Profiles in Architecture

July 2008 CMACN/AIACC Concrete Masonry Design Awards Issue

Concrete Masonry is Safe & Sound.

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The 2008 Design Awards Are Co-sponsored by AIA California Council

Concrete Masonry Association of California and Nevada
2008 Concrete Masonry Design Awards Banquet

Friday, September 26, 2008
The Four Seasons Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

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.

Please 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 and its members are pleased to invite you to celebrate with us the winners of the 2008 CMACN Design Awards. Our thanks go to the American Institute of Architects California Council for their continued participation in this annual architectural design awards program. We thank AIACC for providing a nationally recognized, distinguished, and thoughtful jury to sit in judgment of the work of their peers. Unique to the CMACN program are awards for sustainable design. Concrete masonry is the construction material of choice for durable, sustainable buildings.

The 2008 CMACN Design Awards entrants include a varied cross-section of projects including: Education, Public/Civic, Commercial, Retail and Residential. Concrete masonry is showcased in all of these designs for its durability, longevity, fire resistance, strength, beauty, energy efficiency, flexibility, noise attenuation, earthquake resistance, and economy. Buildings constructed of concrete masonry are safe and sound.

KURTIS K. SIGGARD
Executive Director, CMACN

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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.

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

Sustainable Jury Comments: This playful home is 36% more energy efficient than California's tough standards and qualifies as a Green Point Rated home. Energy efficiency is achieved with shading, high performance windows, orientation, and thermal stack ventilation. Masonry provides color and texture on the ground floor, and a sturdy base for the wood, steel, and glass structure above. Materials are chosen to be durable and recyclable (some are salvaged).

Architect's Commentary: An active family of four approached the Architect with one condition: Design a "green," 3-bedroom, 2-bath house per 2005 Build-it-Green standards, on a tiny 30' x 50' lot that suited their beach lifestyle. The site is in a very dense urban area of Hermosa Beach, one block from the beach, where privacy and personal outdoor space are very precious commodities, and where the marine climate is harsh on building materials.

The resulting multi-story, tower-like structure is sheathed with pre-finished metal panels, stucco, and concrete masonry, all well-suited for long life in a marine climate. Concrete masonry is used exclusively at the ground level where durability and strength are required. Colorful glazed concrete masonry block are used in large murals at the house entry and at the street to reflect the playful beach atmosphere. Split face concrete masonry, the color of the beach sand, is used at other visible locations for texture and beauty.

The house uses 2005 "Build-it Green" guidelines to achieve 81 points (50 minimum). The house is also 36% below the Title-24 base line. Additional "Build it Green" features:

1. The stairwell acts as a natural-cooling chimney with a thermostatically-operated skylight at the top.
2. Non-wood, durable and non-combustible exterior materials and windows appropriate for marine environment that require minimal maintenance (stucco and CMU) or no maintenance (fluoro-carbon “Kynar,” pre-finished metal siding, aluminum windows). Exterior materials are recyclable.
3. Fluoro carbon paint on pre-finished metal siding is rated “cool” and reduces heat gain through south and west walls. Foil-backed, shear plywood reduces radiant heat gain on the south and west walls.
4. All windows are double-glazed with Low-E glass, thus reducing heat gain from radiant and conductive sources.
5. House is heated by a hybrid hydronic/forced air system that uses a tank-less natural gas water heater (25% improvement over standard). The same tank-less water heater also furnishes hot water for the house (41% improvement over standard).
6. Roof terrace provides outdoor space and 66 square feet of planters deep enough for medium-sized plantings.
7. Aluminum trellis reduces heat in primary south-facing rooms.
8. House is pre-wired for photovoltaic panels to be mounted on the flat roof areas.
9. All building insulation is recycled cotton.
10. Pre-engineered wood framing throughout.
11. Cabinetry uses teak recycled from demolished houses.
12. Use of low VOC interior paint.

Architect: Robert Nebolon Architect
801 Camelia Street, Suite E
Berkeley, CA 94710
Robert Nebolon, AIA
Principal

Structural Engineer: Virgil Sarmiento, S.E.
General Contractor: John Madison Construction
Masonry Contractor: Madison Masonry
Block Producer: Trenwyth Industries, Inc. (a subsidiary of Oldcastle APG West)

Owners: Barbara and Joe Gunning

Photography: David Duncan Livingston Photography

ARNOLD & MABEL BECKMAN CENTER FOR CONSERVATION RESEARCH
SAN DIEGO ZOO’S WILD ANIMAL PARK
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Sustainable Jury Comments: This zoological research center earned the LEED Silver designation through a combination of energy efficiency, daylighting, water conservation and material resource efficiency. High performance windows are well oriented and shaded. A 30 kW photovoltaic system provides enough power for the interior lights. 90% of construction waste was recycled. Waste water is recycled for irrigation.

Architect’s Commentary: The state-of-the-art Arnold and Mabel Beckman Center for Conservation Research (CRES facility) at San Diego Zoo’s Wild Animal Park is the largest zoo-based research facility in the world. The facility is nearly 50,000 square feet, and will enable scientists to continue the critical conservation research of endangered species and habitats worldwide.

