highest standards in terms of energy efficiency and green design. The project qualifies for LEED Silver certification, and is also designed to meet the Architecture 2030 Challenge.

Provisions for traditional sustainable components such as correct solar orientated fenestration, passive heating and cooling, solar shading, and daylighting are incorporated into the core design of all commercial and residential spaces of the project. In addition, contemporary sustainable features such as cool roof technology, sustainably harvested renewable wood products, and smart-energy devices have also been systematically designed into the project.

Why Masonry? In an effort to showcase the functional beauty of concrete masonry units (CMUs), the design implements a burnished concrete masonry unit which exposes the natural aggregate and gives the façade a greater depth of color than with standard CMU's. Additionally, concrete masonry units were chosen due to their inherent thermal mass qualities, further enhancing the energy efficiency of internal spaces throughout the project.

Architect’s Commentary: In an age of environmental and financial uncertainty, the MIX @ Monterey represents a 21st century solution of responsible and sustainable urban redevelopment. This ground-breaking, eco-friendly mixed use project showcases environmentally conscious redevelopment in a modern day setting. The MIX @ Monterey is a 15,000 square foot, vertically integrated retail, commercial and residential facility specifically designed to leverage sustainable opportunities for the mutual benefit of users, tenants and the environment alike.
MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH MINISTRY CENTER
LAGUNA NIGUEL, CALIFORNIA

ARCHITECT:
Martinez-Kuch Architects (MKA)
17848 Sky Park Circle, Suite A
Irvine, California 92614

Everett C. Martinez
Partner

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Tilden Engineering

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Consolidated Contracting, Inc.

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
The Masonry Group
ORCO Block Co., Inc.

OWNER:
Mission Luthern Church

Architect’s Commentary: Mission Lutheran Church is a long established Church with an active congregation. The combination of increasingly active ministries and aging administrative facilities caused the need to provide a new ministry building which would include offices, classrooms and a new hall on an existing church campus.

The existing and prominent Church sanctuary provided a strong reference for the new ministry building. The challenge was to create a new and prominent facility without overwhelming or subverting the primary importance of the existing Church sanctuary. Noting that the existing sanctuary was made up of scored concrete masonry units and a strong roof profile, the designers decided to place the building entry facing the sanctuary and to use similar profile and scored concrete masonry units in a more contemporary manner. This allows the members of the church to view the strong entry statement before and after services instead of the back of the new 27,000 square-foot facility. By creating a courtyard between the two structures, they are able to share a common open space that is actively used after services and as usable space for outdoor congregational activities. The administrative facilities are provided in a two story structure, while the Mission Hall is a sloped one story element and provides an articulated exterior noting their functions.

Why Masonry? Concrete masonry units were not only used as a long-term, elegant material, but as a counterpoint to the aluminum and stainless steel detailing on the building. Having the same texture and color as the original church structure, the new ministry building creates a unified appearance, yet adds a contemporary upgrade to the entire campus.
COPELAND DONAHUE THEATER
CLAREMON, CALIFORNIA

ARCHITECT:
Page & Turnbull
417 South Hill Street
Los Angeles, California 90013

John Lesak, AIA, LEED® AP, FAPT
Principal

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Degenkolb Engineers

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER:
Cambridge Construction Management

BUILDER:
Hartman Baldwin

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
DJ Construction

BLOCK PRODUCER:
ORCO Block Co., Inc.

OWNER:
The Webb Schools

Architect’s Commentary: Sited along the scenic foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains in Claremont, The Webb Schools of California were established in 1922. The school’s buildings are simple and beautifully detailed, with several architecturally significant buildings designed by Myron Hunt and Allen Siple (1960’s). Siple’s buildings, several dormitories and a dining hall, are notable for their exquisite use of 4-inch tall concrete modular masonry units, red clay tile, wood windows, and exposed wood trim.

In the mid-2000s, school trustees decided to improve their performing arts programs. Critical to the success of these programs was a new "black box" theater. Envisioned primarily as a teaching space, the theater needed to provide a state-of-the-art venue for small performances and digital media recording/editing. The result is a compact, 2,200 square-foot versatile structure serving as a 60-seat theater, a classroom, and as a digital music/video recording studio.

