2007 Concrete Masonry Design Awards

Text includes excerpts from each architectural firm’s description of the project, and jury comments delivered by jury chairman, Duane A. Kell, FAIA, and sustainable jurors, Charles Eley, FAIA, PE, and Stephan Castellanos, FAIA.
2007 Concrete Masonry Design Awards Banquet

Friday, September 28, 2007
The Villagio Inn & Spa, Yountville, CA

Concrete Masonry Association of California and Nevada and its members are pleased to announce our banquet to celebrate and honor achievement in the design and use of concrete masonry products.

Join CMACN, its members, and friends in this celebration. Enjoy an evening of architectural review, great food, and fine music.

Sponsorships

Sponsorships are very important to making the CMACN Design Awards possible. Partner Sponsors have been invited from a select group of companies that supply materials to the producers of concrete masonry products, and those who are leaders in concrete masonry design.

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In recognition of the importance of the preservation of our planet, and the role of the building industry in this endeavor, Concrete Masonry Association of California and Nevada believes that good design and sustainable practices are inseparable. The Association further believes that the application of concrete masonry products can serve in a major role in assisting projects to meet greater expectations for the performance of buildings in the environment. Therefore, each applicant for the CMACN Awards Program is expected to complete a statement of sustainable design strategies that significantly impacted the design of the project submitted for award consideration, and the related use of concrete masonry products. The awards jury will include individuals who are recognized experts in sustainable design practices and they will be empowered to select exemplary projects demonstrating sustainable practices from the entire range of submittals.

KURTIS K. SIGGARD  
Executive Director, CMACN

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MARVIN J. MALECHA, FAIA  
Dean, North Carolina State University College of Design  
AIA/ACSA Topaz Laureate, ACSA Distinguished Professor

Photo Credits:  
  Cole Chrysler Dodge - Ron Bez Photography;  
  Tribal Community Center - Tom Skelton
ELEMENTS OF A SUSTAINABLE BUILDING

Credit: Material collected from the Collaborative for High Performance Schools

1 Healthy, safe and secure. Good indoor air quality is essential. It requires minimizing pollutant sources and providing adequate ventilation and air filtration.

2 Thermal, visual, and acoustic comfort. Thermal comfort means that building occupants should not feel too cold or too hot as they work or learn. Visual comfort requires that quality lighting makes visual tasks, such as reading, following presentations, and working on the computer, easier. Lighting for each room should be “designed,” not simply specified. Daylight and electric lights are integrated and glare is minimized. Visual comfort also means providing a connection to the outdoors and visual stimulation through the use of windows at eye level to offer views. Acoustic comfort means that occupants can hear one another easily. Noisy ventilation systems are eliminated, and the design minimizes the amount of disruptive outdoor and indoor noise affecting the occupants.

3 Energy efficient. Energy-efficient buildings save money, while conserving non-renewable energy resources and reducing atmospheric emissions of pollutants and green-house gases. Heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems use high efficiency equipment; are “right sized” for the estimated demands of the facility; and include controls that optimize system performance. The building’s lighting system uses high efficiency products; optimizes the number of fixtures in each room; incorporates control devices that ensure peak system performance; and successfully integrates electric lighting and daylighting strategies. The walls, floors, roofs, and windows of the building are as energy efficient as cost effectively possible. The building shell is integrated and optimizes insulation levels, glazing, shading, thermal mass, air leakage, and light-colored exterior surfaces to minimize the use of the HVAC systems.
4 Material efficient. To the maximum extent possible, the design incorporates building materials that have been produced in a way that conserves raw materials. Such materials may be manufactured with a rapidly renewable resource or recycled content, are durable, or can be recycled or reused. In addition, the building has been designed and built in a manner that reduces waste and keeps useful materials out of the landfill.

5 Environmentally responsive. The site is recognized as an essential element of the building’s features. To the extent possible, the site conserves existing natural areas and restores damaged ones; minimizes stormwater runoff and controls erosion; and incorporates products and techniques that do not introduce pollutants or degradation to the project site, or the site of extraction, harvest, or production.

6 Water efficient. Water scarcity is a major problem in much of California and Nevada. Sustainable buildings are designed to use water efficiently, saving money, while reducing the depletion of aquifers and river systems. The building uses as little off-site water as possible to meet its needs, controls and reduces water runoff from its site, and consumes fresh water as efficiently as possible.

7 Commissioned. The building operates the way it was designed to, and meets the needs of the owner and occupant. This happens through a formal commissioning process - a form of “systems check” for the facility. The process tests, verifies, and fine-tunes the performance of key building systems so that they perform at the highest levels of efficiency and comfort, and then trains the staff to properly operate and maintain the systems.

8 Stimulating architecture. Sustainable buildings should invoke a sense of pride and be considered a genuine asset for the community.
NW INNOVATION CENTER
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Sustainable Jury Comments: Concrete masonry is used in a very creative manner to emphasize the adaptive reuse of this building as a center for innovation. The quality of concrete masonry has transformed the facility and its introduction to the façade, as well as serving as an important element of the landscape solution, has added dignity and created a very pleasant and inviting element to the continuing life of a formally mundane structure. The project achieved LEED Gold status through energy efficiency (41% better than the California standard), low water use, low impact materials, and effective site planning.

The project team focused on decreasing total environmental impacts associated with all phases of the building’s lifecycle, achieving 43 LEED Points and Gold certification.

Innovation and Design Process – 5 points

Materials and Resources – 8 points
The building’s shell was reused. Exterior tilt-up panels were insulated with a 1½ inch thick EFIS system for an additional R value of 7. Construction debris was recycled/salvaged during demolition (50%) and recycled during construction (90%). A heat-reflecting roof and pre-existing shade trees reduce “heat island” effects.

Indoor Environmental Quality – 8 points
Low toxicity adhesives, sealants, paints, coatings, carpet and composite wood are used throughout, including wheat straw cabinets; sunflower board cabinets; recycled content bottle toilet partitions, ceiling tiles and insulation; recycled content aluminum shades, screens, and framing for glass walls; and certified forest wood doors, lumber and flooring.

Water Efficiency – 2 points
Drought-tolerant native plants surround the building. Restrooms feature waterless urinals, dual flush toilets and battery-operated sensor faucets.

Energy and Atmosphere – 15 points
Key aspects: A high-efficiency Puron-based mechanical system and light power reduction (41% over California Title 24). A SmartRoof and 32 kw solar array installed on an adjacent building reduces grid dependency by 55%, with the remaining 45% offset by purchasing green power from California wind farms. A photovoltaic array in the plaza promotes awareness and provides power for a fountain and LEDs. 75% of the facility is naturally lit via courtyards and Solatubes.

Sustainable Sites – 5 points
The developer continuously educates tenants about sustainability. The lobby features and extensive LEED green building exhibit, and a corresponding website provides additional information. Bike racks, showers and lockers encourage cycling, and there’s preferred parking for carpoolers. There is information on public transportation, a recycling program is in place, and the janitorial vendor has been furnished a list of green cleaning products, procedures, and equipment.

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Principal

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Michael Ni & Associates

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G. L. Kaplan Construction

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Carranza Masonry Construction

BLOCK PRODUCER:
ORCO Block Company, Inc.

OWNER:
NW Innovation Center, LLC

Photography: Tom Patwa Photography
The San Ysidro Department of Motor Vehicles is a leading example of a healthy building. This energy efficient facility combines the beauty of exposed building materials with the comfort of a clean environment. The project received LEED Gold Certification through the following measures.

**Storm Water Drainage Filters:** All catch basins contain filters to trap harmful particles keeping them from entering the public waterways.

**High Efficiency Irrigation and Landscaping:** Water use is reduced by 68% through an efficient irrigation system and drought resistant planting with low water use plants.