The architecture reflects the international scope of the research of CRES and draws on the Southeast Asian theme of the site’s context, as is found in the surrounding developments at the Wild Animal Park. The building mass was arranged around a central courtyard, which provides increased natural light into the laboratory and office areas, and also provides a central gathering space readily adjacent to each research division, creating opportunities for casual interaction and exchange of ideas.

Sustenance:
- The mission of CRES is to gather, share, and apply scientific knowledge vital to the conservation of animals, plants, and habitats worldwide.
- The project has been awarded LEED Silver Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Energy Saving Features:
- Photovoltaic panels provide 30 kilowatts of electrical power, enough to run all of the lights inside the building.
- Solar orientation in both siting and fenestration were carefully studied, with deep eaves and solar shading devices integrated into the exterior design. Overall energy consumption for the CRES building will be 35% less than a similar facility that is built using standard construction. This is mainly achieved by a highly efficient HVAC, insulating glass, and automatic control systems.

Environmentally Friendly Materials:
- Renewable and sustainable materials such as locally produced concrete masonry, eucalyptus woods and farm-grown bamboo were selected for both their thermatic and renewable benefits.
- Recycled materials were used in the carpeting, structural steel, and concrete masonry block.

A Healthy and Efficient Workplace:
- Indoor air quality is improved through the use of minimal “off-gasing” materials
- Water-saving fixtures reduce water usage by 20%
- Extensive use of natural daylight throughout the building.

Recycling:
- Over 90% of the waste generated by the construction process was recycled.
- Waste products were sorted on-site and sent to appropriate recycling facilities
- Waste water is recycled for irrigation use.

ARCHITECT:
Ferguson Pape Baldwin Architects
701 B Street, Suite 200
San Diego, CA 92101
Jim Ferguson, AIA

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Arcon Engineers

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Turner Construction

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
J. B. Masonry

BLOCK PRODUCER:
RCP Block & Brick, Inc.

OWNER; OWNER’S ARCHITECT:
Zoological Society of San Diego; Steven Fobes, AIA
MARCO ANTONIO FIREBAUGH HIGH SCHOOL
LYNWOOD, CALIFORNIA

Sustainable Jury Comments: This high school is a dignified solution. It has a well-developed site plan that provides community access, while maintaining security. A sustainable solution in itself, playfields are used jointly between the school and the community. Day-lighting is successfully implemented in the library and the gym. Masonry provides a durable exterior finish that contributes the dignity of the solution that underscores a commitment to education.

Architect’s Commentary: To meet the challenges of providing college preparatory curriculum for Firebaugh High School, 27 adjacent homes were acquired to maintain the existing open space of John Ham Park. A parking structure helped maximize land use and make possible new joint-use facilities, athletic fields and 156,135 square feet of new educational facilities.

The school is organized along a pedestrian circulation spine running parallel with Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, and connects each of the campus’s three major buildings. This walkway is symbolically named Boulevard of Achievements, and is a tree lined path with inspirational billboards of individuals and their accomplishments. The campus structures are organized along this boulevard by academic cores and located to provide maximum access to the public joint-use facilities. The two-story campus buildings, constructed with concrete masonry walls, are positioned to provide protected exterior courtyard spaces. Structural and decorative use of concrete masonry block helped to provide a resourceful solution to a variety of design criteria.

Safety
Protection from drive-by shootings, a major concern of the district, was provided by constructing all campus buildings out of concrete masonry.

Cost Effective
By specifying a sandblasted finish on a natural grey block, this design solution provided an attractive, durable, low maintenance and cost effective solution for the district.

Aesthetics
The modularity and inherent strength of concrete masonry symbolically represents the individuality of each student and the strength that can be found when a community comes together.

Sustainable
The two-story glass entry lobby has been designed with displacement air that provides conditioned air in the floor vents against a two-story window wall, helping to reduce the energy cost of conditioning a large space. The lobby also acts as a buffer to reduce heat gain in the second floor library. In lieu of large lobbies outdoor courtyards provide entry to the Library, performing arts and gymnasium. Other outdoor spaces were created to reduce building area such as the 10,000 square-foot dining area covered by a translucent roofing system. An outdoor performance space was designed to front the campus quad and to replace an indoor black box performance space. Circulation spaces from second floors were pulled outdoors to reduce energy consumption. Drought tolerant plants were installed to minimize water consumption and to reduce pollution from maintenance. 100% of academic spaces have direct access to natural light and outdoor views, as well as operable windows.

Concrete masonry was utilized as both structure and finish material on interior and exterior surfaces for over 185,000 square feet. A reduction in transportation pollution was also achieved by specifying locally manufactured concrete masonry units.

ARCHITECT:
LPA, Inc.
5161 California Avenue, Suite 100
Irvine, CA 92617

Steve Flanagan, AIA, Don Pender, AIA, Kevin Sullivan, ASLA
Silke Metzler, Winston Bao and Sylvia Situ
Design Team

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
KPFF Consulting Engineers

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
W. D. Gott Construction Company

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Winegardner Masonry, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER:
ORCO Block Company, Inc.

OWNER:
Lynwood Unified School District

Photography: Cristian Costea, Costea Photography

**Jury Comments:** This is an elegant design of stone, concrete masonry, and glass; simple, sculptural, and beautifully detailed. The design skillfully used the overlapping geometries of the site to create a courtyard between the buildings, which is open and welcoming. This geometry is further emphasized by the shifting of building elements, which creates a dynamic entry to the courtyard, while breaking down the mass of the building. The jury loved the spaces that were formed by this simple shift from the courtyard to the exterior decks.