Why Masonry? In keeping with Siple’s design and a tradition of masonry use, dating back to an adobe block, student-built chapel from the 1930’s, the Copeland Donahue Theater design team wanted to continue the materials pallet with a modern twist. To effectively meet the budget and design intent, the team mimicked Siple’s use of 4-inch concrete masonry units at strategic locations; the tower, lintels and banding, and coated 8-inch modular units with a smooth cement plaster at non-descript wall planes. The building blends seamlessly into campus.

The Copeland Donahue Theater was the first new academic building constructed on The Webb campus since 1987. A primary challenge was the constrained, steep site. The design team worked to integrate the building and its program into this landscape. They took advantage of Claremont’s mild climate; interiors open up to the outside and weave the wooded site into the teaching program. Designed in an era of heightened environmental awareness, both the building and grounds of the theater were planned with sustainability as a priority. The team began by taking into account the natural surroundings, preserving the two large oak trees on the site and re-using the original stones from a demolished storage building that formerly occupied the site. Other sustainable choices include:

- Using regional materials - CMU, roof tiles, wood, thereby reducing petroleum usage and air pollution.
- Using durable materials - CMU and clay tile, thus reducing maintenance.
- Using thermal mass. The 12-inch thick masonry walls absorb heat during the day and release it at night, reducing the need for artificial heating and cooling systems. The insulation and windows in the building make the building envelope energy-efficient.
- Using recycled products. The concrete masonry units, concrete, boards and decking, steel studs and carpet are made with high levels of recycled content.
- Increasing campus density so the footprint remains the same.
ARCHITECT OF RECORD:
Sillman Wright Architects
7515 Metropolitan Drive, Suite 400
San Diego, CA 92018

Brett Tullis, AIA, LEED® AP, NCARB
Principal in Charge

Paul Benedict
Job Captain

DESIGN ARCHITECT OF RECORD:
Kevin deFreitas Architects
885 Albion Street
San Diego, CA 92106

Kevin deFreitas, AIA
Principal, Design Architect

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Burkett & Wong Engineers

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Prava Construction Services, Inc.

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Cleavenger Masonry Incorporated

BLOCK PRODUCER:
Trenwyth Industries (an Oldcastle Company)
RCP Block & Brick, Inc.

OWNER:
City of San Diego

Architect’s Commentary: Building a durable public restroom or “comfort station” at the beach that can withstand abuse, vandalism, exposure to the marine elements with little or no maintenance is a challenge for any city. But creating a facility that looks great, is sustainable and reflects the values and character of the local community is a real challenge. The City of San Diego took on this challenge and with the help of a talented Design Build Team was able to deliver an outstanding facility for the community just in time for the summer beach crowds.

Why Masonry? The extensive use of glazed concrete masonry units (CMUs) both inside and out was a key element in the success of this project. The angled exterior enclosure is composed of over 65% glazed concrete masonry units combined with cast in place concrete walls. A random mosaic of four different color glazed CMUs mimics the colors of ocean and sky at the beach. The integral glazed finish on the CMUs is resistant to vandalism which is critical for public facilities.

Meeting the schedule was critical, and using glazed concrete masonry units made it possible to meet the aggressive timeline. Since the units are prefinished no additional finishing was required reducing the installation time.

The comfort station is a sustainable project that gets more than 60% of its energy from Building Integrated Photovoltaic Panels on the roof. The “V” shaped metal roof floats above the walls allowing for ocean breezes to naturally ventilate it. The materials used on the project were also selected for sustainability and the glazed CMUs have a 40% pre-consumer recycled content.

This dynamic building combines utilitarian function with artistic flair that makes it a truly unique building. The building also includes a mural installation on the bottom of the roof, which when the sun sets, and the lights go on, creates a spectacular and unexpected image.

Even though it is small, this building will likely see more visitors over time than any other building we have designed.
FRESNO STATE AQUATICS CENTER
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

ARCHITECT:
Teter Architects and Engineers
7535 N. Palm Avenue, Suite 201
Fresno, CA 93711
Paul Halajian, AIA, LEED AP
Project Architect

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Teter Architects and Engineers

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Lewis C. Nelson and Sons, Inc.