**Non-Heat Island Roof:** The roof is Energy Star rated and is highly reflective.

**Water Use Reduction:** Efficient plumbing fixtures reduce typical water use by 41%.

**Energy Efficiency:** A raised floor allows the building’s displacement ventilation system to efficiently serve the open office work area through underfloor air distribution. Overhead and underfloor ducts also distribute air to the public service area’s diffuser units. Rooftop photovoltaic panels compensate for 9% of the building’s energy load, helping exceed California Title 24 minimum requirements by 34% (40% by LEED standard).

**Air Quality:** All paints, sealants, adhesives, and carpeting contain minimal volatile organic compounds. Floor grates are installed at major entrances to trap outside dirt. These measures help to maintain a high quality of indoor air.

**Recycled Materials:** At least 5% of the building’s materials are recycled, including concrete masonry. The contractor recycled 60% of construction waste. Among other building materials, the concrete masonry was manufactured locally, reducing environmental impacts resulting from transportation.

**Building Envelope:** Concrete masonry serves as structure, thermal mass and finish material. West and south windows are tinted to minimize heat gain. Skylight, clerestory and northern windows maximize natural light, aiding in comfort.

**Daylight and Views:** Natural daylight is provided for 89% of regularly occupied spaces and outdoor views are achieved for 98%.

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Joe Mansfield, Architect
Anney Rosenthal
Lane Smith
Design Team

**Structural Engineer:**
Stedman & Dyson Structural Engineers

**General Contractor:**
Cox Construction Company

**Masonry Contractor:**
New Dimension Masonry, Inc.

**Block Producer:**
RCP Block & Brick, Inc.

**Owners:**
State of California, Department of General Services
Department of Motor Vehicles

_Sustainable Jury Comments: A lantern at night and a space illuminated by natural light by day defines this interpretation of a building that serves the needs of California’s motorists. The volume within the building, a dynamic roof structure and again, the daylight, provide an uncommonly pleasant environment for a facility of this type. Concrete masonry contributes well to the success of the building. “Green” features include rooftop mounted photovoltaics, underfloor air distribution, cool roof, healthy and resource efficient materials, and environmentally responsible construction management practices._
Sustainable Jury Comments: This campus is a rational and well-organized scheme that emphasizes the value we place in our children and in education. Inglewood Unified School District and their architects have chosen to use resource efficient materials, skylights and efficient equipment. The spaces, interior and exterior, are well proportioned, inviting and support the important sense of place and community important to effective learning environments. Attention is given to site water efficiency and conservation, and the management of rainfall on the site.

As one of the first in a series of projects accomplished within a local bond measure, Crozier Middle School will implement a new District-Wide energy management system for forced air and electrical systems. Other active systems include energy-efficient light fixtures. Passive systems include sky lighting, high-performance glazing, overhangs and light shelves, shading devices, and landscaping.

All insulation and particle board are specified to be formaldehyde free. Plastic toilet partitions utilize recycled raw material and in turn recycle waste. All steel and aluminum are specified to incorporate recycled sources in manufacturing. Floor materials include carpet with recycled fibers and linoleum manufactured with recycled raw materials with the ability to “breathe.”

The new replacement project is estimated to be 50% more energy efficient than the existing dilapidated facilities. Existing site conditions will actually be improved to remove hazardous materials, to create landscaped acres with natural soil percolation to provide a cool and oxygenated inner-city oasis, and to replace local failing infrastructure and utility systems. Poor water quality will be improved as rusted piping is replaced. Water efficient toilet fixtures will replace antiquated fixtures to minimize fresh water consumption and waste water.

A unique aspect of this project is its proximity to the Los Angeles Airport flight path. Low-flying aircraft every few minutes requires acoustical mitigation that in turn supports thermal insulating goals. All roof and wall insulation exceeds California Title 24 requirements.
SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY AZTEC AQUAPLEX
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Sustainable Jury Comments: This delightful and compact swim center exhibits a wonderful application of concrete masonry. The building uses natural ventilation in the lockers to take advantage of the mild San Diego climate. Its interiors are bright and airy and welcoming. A canopy provides shade and shelter for spectators of the competition pool, while supporting solar collectors.

The SDSU Aztec Aquaplex houses indoor and outdoor learning environments for all aquatic sports at the University. The facility is designed to be environmentally friendly through the use of natural materials, natural daylight and cross ventilation. Extensive solar hot water heating panels are incorporated into the exterior shade structure and will offset the pools heating costs throughout the life of the project. Additional amenities of the facility include administrative offices, locker rooms, storage facilities and a mechanical room.

The San Diego State University Aztec Aquaplex is a student-funded project with a mandate to be environmentally sensitive. The energy efficient design includes:

- Extensive use of daylighting
- Cross Ventilation in the shower/locker rooms. Operable windows and high sloped ceilings promote natural ventilation
- Passive solar panel system to supplement the pool heaters
- Recycled and reusable materials used throughout
- High solar reflectance value at flat roof surfaces
- Exterior shade structure shields spectators
- Material palette with inherently high thermal mass properties
- Canopy shade structure, broad overhangs at sensitive western and southern exposures
- Selection of native indigenous plant stock reduces irrigation demands
- On-demand water heaters utilized at remote point load sources
- Strategic employment of insulated glass storefront, “low-e” glazing
- Advanced lighting controls, extensive use of LEDs and compact fluorescents

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Project Manager

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
KPFF Consulting Engineers

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
PCL Construction, Inc.

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Modern Masonry

BLOCK PRODUCER:
ORCO Block Company, Inc.

OWNER:
San Diego State University

Photography: Randy Robbins, Austin Veum Robbins Partners
SANTIAGO CANYON COLLEGE LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER
ORANGE, CALIFORNIA

Sustainable Jury Comments: This signature building is a dramatic addition to a growing college campus. Clerestory windows deliver daylight deep into the building, flooding reading areas and stacks on the second floor with natural light. The first floor reading areas are clustered near the windows to enjoy the benefits of natural light and view. Central skylights bring light into the center of the building on both levels by virtue of an open stair. Attention is also given to resource efficient materials.

Sustainable design is incorporated in a variety of ways in the Santiago Canyon College Learning Resource Center located in Orange, California. Below are the sustainable features:

By maximizing southern exposure, the library takes optimal advantage of the sun for daylight and passive solar heating. Therefore, to protect the interior from the solar exposure, the west facing wall utilizes concrete masonry units (CMU) as a major component of the building materials; the CMU used was manufactured locally, and the post-industrial waste was recycled into a road base material.

The inverted mansard roof form of the library focuses light toward its center. The metal floating ceiling integrates interior with exterior space by reflecting its surrounding campus context into the building interior. Minimal use of the interior partition walls reduces construction cost and visually opens up the floor plan.

Additional interior materials include: energy efficient light fixtures, acoustical tiles on the first floor are made with 40% recycled content, and the perforated metal ceiling on the second floor is constructed with 25% recycled content. All other materials took into consideration high performance in durability, life cycle costs, and maintenance.

The internal offerings of the library are visible both on and off campus. This effect is accomplished by placing the library at the perimeter of the campus versus the traditional campus planning concept that locates it at the center. The grand entry to the building reinforces the concept of the library as an information portal.

Energy efficient Low-E glazing, skylights, perforated metal solar fins, and the deep metal panel roof all help protect and control direct sunlight, while allowing natural daylight to permeate into the building interior.

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Weingardener Masonry, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER:
ORCO Block Company, Inc.

OWNER:
Santiago Canyon College

HECTOR GODINEZ HIGH SCHOOL
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: This High School is sophisticated and formal in its material composition. It is a large complex high school with faces to multiple orientations, each responding to the user and the community. The wonderful use of natural wood and concrete masonry in well-composed forms creates a warmth and scale for the student. The exterior spaces are as important as interior, and treated as carefully; simple, refined and restrained.