**Architect's Commentary:** The Library Academic Center, located in the heart of the prestigious La Jolla Country Day School, is the signature building and new front door to the campus. The new library houses an auditorium, art gallery, student/faculty services, administration offices, lower school and upper school libraries, learning resource center, technology center and board room. The facility was founded on the school’s mission of, “preparing individuals for a lifetime of intellectual exploration, personal growth and social responsibility.”

**Goals:**

- **Context**
  The building reflects and expresses the qualities of the school, while respecting its site context. Attention to existing buildings was used to maintain the overall sense of propriety within the complex as a whole.

- **Campus Image**
  As a cutting-edge, prestigious prep school, the image of the campus is critically important to La Jolla Country Day School. The Library Academic Center was designed with a welcoming, dignified character reflecting the school’s established reputation and a practical appearance emphasizing education.

- **Phasing**
  Phasing was a primary consideration. It was critical to allow the campus to function with minimal disruptions during construction, while maintaining a safe environment for the students.

- **Student/Faculty Flow**
  Circulation and procession played a fundamental part in the orientation of the building and its internal functions. Considerations were given to visitor way-finding, student flow, Administrative areas, and the visual interaction of circulation with private and public spaces.

- **Building Massing and Form:**
  Articulation of the building massing was critical in creating an appropriately scaled environment for small children, while simultaneously providing a transition to the larger campus buildings. The following guidelines were employed to address these objectives:

  - Articulate massing with offsets, shifts of plane, stepped terraces and irregular roofline, enhance articulation with changes of material, texture, and color with the use of concrete masonry block, glass and stone.
  - Utilize topography to integrate building with existing land form.
  - Cluster small-scale elements, such as planter walls, where necessary to transition building mass and integrate into the landscape.
  - Entry points are expressed and clearly identifiable from vehicular and pedestrian access onto and within the site.
DOOLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: This project successfully met and exceeded its challenge of designing a large urban school on a very small site. The design is very clear and easy to understand and the colors, materials and forms are related, but change to create identity to the different areas of the site. Buildings made of concrete masonry and glass are sited to create a central courtyard. The courtyard is secure, but integrated into the surrounding spaces with high roof overhangs, upper level walks and overhead doors. This integration adds depth to the views into and between the buildings making the courtyard feel bigger. The interiors are very light and open and further integrate the exterior and interior.

Architect’s Commentary: Our planning for Dooley Elementary School presented the Long Beach Unified District with unique solutions to a difficult challenge: how to accommodate a much needed, K-5 elementary school to house nearly 1,400 elementary students in the north Long Beach area on a small 5-acre parcel, yet keep it buffered from the surrounding dense residential and commercial development, and busy adjacent urban boulevard. If these goals could be achieved the District would be able to take advantage of new State program funds earmarked for small site projects.

To fully utilize the site we proposed a multi-story configuration with an elevated play deck above the parking area. The classroom buildings were oriented to enclose a secure central plaza that shields students from the noise and hazards of the adjacent street, providing for both security and community. The need for a safe access to the school was dealt with in the form of a unique, counterclockwise-only traffic configuration designed so students exit cars and buses from the passenger side without having to venture into cross traffic.

The structure is expressed in masonry shear walls and exposed steel moment frame construction. A dramatic butterfly roof design allows for increased fenestration that floods the classrooms with daylight, while enhancing the efficient collection and channeling of wastewater from the site.

Each classroom is equipped with the latest instructional technology, including large flat screen monitors mounted on adjustable gimbals for easy viewing and out-of-the-way storage. The design also incorporates a novel library wing that serves as a comfortable and welcoming home to the school’s specialized reading programs.

The following design approaches qualified the Dooley Elementary School to receive “Savings by Design” funding from the State of California:

- Contacts on the classroom doors and windows that shut off the air conditioning after being open for five minutes
- Heat minimizing insulating laminated tempered glass windows and Kalwall glazing overhangs
- Central plant 4-pipe hydronic HVAC system with underground loop
- R-19 walls, R30 roof
- Energy management system that can be monitored and controlled via the internet
- The selection of sustainable materials; concrete masonry units, and steel that came from local suppliers

Architect: IBI Group
18401 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 110
Irvine, CA 92612
Thomas Blurock, FAIA Craig Rothenburger, AIA
Principal in Charge Project Architect
Osleide Walker
Designer

Structural Engineer: John A. Martin and Associates
General Contractor: FTR International
Masonry Contractor: FTR International
Block Producer: Angelus Block Company, Inc.
Owner: Long Beach Unified School District
Jury Comments: This project has strong and sculptural forms, easily understood, and beautifully detailed. These forms create a building which responds to the site and opens to the rest of the departmental buildings. The main element is a beautiful composition of concrete masonry block of different colors, textures, and shapes creating a plane with textile characteristics. The studios are bright and open, and the walls are held back to see the masonry continuing through to the interior, further emphasizing the connection to the exterior.

Architect's Commentary: Woodbury University required a new studio building to complete the existing architecture department. The solution was to design a new, two-story building to house architectural studios, critique spaces, support spaces, and a double-height multi-purpose room.