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Dorfmeister Masonry, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER:
Basalite Concrete Products, LLC

OWNER:
The Trustees of the California State University

Architect’s Commentary:

BACKGROUND
The Aquatics Center at Fresno State is an expression on the part of the University’s leadership to boldly address a controversial and challenging issue that presents itself to all learning institutions across the country – Title IX. Women’s Swimming and Diving were introduced in response to the need to expand women’s athletic programs at Fresno State. To facilitate participation at the highest level of competition, a new facility was required to replace the obsolete indoor pool that no longer met NCAA requirements.

PROGRAM
The Center features a multi-use 50 meter “stretch” competition pool with a movable bulkhead which allows three different sports to occur simultaneously; swimming, diving and water polo. Other programmatic features include a separate “kinesiology pool” for teaching, a warm pool for divers to remain warm between dives and spectator seating. A building that houses Offices, Locker Rooms, Storage a Meet Management Room and an Equipment Room borders the pool to the north. The final total project cost was $7.1M

SOLUTION
During their early research, the architects observed the inherent quality of “controlled fluid motion” exhibited by swimmers and divers. This notion was established as the point of departure for design of the Center. The pool building can be viewed from the campus and from the community as well and presents an iconic image identified by a bold cantilevered “butterfly” roof. Materials, colors and textures were borrowed from the adjacent Softball Stadium to create a cohesive environment. Rather than hide the pool equipment and tangle of carefully routed piping, the Architects chose to highlight the infrastructure that maintains the pool as a design feature to be celebrated. The Equipment Room features a tall, glazed, indirectly lit volume at the juncture of the “wings” of the butterfly roof and punctuates a prominent corner of the building.

WHY MASONRY
With one economical material, concrete masonry provides vertical and lateral load bearing capacity, durability, an attractive exterior finish, and both thermal and acoustic properties. The CMU manufacturer was less than 50 miles from the project site and the architects considered the short travel distance, local production and the high recycled content as desirable sustainable attributes inherent in masonry construction.
CHATEAU FROMAGE
RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ARCHITECT OF RECORD:
Sandra S. Gramley, AIA, LEED® AP, BD+C
4034 30th Street
San Diego, CA 92104

Sandra S. Gramley, AIA, LEED® AP, BD+C
Principal at Platt/Whitelaw Architects

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
David Wolfson, S. E.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
S W Homes, Inc.

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Oates Masonry

BLOCK PRODUCER:
RCP Block & Brick, Inc.

OWNER:
Sandra S. Gramley, AIA, LEED® AP, BD+C

Architect's Commentary: This small, 1,600 square-foot, two bedroom weekend home is located in the rural hills of Southern California at an elevation of 3,200 feet. It has views to a lake and mountains beyond. The design reflects a response to the local vernacular that includes wineries, horse paddocks, and alpaca barns.

House form and layout evolved as a passive solution to the high desert climate and the site’s immediate surroundings. The result is a modified “dog trot” that is designed to capture and channel breezes through the tall gallery that extends along the center of the building. The gallery divides and defines the structure’s functions – living areas, and sleeping areas.

The plan is angled 30° to the east-west axis to utilize the sun’s capital. Overhangs are carefully sized to provide shading according to the season and time of day, thus minimizing use of the HVAC system. West walls are further angled to maximize views and increase shading of the west-facing deck. A vented raised foundation assists in cooling and allows construction on the sloping site without grading, keeping surrounding granite boulders in situ.

Why Masonry? Concrete masonry is used as the major building material for many reasons including resistance to wildfire, seismic performance, and thermal mass to temper the extreme temperatures of the high desert. Masonry is also durable and low maintenance and will increase the life of the house.

Masonry’s qualities of texture and pattern are used to enhance the simple forms of the house, complementing the naturally rugged setting. Precision, single scored units create a rhythm for the exterior, while interior blocks are honed for a more refined look. A masonry wall is provided at the center gallery to support the roof, increasing exposure of masonry to additional interior rooms.