A joint-use high school for the City of Santa Ana, the Hector Godinez High School is a study in effective site planning and joint-use strategies. Adjacent to an existing park and nature center, the school optimizes its unique location through the use of “learning labs,” which reach out to the natural environment and integrate it within the heart of the campus. A vibrant streetscape is created to organize the site and provide focus and direction for the large campus plan. Joint-use programs encourage community interaction between the school, the park and the nature center. The design is meant to reflect a synthesis of the natural and built environments and in that sense, respect and strengthen both.

The high school relies heavily on its context to establish its imagery. The scale of the campus was dictated by the urban character of “Main Street,” the environment of the nature center, and the activities on the industrial area to the west. The classroom wing and media/administration wing act as an effective buffer for sight and sound from the industrial area to the nature center, while presenting a reflecting wall to the nature center that acts as a sunscreen to the building. The Main Street is activated through the use of graphic sign walls recalling city icons, varied building materials, traditional concrete pavers, street landscape and seating. The science labs respond and embrace the nature center through the use of indigenous plant material, a small wetlands habitat, cedar and concrete masonry building materials, and “green” screen walls. The curriculum stresses a college prep curriculum, while recognizing the importance of performing arts and athletics to high student achievement. Additionally, through the adjacency to the museum and the community college, joint-use science programs, cross-age tutoring, and adult education programs are facilitated.

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GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Turner Construction

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Frank S. Smith Masonry, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER:
Angelus Block Company, Inc.

OWNER:
Santa Ana Unified School District
Jury Comments: This large urban high school is a gutsy, interesting, rigorous building and campus design, appropriate to its place, time, and use. The industrial street frontage defines the context for this project, which requires internal orientation to provide a safe and healthy learning environment. The careful and thoughtful design creates a colorful urban village with interior and exterior courtyard spaces focusing on the student. The vertical blue glass, colored horizontal concrete masonry banding, and metal roof forms, thoughtfully define this new urban learning institution.

The largest new high school for the Los Angeles Unified School District, the Miguel Contreras Learning Complex, addresses critical overcrowding by providing 72 classrooms and shared athletic facilities for the entire LAUSD academic community. The high school is located on approximately 19 acres just outside of downtown Los Angeles, and accommodates 1,700 students in 258,300 square feet.

The complex is made up of six buildings, a parking structure, and pedestrian bridge. The buildings include auditorium/administration, two classroom wings, library-multimedia, food service/cafeteria, two gymnasiums, and a parking facility. These facilities surround a highly landscaped central courtyard, carefully integrated to create an urban village of learning. This open space includes distinctive smaller garden elements and performance spaces, each extensions of special teaching rooms located on the ground level.

The three-story classroom wings were rendered distinct with the inclusion of open air vertical circulation stairs and open air corridors. A distinctive floating corrugated steel roof element with butterfly shaped beams protects the open-air classroom hallways from the elements.

Variegated bands of concrete masonry units (CMU) are utilized throughout the project for their durable, structural and aesthetic quality. The colorful concrete masonry walls form a dynamic, unifying element among a palette of intentionally exposed structural elements. The CMU shear walls occasionally curve or tilt at dramatic angles, giving each building individual character.

Each color and texture course was used consistently on the same elevation throughout the entire project. Shop drawings by the contractor were essential for coordination, as the walls were tied into poured floor slabs and the concrete masonry was frequently the critical path. The requirements of structural rebar and mechanical penetrations compounded the complexity of colors and textures and required CMU to be ordered in specific, smaller quantities.

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MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
DBM/Hatch

BLOCK PRODUCER:
Angelus Block Company, Inc.

OWNER:
Los Angeles Unified School District
SANTIAGO CANYON COLLEGE LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER
ORANGE, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: Simple massing, a few big moves, and carefully edited design create a wonderfully strong campus entry building. The simplicity of the mass, the natural and artificial lighting, and the strong entry statement produce an impressive and welcoming structure. The contrasting use of glass and solid concrete masonry walls is highly disciplined and well studied. Everything about this building pleased the jury; this would be a grand place to study.

The 40,000 square-foot library provides a centralized location for the essential information services at Santiago Canyon College. The major programmatic spaces are: book stacks, reading areas, group study rooms, offices, meeting rooms and support spaces. The library presents information in an environment that is open, illuminating and accessible. The building is intended to be a beacon for higher learning within the community by providing space for state-of-the-art informational services.

The original campus is defined by concrete masonry unit (CMU) buildings with minimal exterior glazing and mansard tile roofs. The college expressed their desire for the new library to continue the on-campus construction traditions, while creating a new architectural image that implies the future of higher learning.

The west CMU elevation of the building contains support spaces and offices that buffer the interior from the harsh solar exposure. Beyond the solid west wall the user is drawn into an interior of luminous volumes and open spaces. Ultimately, the second floor provides the students with panoramic views of the campus, community and distant rolling hills.

Along with the new student services building, the building also creates a “front door” to the campus, connecting the college with its surrounding community. The library is identified as a community destination by being architecturally distinct within a context of residential tract homes.

A limited building budget dictated a disciplined design solution. A simple building form, efficient structure, and elegant details make the most of modest materials. The palette of building materials consists of burnished concrete masonry units as an enriched material, plaster, metal, and glass. The judicious use of material, detail, and form allowed for selective areas to be more elaborate creating the impression on students of being in a place for higher education.

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GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
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MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Weingardener Masonry, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER:
ORCO Block Company, Inc.

OWNER:
Santiago Canyon College

Photography: Cris Costea, Costea Photography
CATHEDRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: This project knowingly privileges the exterior spaces over the interior spaces of the individual building objects; probably the right choice in this climate, and on this seemingly beautiful site. The site plan creates skillfully executed space scaled similarly to a small Italian piazza; this campus could be somewhere in Tuscany. The extensive use of concrete masonry on this project was carefully crafted in design by the architect and in execution by the constructor.

Responding to the moderate coastal climate, the 54-acre campus is planned around several major piazzas, reminiscent of Italian hill towns. A gradual rise in elevation towards the chapel distinguishes it as a dominant feature and projects a readily visible Catholic identity. As the primary focal point, the chapel’s bell tower identifies the campus and offers a sense of direction and place.

The goal of the Diocese was to create a campus that fulfills significant educational and spiritual needs in the community, while enhancing the physical presence of its setting. Careful consideration was given to the design and placement, character, and materials of each building. Split face concrete masonry units of varying colors were randomly blended to emulate the texture and warmth of natural stone. Precision units were used in the base coursing and window surrounds to accent, contrast, and provide depth to the building facade. Through extensive landscaping and site grading, these various elements were carefully linked into a unifying whole.

Housing a variety of functions, each of the 11 masonry buildings, totaling 260,000 gross square feet, is joined through a common palette of finish materials. In addition to the concrete masonry units, materials include: precast concrete and cement plaster, each offering rich contrasts of color and texture to the adjacent, exposed concrete masonry wall planes. The overall character exudes importance and permanence, strength and durability, sensitively arranged in a well disciplined vocabulary of architectural forms.

Following a detailed analysis of various structural systems, an integrated system composed of load-bearing, shear-resisting concrete masonry units with interior steel frames proved most efficient and cost effective, saving approximately $1 million.

ARCHITECT:
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Felipe Ricketts, AIA
Project Architect

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
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GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Sundt Construction

MASONRY CONTRACTORS:
L. Faber Masonry, Inc.
Williams & Sons Masonry, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER:
RCP Block & Brick, Inc.

OWNER:
Diocese of San Diego
Jury Comments: This urban middle school looks like a fun and exciting place to learn. The composition of forms, colors and materials create interest, and encourage curiosity as you move around and through the elements; the forms and masses compress space and open to new spaces in this fluid plan. This is a sophisticated solution and very good design work.