As the most visible building on the campus perimeter, the studio building mediates between the public view and the private use of the campus. The south facade is a horizontal large-scale gesture to passing motorists that curves and wraps the building. Varying patterns of concrete masonry units (CMU) compose this prominent wall. The stacked blocks create a large-scale, changing pattern of subtle shadings as the sunlight moves across the south façade during the day. Continuity with the campus is maintained by using brick colors and horizontal banding sympathetic to brick colors and patterning on existing buildings. Functionally, the south façade filters sunlight and traffic sounds from the adjacent city streets and freeway.

While the south façade creates a buffer zone, the north façade opens the studio building to the existing department and provides a porous edge to a courtyard formed by the existing studio building to the north. To connect to new structure to the existing complex, the north façade employs smaller-scale layering of vertical elements. The concrete masonry block pattern consists of vertical stripes with alternating neutral colors. The guardrails at the balcony and open stairs mimic the pattern with vertical wood polymer pickets fastened to steel supports.

The double-height multi-purpose space differentiates itself from the mass of the building with a high, glass lantern that acts as a beacon to the south and a large, hangar door, which, when open, extends the space into the north courtyard. In the bulk of the building, programmatic space for architecture students extends across two floors. On each floor, 5,500 square feet of studio space adjoins 1,500 square feet of critique space. Exposed construction and mechanical components of the building serve as teaching tools for the architecture students using the building.

This building was designed with sustainability in mind. Most of the building’s interior finishes feature recycled glass, plastics, cotton or paper, and were combined in innovative ways with other off-the-shelf materials such as locally manufactured CMU. The building’s solar orientation and clever use of sun and shade remind its users of the natural elements. In addition, several old-growth olive trees were saved from demolition and transplanted into the new courtyard formed north of the building.

ARCHITECT: Rios Clementi Hale Studios
639 N. Larchmont Blvd., Suite 100
Los Angeles, CA 90004
Jennifer Charles       Naseema Asif       Garth Ramsey
Project Architect      Designer          Designer
Frank Clementi, AIA, AIGA        Mark Rios, FAIA, FASLA
Principal               Principal

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: KPFF Consulting Engineers

GENERAL CONTRACTOR: Swinerton Builders

MASONRY CONTRACTOR: Frazier Masonry Corporation

BLOCK PRODUCER: Angelus Block Company, Inc.

OWNER: Woodbury University

Photography: Main Photo: Tom Bonner, Tom Bonner Photography
Douglas Olson, Douglas Olson Photography

2008 CMACN Awards Edition, "CMU Profiles in Architecture"
**Jury Comments:** This project is a delight from the diving board bench at the entry, to the beautiful use of different shades of concrete masonry block to create the patterned wall, to the blue wall that unifies the entire facility and creates clear circulation through it. The jury especially loved how exterior materials appear in the interior at key points, and how the materials, colors and textures are playful, reflecting the nature of the facility. The project is beautifully detailed inside and out.

**Architect’s Commentary:**

The Fair Swim Center is a public swimming facility located in a community park in San Jose, California. The project requirements involved the overall site and building design, along with three pools, which include a children’s wading pool and a waterslide. The support buildings include a maintenance and equipment building, clad entirely in concrete masonry block, and a main pool building that features a distinctive concrete masonry design on both the exterior and interior. The building houses administrative and meeting areas, food service, and restroom/locker and shower facilities.

Inspiration for the site axis, orientation and building form came from the first site visit: a long open field, surrounded by unattractive sound walls, opened up to the view of the foothills beyond. The design team arrived at a parti that created an axial approach through the site, continuing along the physical and symbolic spine of the building.

The architecture features a spine wall element, effectively dividing the building into public and administrative areas. A butterfly roof form with exposed glulam roof beams intersects the spine wall and ties together the exterior finish elements of concrete masonry units, plaster and wood siding. The undulating concrete masonry units and horizontal banding of glass complete the aesthetic.

The interior incorporates all materials from the exterior into a cohesive architectural statement. An open lobby and waiting area with high ceilings look out through 16-foot tall windows to the pool deck and the hills beyond. The undulating concrete masonry design appears on the interior at the front desk, lobby walls and restroom/locker areas. The choice of concrete masonry block, in addition to the visual wavelike effect in its design, added value through its budget and maintenance considerations.
Operations and Maintenance Buildings, Encina Wastewater Authority Water Pollution Control Facility
Carlsbad California

Jury Comments: The jury loved this project for its beautiful composition of materials, colors and detailing inside and out. The main building material is a plain concrete masonry block, which is broken up skillfully first in the massing, then with punched openings, banding and shading devices, and finally used as an interior finish as well. The pedestrian scale of the buildings and site is striking, which is especially notable in such a huge facility. There is clear definition of the entry and how to circulate around and through the buildings. The interiors are transparent and comfortable.

Architect's Commentary: Encina Wastewater Authority (EWA) provides wastewater treatment to 300,000 San Diego County residents. 52 employees represent operations, maintenance, administration, laboratory, and environmental compliance departments. Facilities include a 36 million gallon per-day wastewater treatment plant, water recycling facility, and pump stations. EWA has defined a comprehensive, sustainable-site philosophy for an energy efficient and environmentally responsive facility. This 44,000 square-foot project reflects the policy, while replacing two existing obsolete structures, that defines the philosophy, “Design elegant buildings that still reflect our facility’s industrial nature.”