The Owners are delighted with the home’s passive response to the environment, which allows it to nestle within its natural surroundings.

©Photography: Sandra S. Gramley, AIA, LEED® AP, BD+C
Los Angeles County Fire Station 194
Serving the Cities of La Habra and La Mirada, California

Architect:
William Loyd Jones Architect, Inc.
723 Ocean Front Walk
Venice, CA 90291
William Loyd Jones
Principal

Structural Engineer:
Saiful Bouquet Structural Engineers, Inc.

Green Building LEED® Consultants
Green Dinosaur, Inc.

General Contractor:
T & Y Construction, Inc.

Masonry Contractor:
T & Y Construction, Inc.

Block Producer:
Angelus Block, Company, Inc.

Owner/Project Management:
City of La Habra

Architect’s Commentary: Located in La Mirada, Fire Station 194 serves the cities of La Habra and La Mirada in the suburban Los Angeles area, providing accommodations for four firefighters and a paramedic squad in a compact two-story building designed to fit a tight triangular half-acre site. The 6,500 square foot building contains living space for firefighters, one long and one short apparatus bay, workroom, hose room and support areas. Site development includes a covered above ground gas/diesel fueling area, emergency diesel generator and a patio with a built in BBQ.

Designed for compatibility with the neighboring commercial environment, construction materials include burnished CMU bearing walls and columns, steel structural elements, mission clay tile and painted cement plaster. A dominant entry tower with tall windows faces the highway frontage, anchored by a steel trellis accent.

Interior finishes are serviceable and virtually maintenance free. The concrete masonry walls and steel elements are exposed wherever possible. Tinted windows are framed with aluminum & doors are natural wood veneer. Floors are polished natural concrete on the first floor and natural linoleum on the second floor. In the apparatus room, three generous skylights provide natural light, and automatic electric bi-fold steel doors seal the space from the elements.

Why Masonry? The architectural elements for Fire Station 194 were coordinated to provide the scale and stature of an important civic building for the City. Colored burnished concrete masonry has been carefully used as the dominant construction material throughout for strength, durability and permanence. It was used for the exterior walls, structural columns, public lobby and interior bearing walls; expressing architectural continuity inside and out. Horizontal concrete masonry bands every six courses provide variation and contrast. Steel columns, steel decking, steel trellises and structural elements balance the final architectural vocabulary, providing a counterpoint to the solid mass of the CMU bearing walls.

Fire Station 194 achieved LEED® Certification through contributions from the use of concrete masonry units, low E insulated glass, optimized energy performance of 21% design energy cost savings, potable water use reduction by 30%, water efficient landscaping reduction by 50%, and controllability of thermal comfort and lighting. The building materials achieved 10% recycled content and 10% regional material thresholds.
Architect’s Commentary: The recently completed Fairway Chevrolet Remodel project consisted of design and construction administration of a 17-acre car dealership located in Las Vegas, Nevada. This included demolition of four existing structures and construction and additions to the Fairway GMC Showroom, an addition to the existing Service Building, and construction of a new 64,000+/- square-foot Fairway Chevrolet Showroom. Due to the requirement that the dealership remain open during construction, extensive coordination with the contractor, owner and the local entities were required to ensure the implementation of a detailed three-part site phasing plan.

Phase 1 included:
- Expanding the existing GMC showroom
- Covering up the existing concrete tiled mansard roof with a new glass curtain wall system and aluminum composite panels
- Finishing upgrades bringing the dealership into compliance with the new GM Facility Image Standards

Why Masonry? Concrete masonry units (CMUs) were used for the addition to the service building, the service writer’s building and for the two-story parts warehouse that is located directly adjacent to the Chevrolet showroom. Concrete masonry was used for its durability, beauty and complete interior/exterior finish quality. The service building faces the street so white split face units were used to get a finished look outside, while maintaining the strength inside to withstand the equipment that needed to be mounted. The CMUs also have durability for the wall abuse that occurs in the service bays. The same white split face CMUs were used for the parts building to withstand the heavy loading of the second floor and for the economy that came with using masonry. The ease of installing concrete masonry helped maintain the project schedule.