Crozier Middle School sits on a flat urban site on a full 6.4-acre city block adjacent to the Inglewood Civic Center. The site has been home to the first Inglewood School. An existing theater building will be renovated as a 500-seat center for music, dance and theatre arts. A total of 105,000 new square feet will accommodate 1,300 students.

The challenge has been to classify a dilapidated site as a hardship to obtain State funding for replacement. A two-story, high density solution provides a safe, secure and supportive environment for a magnet program, providing inner city youth with the math, science, and creative artistic skills to succeed in school and in life. In addition to these lofty goals, the design also doubles the existing parking capacity and provides hard-courts and playfields where previously there were none. The aesthetic is respectful of the maturing young adult, and simultaneously compatible with the surrounding civic center buildings.

A four-inch thick split face solid block veneer has been selected as an exterior finish material to provide a vandal-resistant surface at the base of the buildings. Masonry perimeter walls and pilasters at fences and grates extend this aesthetic treatment throughout the campus. The masonry surfaces are treated with graffiti treatment, and remain untouched. The masonry areas located in public and high-traffic paths of travel are designated to be an integral part of the building massing and articulation composition, and contribute an aesthetic feature to the design to complement surrounding high-impact stucco surfaces.

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Betsey Olenick Dougherty, FAIA, LEED AP Principal
Miles Samuel Reifsnyder, AIA Project Manager
Khanh X. Doan, Assoc. AIA Project Designer

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: KPFF Consulting Engineers

GENERAL CONTRACTOR: FTR International, Inc.

MASONRY CONTRACTOR: FTR International, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER: Angelus Block Company, Inc.

OWNER: Inglewood Unified School District

San Diego State University Aztec Aquaplex
San Diego, California

Jury Comments: The shed-roofed perimeter concrete masonry structures of this aquatic project provide shade, while letting light in and defining the edge of complex. This project type is an appropriate use of concrete masonry and concrete materials and this design demonstrates it with success: The use of natural light in the locker/bathrooms is spectacular. This is a well done aquatic complex.

Located in the western region of the university’s campus, the Aztec Aquaplex is a short distance from the Aztec Recreation Center, classrooms, and student housing. The new Aquaplex completes the recreational sports complex that includes Tony Gwynn Stadium, the softball fields and the new tennis facilities. The objective was to design a facility that would become a bold and inviting destination.

The San Diego State University Aztec Aquaplex is an educational and recreational pool facility for students, faculty and staff. The Aquaplex includes an Olympic-style, 50-meter competition pool for the intercollegiate swim team, a 7,000 square-foot recreational pool featuring a zero-depth beach-style entry and a hydrotherapy spa. The Aquaplex also includes a 4,850 square-foot building to accommodate showers, locker rooms, administrative offices and support facilities. A meeting room is located below 5,900 square-feet of canopy that shelters spectator seating for 500, and supports a large solar panel system used to augment heating of the competition pool. Pool mechanical equipment and the solar hot water system are located within a 2,100 square-foot building.

A student-funded project, with a mandate to be environmentally sensitive, the energy efficient design includes abundant daylighting and natural ventilation. Durable building materials that include cast-in-place concrete and patterned concrete masonry units (CMU) provide for a minimum of maintenance. Glass walls and paving patterns enhance the transition from indoor areas to outdoor swim areas.

Concrete masonry units, in a combination of natural colors and multiple surface treatments, form the building volumes. The random pattern of the CMU was inspired by the rippling surface of water; the north and south elevations reflecting the texture of the pools; the east and west directions responding to the more active texture of the ocean. The concrete masonry completes the volumes and becomes exposed in various areas of the interior spaces.

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Structural Engineer:
KPFF Consulting Engineers

General Contractor:
PCL Construction, Inc.

Masonry Contractor:
Modern Masonry

Block Producer:
ORCO Block Company, Inc.

Owner:
San Diego State University
WESTMINSTER ROSE CENTER – THEATRE AND CULTURAL CENTER
WESTMINSTER, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: This is a masterful, handsome, wonderfully crafted design. Site development is simple, yet sophisticated. The skilful use of materials, specifically the concrete masonry, wood, and glass, creates appropriately scaled, and beautifully textured spaces inside and out; a wonderful project.

This facility creates a civic centerpiece and establishes the anchor for a pedestrian-oriented complex that includes a community college and a park located across from the city hall. Funded with limited city revenues, the 33,840 square-foot building consists of a theatre, banquet hall and connecting foyers that accommodate a variety of cultural and civic functions. Outdoor courtyards and a 600-foot-long entry plaza provide additional venues for functions. Although cost was the driving factor for the city clients, the architect designed a landmark building by creating elegant, yet versatile spaces and using simple materials in innovative, creative applications.

The center establishes its presence through the innovative use of glazing on the front facade. Two main glass volumes balance the adjacent masonry-clad volumes and transform into a dramatic glowing entry beacon at night. Three types of glass create a variety of transparencies and textures, while defining the volumes that house the entry foyer and theatre. At eye level, clear glass creates sightlines and transparency, while clear glass with a fritted pattern combines with translucent sandblasted glass to create visual interest above. The custom-fabricated pattern of irregular vertical lines was designed to evoke bamboo plants as a tribute to the city’s large Vietnamese community.

The airiness of the glass balances the heavier, slate-grey, burnished concrete masonry units, chosen for both their cost and energy efficiency, that define the building’s solid elevations. Creative coursing of the CMUs provides an elegant texture and visual interest to the walls that house the theatre. On the opposite elevation, the banquet space’s exterior is clad in warm yellow Minnesota Kasota stone etched with vertical grooves echoing the glass pattern and interior walls, which are washed with soft natural light from hidden skylights.

ARCHITECT:
CO Architects
5055 Wilshire Boulevard, Ninth Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90036

L. Paul Zajfien, AIA, RIBA
Principal

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
John A. Martin & Associates

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
C. W. Driver

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Industrial Masonry, Incorporated

BLOCK PRODUCER:
Tremwyth Industries, Inc.
Angelus Block Company, Inc.

OWNER:
City of Westminster, California

Photography: Benny Chan, fotoworks
CLOVIS FIRE STATION NO. 5
CLOVIS, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: The vaulted roof plane dominates this well executed fire station creating a strong statement, while providing day-lit apparatus bays. The simple, straight forward plan is uncomplicated and works well on a tight site. The combination of exterior materials: concrete masonry, horizontal ribbed metal panels, and glass, reduce the scale, while adding texture to the architecture.

Our team began the design of Clovis Fire Station No. 5 with a question: How do we create a durable, operationally efficient station that is viewed as a significant civic building?

The rapidly growing California city is committed to high design standards. With past fire station projects, the City felt a facility that fulfilled programming needs required a cookie-cutter design. The City wanted Fire Station No. 5 to set an architectural standard for a new Research and Technology Park, while being durable enough to withstand heavy use without frequent maintenance.

Our design team helped Clovis realize that an innovative design could be developed that serves as an appropriate architectural example without compromising operational functionality. Our firm worked with the City to change the typical programming – design – design review process. Instead, the fire department and planning staff simultaneously developed operational needs and urban design criteria, resulting in a station that sets an architectural standard for the developing area without dictating a specific style.

Additionally, the entire building is constructed of concrete masonry units (CMUs) to ensure durability. The exterior uses rough CMU walls against slick metallic metal cladding. The apparatus bay uses burnished CMUs for its appearance and texture. The overall result is an innovative, attractive design.

The $4.3 million, 10,500 square-foot station houses a crew of six, and features a conference room, kitchen, dining area, dayroom, fitness facility, work area, offices, coed bedrooms, and an 80-foot apparatus bay. Natural lighting is achieved through the use of clerestory lighted apparatus bays, shaded windows, and an iconic skylight in the entry. Numerous sustainable design features were also implemented including the extensive use of recycled and low-pollutant materials.