Staff participation in the design process proved essential to the ultimate project solution. A needs assessment identified necessary facilities; provided first steps toward budgeting, design and construction; and established detailed references throughout the design process. Identified pertinent criteria: Sustainable/energy efficient facilities, minimize construction impacts, optimize land use, consolidate staff, balance security/public areas, durable, maintainable facilities, accommodate future growth, operationally efficient, high quality working environments, and future flexibility.

EWA emphasized integrating informal meeting spaces, environments with natural light, and a multi-use boardroom/training room. Staff workshops generated the initial facilities concepts. Results locate the operations building to the north with ocean views and exterior spaces introduced throughout. The maintenance building incorporates an existing pump station and provides drive-through machine shop facilities.

The design team selected concrete masonry as the major building material for the following reasons: versatility, recycled content/recyclable, thermal mass for heating/cooling, durability, production proximity, structural/finish material duality, reduced operating/maintenance costs, attractive factory finished surface, special shapes for articulating openings.

As the prevalent building material, exposed concrete masonry also unites the complex by means of site walls, planters and benches. Concrete masonry highlights many interior spaces, complementing other expressed structural elements throughout, and is used exclusively for the maintenance shop.

The resulting successful solution reflects documentation of staff needs, providing a working environment that imparts pride, comfort and efficiency.

Architect: Platt/Whitelaw Architects, Inc.
4034 30th Street
San Diego, CA 92104

Alison M. Whitelaw, FAIA, Principal
Ken Green, AIA, Project Manager
Naveen Waney, Project Coordinator

Structural Engineer: Simon Wong Engineering, Inc.
General Contractor: Janes Corporation of California
Masonry Contractor: P.K.Neill Masonry Corporation
Block Producers: Trewnyth Industries, Inc.
RCP Block & Brick, Inc.

Owner: Encina Wastewater Authority
EAST ANAHEIM GYMNASIUM
ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: This project is commendable for its very simple and sculptural forms, responding to the site and adjacent building. The solid concrete masonry block forms are pulled away from each other, then linked lightly with a glass box to create clear circulation, and to bring an abundance of natural light into the interior spaces. The jury loved the perforated concrete masonry wall of the gym and how it causes the wall to change through the day and night. The bracing inside of the gym is reminiscent of basketball players, stretched out in play, creating dynamic forms above the bleachers, backlit by the glass wall.

Architect’s Commentary: East Anaheim Gymnasium is a modern field house. First there was the field. Then there was a court for sport with walls that grew up from the earth to define the boundary and offer protection from the wind. Another block of enclosing walls grew up beside the first to provide a support space. Between these two enclosures there was a breezeway that collected people from areas on either side of the campus to come together. Finally, under a branching roof structure, there was shade and the games began.

From the beginning of the East Anaheim Gymnasium project, there was an idea for a field house. The program called for nothing more than a gymnasium space, a small lobby with restrooms, and a place for equipment storage. A simple shaded structure with some out buildings could be created in the existing field. The analogy of the essential house in a field lent itself well to the historic agricultural identity of Orange County. The project needed to be modernized, however, to address the time and context in which it sits, and to meet the comfort levels desired by the others.

Banded concrete masonry block walls contribute to blurring the boundaries between indoor and outdoor spaces by giving them equal treatment. The bands are consistently random without beginning or end. A glass membrane delicately connects the roof and walls, allowing light to flood in and preventing visual completion of inside corners; helping to connect the space beyond, whether from the inside or out.

The block wall on the east side curves to acknowledge a sister curve at the adjacent community center. This curve also has a surprisingly positive effect on the interior acoustics of the gym by broadly dispersing sound. Glass units are scattered through this wall, which nicely allows sun in the morning and court lights at night to filter through the block.

ARCHITECT:
Osborn
320 E. Harvard Street
Glendale, CA 91205
Michael Pinto, AIA
Design Principal
Shahram Moghbel, AIA
Project Principal
Timothy A. Ballard, AIA
Managing Principal
Curt Johnson
Project Architect
Jennifer Davy
Project Manager

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Brandow & Johnston
GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
gkkworks
MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Winegardner Masonry, Inc.
BLOCK PRODUCER:
ORCO Block Company, Inc.
OWNERS:
City of Anaheim

PHOTOGRAPHY: Elon Schoenholz

2008 CMACN Awards Edition, "CMU Profiles in Architecture"
WEST LAUREL STUDIOS  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: This project is a wonderful example of architecture that responds to its context in a fresh and creative way. The jury loved how the design uses the materials to symbolically represent aspects of the surrounding community. The concrete masonry is used as the main background and the metal “building blocks” of different colors and orientations appear to be set into it, to create rhythm, scale and entry into the interior court. The overlapping forms appear to carry through giving depth and dimensionality.

Architect's Commentary: The West Laurel Studios are located in a redevelopment area on the edge of the Arts & Design District in Little Italy, in downtown San Diego. The project consists of ten individual three-level commercial buildings averaging 1,600 square feet. The studios feature abundant natural light, two-story airy volumes, views of San Diego Bay and the downtown skyline.

The project’s design focuses on the innovative uses of and expression of the building materials in their most honest form.