Phase 2 included:
- An addition to an existing service building which required an investigation and understanding of the on-site traffic flow patterns including delivery vehicles, customers accessing the site for service, rental car access and fleet service.
- Demolition of an existing service building
- Addition of a new service writer’s building
- Renovation of 19 existing service bays
- Addition of 18 new service bays
- Coordination of HVAC equipment, overhead doors, equipment lifts and water, oil and air lines
- Construction of an overhead canopy for service customers
- Extensive site work for new and upgrades utilities and landscaping

Phase 3 included:
- Demolition of an existing showroom, two service buildings and a parts building
- Construction of a new 64,000 square-foot showroom and two-story parts warehouse
- Construction of an overhead canopy and enclosed new car delivery area

Why Masonry? Concrete masonry units (CMUs) were used for the addition to the service building, the service writers building and for the two-story parts warehouse that is located directly adjacent to the Chevrolet showroom. Concrete masonry was used for its durability, beauty and complete interior/exterior finish quality. The service building faces the street so white split face units were used to get a finished look outside, while maintaining the strength inside to withstand the equipment that needed to be mounted. The CMUs also have durability for the wall abuse that occurs in the service bays. The same white split face CMUs were used for the parts building to withstand the heavy loading of the second floor and for the economy that came with using masonry. The ease of installing concrete masonry helped maintain the project schedule.
ARCHITECT:
WLC Architects, Inc.
1110 Iron Point Road, Suite 200
Folsom CA 95630
Max Medina, Vice President, Architect, AIA
Principal, Architect of Record
Bill Louie, Architect, AIA
Principal, Design Architect

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
MLA Structural Engineers, Inc.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Gonsalves & Stronck Construction Co., Inc.

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Straight Line Masonry

OWNER:
City of San Mateo

ARCHITECT’S COMMENTARY: The City Of San Mateo’s new LEED Silver Certified, Fire Station No. 23 replaces the original station at that location, which was built in 1949. The 0.56-acre site is surrounded by existing multi-story apartments, single-detached homes and private businesses. Sensitivity to noise, traffic and building massing to the existing context was/is crucial.

WHY MASONRY? Finding durable low-maintenance materials was imperative for the working areas of the fire station to function properly. The fact that concrete masonry unit construction is long-lasting, affordable, and versatile enough to provide the desired aesthetics made it the obvious choice.

The two-story fire station consists of a 3-bay wide apparatus room, public lobby, internal staff work areas, and living quarters. Construction materials include concrete masonry units for the apparatus bay, wood framed walls, structural steel braced frames and columns, and concrete floor slab on grade. Exterior finishes include smooth precision concrete masonry units, fiber cement wood siding, simulated stone veneer, aluminum composite wall panels, glazed aluminum curtain wall, single-ply roofing, anodized aluminum metal canopy, tinted double-glazed windows, and steel doors.

Interior sustainable features include stained concrete floors, tubular light tubes, multi-zone air distribution systems, occupancy and daylight sensors, and recycled materials. Other significant site and building features include, but are not limited to a transfer switch, diesel emergency power generator, trash/recycle enclosure, bio-swale and automatic security gate/fencing.

One unique site feature is the incorporation of glass block into the concrete masonry unit site wall. The challenge: to create a secure and durable wall without negatively affecting the quality of sunlight received by the neighboring dental office. Through the use of an embedded steel frame, glass block was inserted into the wall — allowing for excellent light transmittal.
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 produced.

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

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San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

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North Las Vegas, NV 89030

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.
- 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
Web Site: www.cmacn.org

2013 CMACN/AIACC CONCRETE MASONRY DESIGN AWARDS “CALL FOR ENTRIES”

The 2013 CMACN/AIACC Concrete Masonry Design Awards competition “Call for Entries” will be available November 1, 2012 at www.cmacn.org.

Last day to request binders: March 15, 2013
Last day to ship completed binders: April 15, 2013
Jury Deliberations: May 2013 - date TBD
Design Awards Banquet Friday, September 20, 2013

For further information contact us at:
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ARCHITECTURAL CONCRETE MASONRY

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