Completed in February 2007, Clovis Fire Station No. 5 successfully blends operational needs with high design and serves as an architectural cornerstone that will stand the test of time.

ARCHITECT:
Don Dommer Associates
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Oakland, CA 94608

Don Dommer, AIA
Principal

Brian Leonard, Associate AIA
Project Manager

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Biggs Cardosa Associates

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Michael R. Tolladay Corporation

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Gerry Smith Masonry

BLOCK PRODUCER:
Blocklite
(A Subsidiary of Basalite Concrete Products, LLC)

OWNER:
City of Clovis, California
Jury Comments: The strong use of concrete masonry elements to define entry and support functions, convincingly holds this building together; framing and containing it. The delightful glass block undulating corridor walls enhance the playful character of this use and structure. The interiors are safe, fun, and colorful.

Pacific Palisades Gymnasium, a public/private partnership involving the city of Los Angeles and the Pacific Palisades community, presented a design challenge in its charge to deliver an inexpensive public building that would be low, to no-maintenance, functional, and attractive. The solution was to employ inexpensive materials in creative ways to produce a building that reads as an abstract visual story. Concrete masonry units (CMUs) were supplemented with brick, glass and corrugated metal, delivering a durable and easy-to-clean recreational center with visual impact.

Planned to supplement an aging gym on the site, the new building comprises park offices and NCAA-regulation courts for basketball and volleyball. By setting CMUs on an inclined concrete stem wall, designers created a rising spiral office component. Around the perimeter of the gym glazed turquoise CMUs are suspended in undulating glass block corridor walls. The lighting effect in these corridors is dramatic – during the day, bright filtered sunlight streams in. At nighttime, the undulating glass block ribbons glow from within.

The rectangular facades of the gym are clad with corrugated metal siding horizontally banded grey and natural silver, which visually diminishes the height of the building and gives it a pedestrian scale.

Overall, the gym is a vivid and bold building whose identifying marks are six large elliptical window openings on its perimeter. The openings are abstract expressions of balls compressing against a surface. The bouncing ball metaphor seen in the glazing has a dual function, allowing light and view in and out. At nighttime these backlight oval windows reverse from dark to light further emphasizing their effect.

ARCHITECT:
Kanner Architects
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Santa Monica, CA 90401

Stephen H. Kanner, FAIA
Principal

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
J.S. Chung Structural Engineering

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Begl Construction Company, Inc.

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Turner Masonry Company

BLOCK PRODUCER:
Angelus Block Company, Inc.

OWNER:
City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks
Jury Comments: The large day-lit room for the public is the most important and convincing part of this building. The enthusiastic, almost overpowering roof form, is intriguing none the less. The exposed structure sweeping roof provides for bright interior animated space in a building type and use, which can be oppressive.

The Department of Motor Vehicles is an improved Field Office for the community of San Ysidro. Built on a 3.39 acre site, this 14,656 square-foot office/service facility provides a healthier, more enjoyable environment for the employees and the DMV customers. The design is centered around sustainable features to enhance the user’s experience, while reducing the impact that the project has on the environment. The design of the DMV serves as an educational model for the individuals and future DMV offices.

Exposed structure is used as finish material, from exterior to interior, to contribute to the building’s character, minimizing waste and cost associated with added finishes. Concrete masonry functions as structure, thermal mass, and finish material. The striated pattern, with varied color, size and texture, accentuates the richness of the material and softens the building’s appearance.

Roughly 5% of the building’s materials were recycled, including concrete masonry. Among other building materials, the CMU was manufactured locally, reducing environmental impacts resulting from transportation.

To minimize heat gain, west and south windows are tinted, and concrete masonry acts as thermal mass. Extensive northern windows, including clerestory and skylights, maximize natural daylight. Along with efficient lighting and heating/cooling systems, these measures provide a comfortable environment. A photovoltaic rooftop system compensates for 9% of the building’s energy load, aiding in the building’s efficient operation.

Efficient plumbing and irrigation systems with drought-resistant planting reduce the project’s water use. Landscaped, traffic barrier walls surround the building and define the edge of the facility, providing the building, and individuals, protection from inexperienced drivers.

An outdoor waiting area, located north of the building is shaded by a large overhang. An employee patio, located south of the building, is enclosed by a curved CMU wall. The masonry’s rich, softening affect helps maintain scale and provides intimate, outdoor gathering areas.

ARCHITECT: 
Roesling Nakamura Terada Architects, Inc. 
363 Fifth Avenue, Suite 202 
San Diego, CA 92101 
Kotaro Nakamura, Principal Architect, AIA 
Joe Mansfield, Architect 
Anney Rosenthal 
Lane Smith 
Design Team

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: 
Stedman & Dyson Structural Engineers

GENERAL CONTRACTOR: 
Cox Construction Company

MASONRY CONTRACTOR: 
New Dimension Masonry, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER: 
RCP Block & Brick, Inc.

OWNERS: 
State of California, Department of General Services
Department of Motor Vehicles

MISSION CREEK PARK PAVILION
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: This simple glass pavilion intersecting a concrete masonry core is a well done, modernist structure. This is an unusual and welcome aesthetic for this building type, which proves that park shelters don’t have to be cute and or rustic to be successful. Located on an urban causeway, this building is wonderfully sited and handsomely executed.

The design team was issued a straightforward building program with a complex set of design guidelines focused on the network of open space within the San Francisco’s ambitious new Mission Bay development. Anchoring a new park adjacent to Mission Creek along Mission Bay’s north edge, the program called for:

1. Café space with seating for 25
2. Public restrooms with separate access from the café and park
3. Support facilities for the concessionaire

In response to the Mission Bay Master Plan, the building, the first of its kind in Mission Bay, needed to be a seamless addition to the green space of the park, while providing a more urban element fronting the large plaza, which would be come a vital link across the creek by footbridge and southward into the heart of Mission Bay.

The pavilion provides an enduring sheltered space for human gathering that is profoundly a part of its evolving setting over time: surrounded by reclaimed industrial zone in the short term, and against the backdrop of dense urban fabric in the future. The gritty, elegant, ground face concrete masonry units (CMUs) with anti-graffiti coating reinforces this design concept, while addressing cost and durability needs of public-serving buildings. The CMU wall also provides material continuity from outside to inside, while delivering a neutral framework for views through the building. The design – resolved by creating two fronts and two sides, but no real “back” – addresses a number of issues:

1. Future mid-rise housing directly adjacent to the park along Owens Street – essentially serving as a “front yard” to residents there
2. Orientation of primary patron seating northward to exploit city skyline views
3. Configuration of café space facing west to welcome visitors off the plaza
4. The location of a separate restroom entry facing the park

ARCHITECT:
Tom Eliot Fisch
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San Francisco, CA 94108

Amy Eliot, AIA
Principal

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Ansari Structural Engineers, Inc.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Hathaway-Dinwiddie

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Fitzgibbon Masonry

BLOCK PRODUCER:
Blocklite
(A Subsidiary of Basalite Concrete Products, LLC)

OWNER:
Prologis

Photography: Richard Barns, Richard Barns Photography
CONTRERAS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
INDIO, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: This simple, all-concrete masonry structure is a wonderful example of how honest expression and careful composition of simple materials can result in an exemplary building. This is a building where color use is highly successful and artfully composed. Every detail, color, trees, canopies, site walls, contributes to the elegance and the simplicity of the architecture; the blade canopy and palm tree shadows are integral to the design. The design is straightforward yet not self-conscious.

This building, completed in February 2007, seeks to create a new public image for the Contreras Construction Company, and a new positive precedent for the Indio Boulevard gateway on the approach to the city’s downtown redevelopment zone.