The forms and finishes were inspired by the site’s context, both fixed and moving. Located beneath the flight path for San Diego Airport, adjacent to two busy roads and one block from the railroad tracks, the site presented both a significant challenge and opportunity. The concrete masonry block represented a strong, permanent presence that related to the mixed industrial setting, while the metal finishes related to the movement and transportation in and around the site. The zinc with riveting represents the jets overhead, the white aluminum the automobiles that constantly pass by, and the corrugated metal panels are intended to relate to the box cars of the freight trains that rumble by periodically throughout the day and night.

Concrete masonry block was chosen specifically for its color and texture, and was brought in from Riverside County, where the block color, due to the local materials and fabrication process, produces a more subtle, honey-colored hue in the natural concrete masonry block.

The shotblast concrete masonry block has rake joints on the exterior with ground horizontal joints and sandblasting on the interior. Concrete masonry block was chosen as the primary building material because of its ability to be the structure, exterior and interior finish, as well as its ability to provide a fantastic sound and thermal insulating material.

The project was designed, developed and built by the architect.

ARCHITECT:  
Brett Farrow Architect, Inc.  
125 Mozart Avenue  
Cardiff, CA 92007

Brett Farrow, AIA  
Principal

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:  
Envision Engineering

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:  
West Laurel Studios, LP

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:  
Camilli's Concrete & Masonry

BLOCK PRODUCER:  
ORCO Block Company, Inc.

OWNER:  
West Laurel Studios, LP

Photography: David Hewitt Anne Garrison Architectural Photography
Jury Comments: This project intrigued the jury with its use of materials – concrete masonry block curtain wall and tile covered block - and what is seen as the building is viewed from different vantage points. The varied color and texture of the concrete masonry block breaks up the large curving walls and creates strong horizontal lines. The craftsmanship of the concrete masonry becomes especially notable at the entry where the masonry appears as a screen layered over the green curtain wall.

Architect’s Commentary: The design of this building was heavily informed by the context in which it is sited. Constricted on three sides by steep slopes, the form took on a wedge shape to provide access to this rocky pinnacle-like ridge. Because the building needed to be over 375 feet long to fit on the site, the design team chose to bifurcate the form into a masonry building (that is half subterranean on the west side) with a punched window vocabulary, and a glass building that is cradled by the masonry.

The natural landscape consists of muted red-browns and tans, which directed our choice of concrete masonry block as a material. We took advantage of the contrasts available between burnished block and precision block to highlight these colors and create a cut earth-like texture. Also, in order to accentuate color and texture, the design team chose to alternate 10-inch wide block with 8-inch wide block to create shadow lines and strong horizontals, so the building didn’t loom above the ridge it sits on. In addition to the earthy, textured concrete masonry, we also used traditional concrete masonry block with modular glazed tile cladding as a compliment to the green glazed window wall.
AVENUE B RETAIL/OFFICE CENTER
CORONADO, CALIFORNIA

Juror Comments: This project delighted the jury with its whimsical use of fish elements, one made of a split-face concrete masonry and the other of metal “scales”, to define the stairs and to reflect its seaside location. The design is contextual in scale and massing to the area with its stepped back floors, which create outdoor circulation paths on multiple levels. The building is pulled back from the street to create wide sidewalks with trellises, canopies and planters creating depth at the street level retail entries. These human scaled elements, set against the texture of the masonry surfaces creates a wonderfully lively pedestrian experience.

Architect’s Commentary: Located in Coronado, the corner location of this retail/office project posed unique challenges with visible faces along two curved streets, one block away from the town’s bustling main street. The success of the project is realized by the village pedestrians it attracts, through the use of stepped forms, material texture, and open-air circulation paths.

The concrete masonry base follows the arc of the streets, culminating in the “prow” of the building, a reference to its island context. The base ties the project together, serving as a visible platform for two and three-story forms above it, while providing an inviting village façade for street retail. The one-story platform is grounded on one elevation by an abstracted fish greeting visitors at the sidewalk, and punctuated on the other by an elevator tower. The textured street wall is further animated by metal canopies, wood trellis, and concrete planters. Pedestrians are encouraged to experience the project as an extension of the sidewalk by a series of stairs, plazas and exterior connecting walkways.

Concrete masonry was an integral part of the project design; an affordable structural solution with a durable, elegant aesthetic. The color and texture of the block reference the beach nearby and layer nicely with other materials of wood, metal shingles, siding, and stucco.

The concrete masonry units themselves rearticulated by using two colors, transitioning to smooth units at retail openings and wall caps. The variations in the block material provide a subtle match for seasonal shadow patterns, enhancing the pedestrian experience.

ARCHITECT:
Galvin Cristilli Parshall Architects
1775 Hancock Street, Suite 295
San Diego, CA 92110
Joseph A. Cristilli
Principal

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Paul Koehler Consulting Structural Engineers

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
White Construction, Inc.

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Rodney Ludwig Masonry

BLOCK PRODUCER:
RCP Block & Brick, Inc.

OWNER:
Global Laser Vision

Photography: Joseph A. Cristilli, Galvin Cristilli Parshall Architects
325 Quincy
Long Beach, California

Jury Comments: This project was an immediate jury favorite with its strong clear design exquisitely balanced with neighborhood scale and character. The design skillfully uses an axis, delineated by a red wall at the entry and a stone trough and walkway beyond, to organize and define the house, office and yard. The use of concrete masonry block as an interior finish is balanced with other materials to create a warm and welcoming interior.

Architect's Commentary: Concrete masonry’s inherent qualities of texture and pattern made them an appealing material for this modern Southern California home. Precision concrete masonry units were sandblasted, sealed, and left exposed on the exterior and interior of this 3,000 square-foot residence. A south-facing courtyard highlights the horizontal mortar lines of the concrete masonry units and captures warmth from the sun and cool breezes from the beach.

Steel and glass are also used extensively. The steel structure and stairs appeal to the family’s minimalist tastes and have been left exposed. Two ten-foot glass garage doors open to a courtyard and invite the outdoors in. This courtyard provides ample playroom for two energetic little boys, while doubling as another entertainment space. The entire site is separated by a rock trough which delineates the private home from the public office space.

The family lives an environmental lifestyle, which led to many of the features of the home. With the help of The Re-use People, the previous home was donated piece by piece to Habitat for Humanity, reducing impact on our landfill. Radiant in-floor heating and a 5 kW photovoltaic solar array reduce utility use and cost. Energy Star appliances, proper window placement, and natural daylighting reduce energy consumption; no lights are used during daylight hours in the home or office. Cabinets and carpeting are formaldehyde and toxin free, while the wood floors were grown and harvested specifically for end use, with no clear cutting.
CHANNING BATH PAVILION
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: The jury loved the beautiful detailing of concrete masonry with wood and tile in this project. The craftsmanship of the construction matches the challenge of meticulous detailing.

The scale and design harmonizes with the original Eichler house and creates definition in a small back yard. The same concrete masonry used in the pavilion is extended into the landscape as low walls creating a seamless connection between the new pavilion and the outdoors.

Architect’s Commentary: Our design objective was to add a master bath in the tiny rear yard of a 50’s-era modernist home, turning it into a private oasis.

While this home is early vintage Eichler (pre-Anshen & Allen), it also has many of the classic later Eichler features, such as open-beam tongue and groove ceilings and wall-to-wall glass facing the small rear yard. The client wanted a large master bath with a spacious open feeling. Using all of a zoning exception, there was just enough room to fit the bath on the back of the master suite.

The living room has an atypical (for an Eichler) reverse-shed roof, which was mimicked in the new bathroom, as was the bath platform-to-ceiling glass. The bathroom is a study in solid versus void, with the portion housing the shower constructed entirely of exposed, honed concrete masonry units contrasting with and emphasizing the openness of the wall-to-wall glass around the bathtub platform. The concrete masonry is honed inside and out, and both compliments and contrasts with the horizontal wood siding on the rest of the house. On the interior, the block is the primary material in a completely natural palette, which includes clear-varnished wood, tumbled glass tile, natural slate counters, and brushed stainless fixtures.

The second part of the equation was the intensive landscaping for the rear yard, designed by Bernard Trainor + Associates. An implied compartmentalization of space makes the small yard feel much larger, and the strategic layering of honed concrete masonry unit walls, wood fencing, and planting also give a much greater feeling of depth, as well as privacy essential to a glass house.

ARCHITECT:
Guy Ayers, Architect
26969 Moody Road
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022
D. Guy Ayers, AIA
Principal

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Guy Ayers, Architect

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Guzzetta Construction

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Guzzetta Construction

BLOCK PRODUCER:
CaIstone Company, Inc.

OWNER:
Lynne Myers

Photography: Jason Liske, Redwood Design
K LOFTS
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Jury Comments: This project is notable for making a strong statement in its neighborhood while integrating it into the community context. The jury liked how the design is broken into simple orthogonal masses reflective of, but not mimicking the scale and character of the neighborhood. The project reused the existing building on the site and created protected outdoor spaces to promote more neighborly interaction. Concrete masonry was used successfully on this project both as a base and as the interior finish. The variety of textures and materials is interesting and the colors, though strong, are not overtone.

Architect’s Commentary: K Lofts is urban adaptive reuse, affordable and sustainable for rent housing. It was designed with a participatory design process, creating positive connections between and among residents, community stakeholders, local government officials, and civic groups. The design outcome provides a building and public and private spaces that enhance human scale, and further promote social interaction, shared use of space, defensible space to help revitalize this deteriorating community, while at the same time enhancing the community’s physical fabric. The project was built at a cost of $82 per square foot, and utilized no governmental subsidy.

K Lofts is a collection of simplistic architectural forms collaged to create a nine-unit loft building on a nine-thousand square-foot urban property in the Golden Hill area of downtown San Diego. The former concrete masonry structure, Circle K convenience store and gas station, were saved and integrated into the new design to minimize the deconstruction and make adaptive reuse of the existing building. The modern building integrates urban living environments for a mixture of very low income (50% of median income), affordable, and market-rate rental units with each unit containing large private outdoor spaces and oversize glazing. The sustainable project provides 50% renewable electricity.

The architect/developer worked closely with the community for nine months to ensure a project that is well received by the neighborhood and provides much needed affordable housing in San Diego.

Concrete masonry was utilized to provide a strong contrasting base for the building. The masonry also provides a durable interior surface and interior sound isolation material for rentals. In addition, the masonry helps eliminate grade-level rot in walls and the need for wall flashing.