The 1/3 office and 2/3 warehouse proportion of the program orients towards the street face in order to create a “billboard,” or memorable graphic image, for the new Contreras headquarters. To this end, three elements compose this image: the graphic, the glass, and the blade. The glass allows light to enter into the office, reception and meeting areas. The blade is a hovering overhang that shades these same spaces and defines the entry. The graphic is stacked, very economic, precision face concrete masonry units that transform, or pixelate, from yellow to black units over the length of the facade.

The integral relationship of color, graphics, and structure made concrete masonry the natural choice for this project above and beyond any other material.
Jury Comments: The experience of approaching this building from the parking lot is enhanced by the use of concrete masonry walls with varying forms and textures. There is a careful use of CMU site walls as the new aesthetic for the building. Contrasted with the dark pre-cast concrete panel walls, the lighting and CMU provide the user with interest, curiosity, and an “innovative” experience as they approach. The interior provides for the use of daylighting with interior courtyards. This renovation is an example of turning what was probably a sow's ear of a building into a sustainable silk purse.

The NW Innovation Center is a 60’s-era, tilt-up concrete building, nestled in an area of Northwest Pasadena that features an eclectic mix of commercial, retail, and residential properties.

The developer’s original intention was to transform a 29,000 square-foot, former warehouse into generic office space that could accommodate multiple tenants. With an interest in sustainability, the developer formed a design team that could help achieve LEED certification for the building, with the goal of a Gold rating. The lion’s share of the project issues were directed at increasing energy efficiency and promoting sustainability, while preserving as much of the building’s shell, mature trees, and other significant features as possible.

Major changes to the building included reorienting the entrance from the south-facing “storefront” side to the parking lot to the west, demolishing a former loading dock to create the new entrance to the building, and penetrating the roof structure to bring natural light into the center of the one-story space, creating twin courtyards that are accessible exclusively from the interior. Additional natural light is carried to windowless perimeter areas via solar tube technology.

Concrete masonry units (8” x 8” x 16”) are incorporated extensively along the building’s exterior. Using a stacked bond pattern, split face and burnished units are randomly scattered within planter and entry-defining walls, which transition visitors from the parking area, through the plaza, to the building entrance. The tall walls help demarcate the entry and contain the metal canopy trellis extending from the glass entrance wall. The warm tones of the CMU further ground the building to the site and landscape.

The plaza is enhanced with a water feature, drought-tolerant native plants, and comfortable seating areas, providing a nice retreat for tenants and visitors.

ARCHITECT:
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1040 Lincoln Avenue, Suite 200
Pasadena, CA 91103
Fred P. Wesley, AIA
Principal

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Michael Ni & Associates

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
G. L. Kaplan Construction

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Carranza Masonry Construction

BLOCK PRODUCER:
ORCO Block Company, Inc.

OWNER:
NW Innovation Center, LLC
THE NEW STANDARD BUILDING
EL SEGUNDO, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: The Jury thought this was a wonderful “infill” building with skillfully composed materials. The warped panels at the entry contrast the dark concrete masonry units nicely; a disciplined use of materials thoughtfully composed. The two facades of the building reflect the user access to the building. It was not necessary to build to the lot limit, providing a distinctive use of the site for parking and building. Ground textures and materials provide a sophisticated setting. Simple yet urbane, it fits well with the adjacent buildings.

Located in downtown El Segundo, bordered by an industrial plant to the south, and the pedestrian-friendly Main Street to the north, The New Standard Building aims to embody both the permanence and the approachability of this local thriving company. The design of the 3,500 square-foot headquarters for Looking, a graphic design and marketing firm, is a direct response to the desire for an architectural presence, contextual sensitivity, and the ocean-side climate.

The program dictated the open plan of the full-height main space that includes a central core of workstations, with flanking “day-lit” communal worktables and long pin-up walls. This comfortably allowed for stacking of the service areas: bathrooms, kitchenette, and accounting, along the south wall. On the west alley-side of the building, the entry pass-through provides a glimpse into the two adjacent, double-height, workshops.

The scored, grey, sandblasted concrete masonry units and the perpendicular scored, Black Canyon concrete masonry walls are the framework that allows the movement of the GFRC panels and transparency of the glazing to compliment and “lighten” the weight of the superstructure.

The sandblasted concrete masonry adds tactile texture and depth, which is carried from exterior to interior, while the dark concrete masonry walls have been punctured with our interpretation of glass block artwork created by Looking. Concrete masonry units not only provided a cost effective construction method, but more importantly, they offered an array of color and texture options, and were crucial to the low-maintenance and sustainable design goals.

The integration of sustainable elements is seen throughout the building and site work: the thermal mass and structural use of concrete masonry, exposed structural steel, polished concrete floors, high-efficiency lighting design, skylights, PVC roofing system, drought-resistant vegetation, concrete checker-block paving, and high efficiency MEP systems. All of these are working to fulfill the expectations and enhance the use of the building and site.

ARCHITECT:
Screed Architecture, Inc.
2236 Princeton Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90026
Allison Kuharski, AIA
Principal

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Engineering Design, Inc.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Hickey Construction, Inc.

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Dave Shaw Concrete & Block, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER:
ORCO Block Company, Inc.

OWNER:
Looking
Jury Comments: This structure embraces the site, parking and entry court. It has great presence on street. The glass and roof planes play with the concrete masonry facade to create a delightful statement, while diminishing the mass of the building. This is a suburban office building that is modern, modest, identifiable, and welcoming, all characteristics that more buildings of this type should aspire to emulate.

When an Association of Realtors outgrew its headquarters, it didn’t look further than the site it had called home for many years. The original space was a circa 1950’s, 4,300 square-foot, converted home that had been remodeled several times to serve as an office building.

The conclusion was to reuse the site and build an office building that not only met the Association’s needs, but also took advantage of the area’s commercial medical zoning. With a major medical center located across the street, the new building was ideally situated to offer medical office space on the second floor, and an entertainment patio on the third floor.

The new building is 16,500 square feet and houses the Association’s employees, and three medical office suites with ocean views. Environmentally friendly strategies were used in the design. The use of exposed split faced concrete masonry units for the exterior skin was specified for its durability and sustainable properties. Natural lighting supplemented artificial lighting by maximizing north light, and minimizing south facing windows where possible. Shading devices were designed to shade all south facing openings. The use of exposed split faced concrete masonry units for the exterior skin was specified for its durability and sustainable properties.

Drought tolerant landscaping was selected to minimize water consumption, but a higher percentage of landscaping provided the reduction of the heat island effect, as well as a passive bio-filtration system helped to minimize runoff pollution.

Extensive use of concrete masonry contrasted against the smooth texture of glass allowed us to provide a signature building with significant views, all while using materials that stand up well in a coastal environment.

The unique needs of medical equipment lead to some major challenges and innovations. The second floor MRI suite required special modifications to the roof construction, and an access hatch for installation and future removal of a 24,000 pound MRI magnet.

ARCHITECT:
Hill Partnership, Inc.
115 22nd Street
Newport Beach, CA 92663

Larry Frapwell
Principal

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Myers Houghton and Partners, Inc.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
J. D. Diffenbaugh

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Nu Way, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER:
Angelus Block Company, Inc.

OWNER:
Orange County Association of Realtors

Photography: Cris Costea, Costea Photography
NUGGET MARKET
ROSEVILLE, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: This building was unique in the retail category for its use of daylight. The clerestory turns a basic big box interior and exterior into something much more habitable and inviting. The window penetrations in the exterior wall are very pleasant and give what is normally a tall blank wall some sense of scale and unique light penetration. The entry-sign canopy was difficult to adjust to. Although perhaps a necessary evil, it seems to dominate the building, which has a strong identity of its own.

The design goal was to provide a building design complimentary to the Owner’s European market-themed image. Nugget Markets’signature high quality produce department, along with prepared food items such as Chinese food, deli, full service bakery, soup and salad bars, juice and coffee bars, gourmet cheese and wine departments, and full service meat and fish departments were to be accommodated in a free-flowing European market atmosphere.

The design concept was to create a building design evocative of that of buildings of the old Parisian market district of the late 19th and early 20th century, which featured durably constructed buildings with glass and iron detailing, and cavernous interiors with exposed structure all as a backdrop to food and merchandise displays.

The solution was to design the grocery store using materials and detailing to transform the usual grocery store box building into a modern version of the old Parisian market district aesthetic. Key to creating this aesthetic is concrete masonry, which provides an economic visual texture to what would otherwise be large expanses of blank wall. The entire structure is exposed concrete masonry in a variety of colors and textures. The building design features both split face and precision concrete masonry units, as well as brick block. Precision CMU panels are adorned in some locations with large murals reminiscent of old produce crate labels. These murals are painted directly on the concrete masonry surface. Other precision CMU panels are stuccoed over as a visual tie-in to the aesthetics of the rest of the shopping center, which is primarily stucco. Other features that impart the European warehouse market aesthetic include cast iron grill work, steel canopies and cart screens, and metal sash windows. A circular pavilion with classical detailing and adorned with the Owner’s trademark harvest maiden statuary accentuates the entry to the building.

ARCHITECT:
McCandless & Associates, Inc.
666 Dead Cat Alley
Woodland, CA 95695
William McCandless
Principal

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Miyamoto International, Inc.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
S.D. Deacon

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Frazier Masonry Corp.

BLOCK PRODUCER:
Calstone Company, Inc.

OWNER:
Sycamore Partners, LLC

Photography: Cathy Kelly, CK Architectural Photography
**Jury Comments:** This is a beautiful understated building; a very mature, carefully edited, confident design. It is what it is, and doesn’t try to be cute. Restrained material use is beautifully done with natural wood, charcoal concrete masonry, and glass. This plan works with and complements the site, and there is a strong attempt to preserve the natural state of the site. Crisp simple detailing, a simple material pallet and site integration earns this studio honors.

The Chadwick Studio, completed in September of 2005, was designed for product and furniture designer, Don Chadwick, inventor of the famous Aeron Chair. Mr. Chadwick sought to have a studio and office adjacent to his home in Sullivan Canyon. This area has managed to maintain an extremely rural and rustic character, which was a welcome departure form the gritty urban condition of his previous studio in West Los Angeles.

Located on 2,500 square feet across the driveway from his existing house, the new freestanding, 1,800 square-foot building serves as a design studio, production and office space for Mr. Chadwick and his staff. The main programmatic elements of the building include a shop to hold tools and accommodate product mock-ups, an open studio space that features a conference area and a floor-to-ceiling, double-sided bookshelf, and a private office for Mr. Chadwick, located on a mezzanine. Additional rooms include a kitchen and bathroom.

Set into the hillside, the building is exposed on two sides with a patio set into the back of the property adjacent to Mr. Chadwick’s office on the second level. The building is longer than it is wide, and bends to follow the natural contours of the canyon. The structure is modern, with a ranch-style pitched roof that references nearby houses, many of which were designed by noted architect Cliff May. The building’s exterior is comprised of materials such as concrete masonry units, glass and wood siding. Utilizing jarrah, a wood that turns silver with age for this siding, a complementary relationship starts to unfold with the black, lightweight precision concrete masonry units through the passing of time. This collage approach to the design has generated a building of industrial materials that is perfectly suited to, and integrated with, the natural environment.

**ARCHITECT:**
Frederick Fisher and Partners Architects
12248 Santa Monica Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90025

Frederick Fisher, RA  David Ross, RA
Principal Designer  Partner-in Charge

Christopher Conolly  Hunter Fleetwood
Project Architect  Project Manager

**STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:**
Gordon Polon Consulting Engineers

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:**
McCord Construction

**MASONRY CONTRACTOR:**
A & J Concrete Construction

**BLOCK PRODUCER:**
ORCO Block Company, Inc.

**OWNER:**
Don Chadwick
WELTON RESIDENCE
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: This house is both light-weight and light-filled. The design is an artful use of concrete masonry to create openness to the exterior. The jury responded to the open CMU wall, the clean detailing of the concrete masonry, the integration of the interior spaces with the exterior, and the sculptural forms. This is a true California home, taking advantage of the blurring of inside/outside, and maximizing the delight of dappled daylight; a great retreat from a busy day.

Admiration for Joseph Eichler’s nearby 1950’s housing tract inspired the design of a new home, replacing an existing house that was too dark, cold, and small for a Palo Alto family.

This twenty-eight hundred square foot house and rental cottage includes a two-car garage with workshop. The house is constructed of concrete masonry units, steel, and yellow cedar. Local daylight planes and mature trees stretch the house long and frame two courtyards.

The perforated concrete masonry wall defines the private domain from the street, and provides cubby holes to stash treasures. The butterfly roof gestures to the local character of Palo Alto and integrates the outdoors with interior spaces. Pushed to the rear of the house, the second story contains the master bedroom, which is nestled in the nearby tree canopies. The stairwell acts as a lantern for the large courtyard, and a fireplace lights a smaller courtyard. This fireplace is aligned with a second interior fireplace so that a fire in one is reflected into the other through large glass doors which separate the dining areas from the courtyard.

ARCHITECT:
Rinehart Herbst
3534 Reynard Way, Suite C
San Diego, CA 92103
Catherine Herbst, RA
Principal
Todd Rinehart
Principal

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Endres Ware Architects Engineers

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
K. Welton Construction

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Walton & Sons Masonry, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER:
Calstone Company, Inc.

OWNER:
Kirk Welton
CLOVERFIELD SERVICES CENTER
SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: This is a well executed renovation / addition project. The jury applauded the integration of building and site. The articulated perimeter fence expands the interior with privacy and protection, while defining site and street edge. The horizontal striped glazed concrete masonry wall creates animated, humanely-scaled exterior space. There is a great deal of welcome transparency for this building type, creating wonderful play of light in the interior. Although heavily partitioned in the interior, day light penetration was a strong important addition to the project.

OPPC is the largest and most comprehensive provider of services on the west side of Los Angeles to low income and homeless youth, adults and families, battered women and their children, and people living with mental illness. Finding a home to expand their services in Santa Monica was a challenging task. Neighborhood concerns and expensive real estate limited the effort until an existing two-story, light-commercial building at a very busy intersection near the 10 Freeway was purchased, and with its large structural spans and adjacent outside space, deemed appropriate for renovation.

Secure, outside space is an essential element of the Cloverfield Services Center’s program, but the City did not want a tall, undifferentiated wall addressing the sidewalk and public view. The solution was to provide a colorful, glazed block wall tall enough to protect the residents’ privacy, but punctuated with openings of varying sizes, some with vine-covered, vinyl-coated chain link. A new elevator/stair tower, which announces the building to the street, is at the mid-point of the wall, and separates the men’s and women’s courtyards.

The interior renovation is organized around the two major programs operated in the facility. The first floor houses Safe Haven, a program for chronically homeless individuals living with co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse disorders, who are willing to come indoors on a trial basis or for a lengthy transitional period. The plan includes sleeping cubicles, counseling offices, a kitchen, lounge and dining room. The second floor houses Daybreak, a transitional housing program providing structured group living for mentally ill homeless women, and includes sleeping cubicles with individual storage areas, a community kitchen and lounge, and counseling offices.

Skylights flood the interior space with natural light, and translucent panels control the diffused sunlight on western and southern exposures. Exterior materials include Trespa composite panels, exterior plaster, and landscaped metal screen trellises.

ARCHITECT:
Killefer Flammang Architects
1625 Olympic Boulevard
Santa Monica, CA 90404

Bob Timmerman, AIA
Principal

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Brian Cochran & Associates

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Mackone Development

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Bledsoe Masonry

BLOCK PRODUCERS:
Trenwyth Industries, Inc.
Angelus Block Company, Inc.