ARCHITECT:
Jonathan Segal, FAIA
1945 B Street
San Diego, CA 92102

Jonathan Segal, FAIA
Principal

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Moybayed Consulting Group

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Jonathan Segal, FAIA

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Markey Masonry

BLOCK PRODUCERS:
RCP Block & Brick, Inc.

OWNER:
Jonathan Segal, FAIA

Photography: Paul Body, Paul Body Photography
**2008 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 2008 Concrete Masonry Design Awards Program includes:

**TAMARA E. L. BURNS, AIA**

Tamara E. L. Burns, AIA, is cofounder and principal of HopkinsBurns Design Studio, which specializes in the preservation, restoration and adaptive reuse of existing buildings, and in the design of new places in downtown neighborhoods that are context sensitive and respectful of heritage.

Ms. Burns has over 20 years of leadership and management experience providing design services for a variety of structures and projects, including mixed-use, commercial, residential, retail, laboratory renovations, world headquarters facilities and community master planning. As Principal, she ensures the delivery of innovative, sensitive and timely design solutions and that new places are sensitively woven into the context of communities.

Ms. Burns has been active in the profession through the AIA, serving as president of the Huron Valley Chapter. She is Huron Valley’s champion for the Blueprint for America initiative celebrating the 150th anniversary of the AIA, leading her chapter in a series of seminars and training sessions for the general public designed to increase knowledge and awareness of the impact great design can make in a community, and which demonstrates how powerful advocacy and knowledge are when paired together.

Ms. Burns served on the national AIA Component Partnerships Committee from 2004-2006, which studied and set forth recommendations on how to strengthen relationships and deliver value to all members. The Member Covenant, approved by the AIA Board in September 2006, is a highly visible outcome of this committee’s work.

Ms. Burns was born and raised in Ann Arbor, Michigan where she received a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the University of Michigan. She earned her Master in Architecture from the University of California at Berkeley and lived in the San Francisco Bay Area for 13 years.

**STEPHAN CASTELLANOS, FAIA**

Mr. Castellanos received a Bachelor of Architecture from CA 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, Communications Public Affairs, 1995-96, ARC PAC Board of Trustees, 1997-98 and Vice-Chair, California Hospital Building Safety Board., 1997-2000. He is the AIA/ACC Regional Director for 2006-08, and serves on the board of C.H.P.S.


**MICKEY JACOB, AIA**

Mickey Jacob, AIA, has practiced Architecture in Tampa, Florida since 1981, and is a founding partner of Urban Studio Architects, a 33-person Architecture/Interior Design firm in Tampa with a portfolio of work that includes Urban Infill, High-Rise Residential, Office Buildings Master Planning, Corporate Interiors and Restaurants. Urban Studio Architects, is committed to the improvement of the built environment through sustainable design, dedication to design excellence and active community involvement.

As an advocate of leadership in the profession, AIA involvement is an important aspect of Mickey’s professional practice. Active in the AIA since 1983, Mickey participated on all leadership levels of AIA Tampa Bay and AIA Florida, including being elected as the 2004-2005 AIA Florida President. He has served on the AIA Florida EXCOM as AIA Florida Vice-President, was the 2003 FAPAC Chair, the 2002 AIA Florida Headquarters Renovation Task Force Chair, and has chaired the Communications, Government Affairs and Member Benefits Commissions. Mickey was the Chair of the AIA Florida 2006 Honor and Design Awards, has served on the juries of a variety of AIA and community Design Awards Programs and is the AIA Florida 150 Champion. At AIA National, Mickey served on the 2004 Government Affairs Advisory Committee and as the 2004 - 2007 Chair of ArchiPAC. Currently, Mickey sits on the AIA Board of Directors as the Regional Director from the AIA Florida Caribbean Region.

**KEN ROSS, FAIA**

Under the collaborative leadership of Ken Ross, President and Principal in Charge of Project Delivery, WHR Architects has prospered, while earning a national reputation for consistently providing quality services within a knowledge driven practice model.

WHR Architects is a full service architecture and interior design firm focused on projects in healthcare, education, science and technology. The firm’s commitment to critical thinking is balanced by an ingrained empathy that results in both improved project outcomes and positive working experiences for our clients. With over 150 people located in Houston and Dallas, the 29-year old firm is working on projects around the country and internationally for top-tier public and private institutions.

Complementing Ken’s practice responsibilities, he has served in elected and volunteer leadership roles within the AIA, Texas Society of Architects, AIA Houston, American College of Healthcare Architects, and the AIA/AGC Joint Committee. Ken’s current activities include his election as Texas Regional Director on the AIA Board of Directors with assignments to the Board Knowledge Committee, Licensing Committee and the Component Partnership Committee.
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- 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

**2009 CMACN/AIACC CONCRETE MASONRY DESIGN AWARDS CALL FOR ENTRIES**

Mark your calendar for our “Call-For-Entries” brochure to be mailed in February 2009. Requests for submittal binders can also be obtained in February 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.

**Tentative Schedule:**

- Last date to request submittal binders: March 31, 2009
- Last date for receipt of completed submittal binders: April 30, 2009

2009 Concrete Masonry Design Awards Banquet: Friday, September 25, 2009, The Island Hotel, Newport Beach, California.

**CMACN/AIACC 2008 SPECIAL AWARDS EDITION**