OWNER:
Ocean Park Community Center

Photography: James H. Simmons, Del Zoppo Simmons Productions
Jury Comments: The architect uses a careful mix of materials to create a very spacious-feeling, small house on tiny infill lot. A wonderful example of this building type. This is a sophisticated composition and execution using the most basic building materials. Although the exterior symmetry may be a bit overstated, the use of simple materials, colors, and light dominate. CMU seems to be an appropriate choice for the base. We liked this house, and thought it to be very well executed with a modest budget on a narrow site.

The site is located in Manhattan beach, California, a beachfront community on the western edge of metropolitan Los Angeles. The small, narrow (30’ x 52”) parcel is located three blocks from the beach in a dense neighborhood of eclectic residential structures, and is served by a small local street to the north, and an alley to the south. The site offers views of a collage of rooftops and selective vistas of the Pacific Ocean. The area is in transition, an assemblage of old and new, large and small, stucco, wood and concrete masonry.

The clients requested a residential program of 2,250 square feet for a family of four. The program is organized vertically on three levels, with the main entry, a family room, and parking on the ground level, three private bedrooms in the middle, and living, dining, and kitchen at the upper levels for the best light and view. Horizontally, spaces open up to the front and rear of the site from a loosely structured service core at the center of the building.

Externally, the building is conceived as an abstraction of coastal neighborhood elements, and orchestrated internally as an experience of the light, view, and temperate climate that is the opportunity of life at the beach in Los Angeles.

The street elevations are symmetrical organizations of stucco, glass, and concrete masonry units that borrow from the eclectic fabric of the surrounding seaside neighborhood. A steel framed, cantilevered deck adds an element that evokes the image of local fishing piers or the bridge of a ship. A contrasting, imported object containing the living, dining, and kitchen, tops this composition of familiar elements and is contained below folded metal roof and wall planes that lean to the north and south to perceptually extend these spaces beyond the physical limits of the site.

Concrete masonry construction is used to achieve multiple design goals:
• Exposed concrete masonry is a material found in the existing residential context of the surrounding beach community.
• Concrete masonry units are used to create a strong horizontal base that bisects the vertical proportion of the street elevations to achieve a composition of smaller stucco, metal, and wood elements at the upper floors, thereby reducing the perceived scale of the building.

ARCHITECT:
Dean Nota Architect, AIA
2465 Myrtle Avenue
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

Dean Nota, AIA
Principal

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Palos Verdes Engineering

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Madans Construction

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Jeff Lansing Masonry, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER:
Angelus Block Company, Inc.

OWNERS:
Greg and Blair Harless
2007 CMACN/AIACC CONCRETE MASONRY DESIGN AWARDS

THE JURY

The Jury for the Concrete Masonry Design Awards Program includes three Architects chosen by the American Institute of Architects, California Council. The Sustainable Development Award Jury consists of the base Jury of three and two professionals significantly involved in the promotion of sustainability in California or Nevada.

The Distinguished Jury for the 2007 Concrete Masonry Design Awards Program includes:

DUANE A. KELL, FAIA

As a founding partner of Ankeny Kell Architects, Duane has developed a firm that is committed to client collaboration, project team commitment, design originality, and exceeding client expectations. For more than 30 years he has guided public and private clients through the project design and construction process. He is experienced in all phases of the architectural practice and engages both client and architectural project team members to create quality buildings that reflect the unique goals and vision of each client.

CHARLES ELEY, FAIA, PE.

Charles Eley, FAIA, PE., is an Architect and Mechanical Engineer with 27 years experience in energy efficient and sustainable design. Mr. Eley has made significant contributions to the California energy standards, ASHRAE Standard 90.1, and energy codes in Hong Kong, Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa and Australia. Mr. Eley is now working with the California Energy Commission to update the state energy efficiency standards.

In addition to his energy codes and policy work, Mr. Eley has also developed a number of important publications including the Advanced Lighting Guidelines, the Lighting Fundamentals Handbook, and numerous other technical manuals on energy efficient and code compliance. Mr. Eley is the primary author and technical editor of the ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.1-1999 User’s Manual. He is also the Executive Director of the Collaborative for High Performance Schools and is the technical editor of the C.H.P.S. Best Practices Manual.

Mr. Eley consults with other architects and engineers in the design of landmark energy efficient buildings. He also directs the software development team within Architectural Energy Corporation, which is responsible for VisualDOE, EnvStd, and a number of other computer programs for the energy efficient design of buildings.

KATE SCHWENSEN, FAIA

Kate Schwenssen, FAIA, is the Associate Dean for Academic Programs of the College of Design at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. In 2006, Kate served as the 82nd President of the AIA. She was the second woman, second Iowan, and second educator to serve as the elected leader of this almost-80,000-member organization. In her highly visible role as AIA president, as well as in other important leadership positions in international, national, regional, and state professional, civic, and regulatory organizations, Schwenssen has worked to advance the architecture profession by bridging practice and education. Before returning to Iowa State to teach full time in 1991, she practiced for 10 years in professionally critical areas, including office and project management, marketing, and design.

Schwenssen is a Fellow of the AIA, a Senior Fellow of the Design Futures Council, and an Honorary Member of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, and the Korean Institute of Architects. She was awarded the Presidential Medal by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards and the Medal of Honor by the Iowa Chapter of the AIA.

HAL P. MUNGER, FAIA

Hal P. Munger, FAIA is the President/Treasurer for Munger Munger + Associates Architects, Inc. in Toledo, OH., where he has worked since 1980. Mr. Munger received his Bachelor of Architecture in 1978 from the University of Notre Dame. Honors earned during his university time were the Sollit Prize for his thesis, Steiner Award for engineering leadership, Chairman Tau Sigma Delta Architectural Honor Society award. He was the Editor In Chief of the “Tech Review” engineering magazine 1977-78 and he was on the Joint Engineering Council 1977-78.

Among other distinctions, Mr. Munger was elevated to the AIA College of Fellows in 2006. He has been involved both on a regional, state, and national level in many capacities with the AIAO and AIAT since 1982. Currently he is a High School Design Competition Critic; AIAT 2005-present; Chairman, Management Committee, Allied Toledo Architects 2002-present; Chairman, Components Partnership Committee, AIA, and sits on the National Board of Directors, ACE Mentoring Program of America, 2004-07, and the National Board of Regents, American Architectural Foundation, 2007. He is also Vice President Properties, BSA, Erie Shores Council, 1998-present.

STEPHAN CASTELLANOS, FAIA

Mr. Castellanos received a Bachelor of Architecture from California State Polytechnic College in 1971. While with the AIA Sierra Valley, he served as Director from 1986-87, Treasurer from 1987-88, First VP/President Elect in 1989 and as President in 1991. His accomplishments with the AIA California Council include BOD, 1992-94, 1997-2000, Governmental Relations Legislative Committee, 1993-98. Chair Diversity and Political Outreach Task Forces, 1994, Vice-President, Communication/Public Affairs, 1995-96, ARC PAC Board of Trustees, 1997-98 and Vice-Chair, California Hospital Building Safety Board., 1997-2000.

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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:  
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2008 CMACN/AIACC CONCRETE MASONRY DESIGN AWARDS CALL FOR ENTRIES

Mark your calendar for our “Call-For-Entry” brochure to be mailed in January 2008. Requests for submittal binders can be obtained in January by calling the CMACN office at (916) 722-1700, from our web site at www.cmacn.org, or by e-mail at info@cmacn.org.

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Tentative Schedule:
Last date to request submittal binders: March 31, 2008
Last date for receipt of completed submittal binders: April 30, 2008
2008 Concrete Masonry Design Awards Banquet: Friday, September 26, 2008, Four Seasons Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada.