Ohio School Board Show

Attendees of the two day show took advantage of the opportunity to meet with representatives of numerous design firms that were in attendance. Architectural sales representatives used the event to visit with past and current clients as well as build new relationships with architects, engineers and school board representatives.

Josh Naragon, Executive Director OMA, attended the show, visiting designers and keeping an eye on competitive systems. Josh Naragon commented; “It is amazing how many industries use masonry buildings in their advertisements and show pictures in their show boots to enhance their products appeal. By using masonry structures as the basis of their platform to showcase their products, they are using the low maintenance, strength, versatility, time proven attributes of masonry to enhance their products to our level. Thanks to all of those industries for showcasing our products.”

Next time you are at an architectural show, take time and look at how many industries use our material as a platform to show off their products.

Ohio School Boards show was hosted at the Convention Center in downtown Columbus, Ohio. Many architectural firms and engineering firms were present as vendors vying for what school construction is left for the 2014 – 2015 construction year. Also attending representing their company and the masonry industry were, Oberfields LLC and The Belden Brick Company, pictured on the left.
Josh Naragon, Executive Director OMA has been traveling throughout Ohio providing designers AIA accredited courses for in the form of Lunch and Learns and seminar presentations.

These programs are provided by the National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA) and consist of 10 one our programs. The Ohio Masonry Association provides these programs as a member benefit to its members. Each member can schedule a Lunch and Learn with a design firm and the OMA will provide the educational program presented by Josh Naragon, Certified NCMA Presenter, and all associated costs of travel, time and presentation materials. The OMA member provides the lunches for the designers.

This program affords OMA members the opportunity to provide AIA Accredited courses to design firms, presented by a third party, which is a nonprofit entity, which they are looking for and welcome into their office.

“...stopped counting how many times the presentation turned into something more. Once you are in the designer’s office, and have earned credibility, they open up, and ask for help regarding specific projects. ”

Providing designers this service is paramount to the success of industry. Individual companies have their own AIA accredited courses, but if you do not, take advantage of this important member benefit.

On the right is a list of Architectural, Engineering, School, Government and individuals that have taken AIA Accredited programs through OMA in 2013. Those in bold have taken more than one program.


OMA is currently scheduling dates for the first quarter of 2014. OMA received a request to present to AIA Cleveland members twice in March. Contact OMA for your Lunch & Learn member benefit.
agree something needs to be done to help increase our market share.

Representatives from the Ohio Masonry Association visited Washington to talk with Legislators about the Check-off bill overseen by the Commerce Committee. Joe Russ, Josh Naragon and John Jacob participated in a fly-in and met with nine representatives and/or staff members requesting their support of the bills.

Representative Brett Guthrie from Kentucky became the sponsor of House Bill HR 1563 which was introduced April 15, 2013. Since its introduction, 114 House Members have agreed to cosponsor the bill.

In the Senate, Bill Nelson volunteered to be the sponsor of Senate Bill S. 429 which was introduced February 28, 2013. Now there are currently 16 cosponsors.

The check-off Bill if passed would create an avenue of funding to help fund education, marketing and research of concrete masonry. If you have any questions regarding the CMU Check-off program, contact the OMA office at 800-443-6779 or NCMA at 703-713-1900.

Representative Pat Tiberi, Joe Russ and Josh Naragon

The CMU industry has embarked on this journey over 3 years ago to create a check-off program for the concrete masonry industry. There are two sides of the coin in regards to the support of these bills within the concrete masonry industry, but most

knowledge Bar Topics during the convention include;

- Trends in Sustainable Design and Functional Resilience
- Is Value Engineering a Real Value?
- Plant Certification?
- Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs)
- Better units with Internal Curing
- Check-out the Check-off
- Promote Your Company with NCMA’s Solution Center

There will be featured Plants and virtual tours, plant operations boot camp, town hall meeting, and of course the committee meetings to help guide our industry into 2014.

Take advantage of the NCMA ICON-Xchange and energize your new year. Help guide our industry by participating. Your voice will be heard.

The ICON-Xchange will be hosted at the Westin mission Hills Golf Resort & Spa. Located in the heart of Palm Springs Valley, the Westin Mission Hills is a secluded sanctuary set against a picturesque mountain backdrop. The venue offers many features including a championship golf course and a tranquil full-service spa. The resort’s location allows easy access to all the attractions Palm Springs has to offer.

Visit iconXchange.org more information and registration.
Excellence in MASONRY AWARDS

The Tri-State Masonry Institute, Southwest Regional Partner of the Ohio Masonry Association held its 14th Annual Excellence in Masonry Design competition. Hosted at the Clovernook Country Club on November 14, 2013.

Architects, Owners and Contractors were honored for their masonry projects in the Tri-State area. The following is list of projects awarded and judges comments.

**University of Cincinnati**

**Sheakley Athletic Center**

**Excellence in Masonry Design Award**

Architect: MSA Architects

Masonry Contractor: Ollier Masonry, Inc.

Masonry Supplier: Division 4, Inc.

After a great deal of deliberation, the jury felt confident in selecting this project for the top prize from among the honor award winners.

Although the actual building incorporated in this athletic training facility is the smallest of all the projects submitted, it is the project’s entire urban/campus design that is a big part of elevating it to its lofty status in this awards program. No detail has gone unnoticed and the integration of building and site elements is what outstanding campus design is about.

This includes the seating, landscape/hardscape development, and the wall enclosing the playing field and defines a portion of the east edge of the campus. It also responds in a very appropriate way in forming one of the campus entry sites as well as “fronting” on a major pedestrian plaza that is created with the baseball stadium structure. This is a heavily traveled route as those parking in an adjacent garage as well as those entering the campus on foot at this location begin their journey through campus at this location.

The term, “sophisticated,” was used to describe the iconic design style of the “press - pavilion” with its dramatically cantilevered roof that soars over the seating area. The detailing of the masonry … which has a familial relationship to the older buildings on campus including Nipper Field … is beautifully executed and provides a strong counter-point to the metal clad elements that also appear as abstracted ornaments on the front / entry wall to the pavilion below the pavilion.

In concluding its remarks, the jury felt that this project more than held its own with those on the campus designed by some of most nationally-noted architects over the last thirty + years. In fact, its restraint and execution from its contribution to the overall campus plan to its detailing of materials could actually be used as an example for future projects.

Of note is that this is a project designed by a local firm that demonstrates an understanding and respect for the campus’ historic context and urban design through its skillful use of masonry while simultaneously pointing to the future through the incorporation of the soaring, iconic “winged roof.”

**Etheridge Hall**

**Honor Award – Residence Halls Masonry Design**

Architect: CBT Architects

Masonry Contractor: Accurate Masonry, LLC

The jury noted that this was a project that has remained true to the Georgian tradition of campus architecture which is its context.

The massing … main house with wings, hip and gabled roof forms, window proportions and the end elevations incorporating a chimney all harken back to a style … derived from the times of George 1st through George 4th … 1715-1840 … that has dominated many campuses in our country. This project is a very respectful new comer.

End walls of wings skillfully handled and true to the historic design precedents. Chimneys at the centerline extending above the ridge and the reverse corner with wrapped cornice and placement of downspout and the skillful detailing throughout shows the work of a mature designer.

**Silverton Paideia Academy**

**Honor Award – Educational Buildings Masonry Design**

Architect: GBBN Architects

Masonry Contractor: Jess Hauer Masonry, Inc

Masonry Suppliers: Division 4, Inc. and Snyder Brick and Block

The jury thought this was a school that teachers and students would like to arrive at every morning.

From the sweeping curve of the free-standing columned wall that defines the main entrance, to the house-like form that greets them and makes them look at it because it is not symmetrical … but still balanced … to the collage of forms and colors achieved through a very daring palette of masonry materials … this is a “fun building” that makes you want to look at it … even go up and touch the wall with its inset courses.

One almost wonders, what is the school record for the highest course reached by a student without any grappling hooks or suction cups on the shoes!

The discreet use of soldier courses also remind us of the many subtle esthetic expressions that can be derived by the placement of brick in a wall.

(TMI Awards Continued on page 5)
“IMPRESSIVE!” That was the first word spoken by one of the jurors when they finished viewing the pictures the first time.

It certainly is in so many ways. This is a large scale urban development that forms the neighborhood edge against the UC campus southern border. It replaces a collection of non-descript buildings, franchise restaurants and parking lots. The requirement for parking a substantial number of cars is handled skillfully through parking structures that are seamlessly incorporated in the complex and have very efficient access and egress as well as easy-to-find stairwells.

The basic urban design concept follows the tradition of Cincinnati with buildings defining the street wall, commercial on the ground floor, a continuity … incorporated in the material palette that includes masonry and carried through to the detail scale … but one that skillfully uses the corners of building elements to employ very sculptural elements.

The main urban design element … that of the plaza with a plan that is a quarter of a circle is the modern-day piazza and has become the social / commercial hub of the complex.

**Thomas More College - Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel**

**Honor Award - Religious Buildings**

**Masonry Design**

Architect: Robert Ehmet Hayes & Associates, PLLC Architects

Mason Contractor: Miter Masonry Contractors, Inc.

Masonry Supplier: Division 4, Inc.

The jury certainly enjoyed reviewing and discussing in length after doing the same with the previous Catholic Church - St. Francis Des Sales.

On the first review, the jurors viewed this rendering first and wondered how much the finished building held true to this vision. They were not disappointed. With the exception of the design of the tower …which the jury felt was an improvement over the one in the rendering …a strong statement out of masonry as opposed to a lighter skeletal-like structure,

You have to walk around this building to appreciate the sculptural quality of the overlapping roof forms. And walk up close to appreciate the workmanship both on the exterior and interior as the masonry is brought into the interior. The stained glass that is appreciated from both the outside at night and inside in the day is spectacular masonry brought into the interior.

**Cheviot Savings Bank**

**Merit Award – Commercial & Office Buildings Masonry Design**

Architect: Cornette/Violetta Architects, LLC

Masonry Contractor: Flach Brothers Masonry

Masonry Supplier: Division 4, Inc.

Second; the extensive use of brick … replacing and omnipresent and often deteriorating EIFS systems … and the well thought-out pallet of various brick colors that further breakup the mass of the building while defining the structural bays. The definition of the cornice provides a strong cap and silhouette against the sky.

Upon studying this submission in detail, the jury concluded that the architects did a very commendable job of designing a sensitive, contemporary urban infill project respectful of the existing historic context.

Recognition of the large footprint and building mass that they had to work with, they broke down the scale of the building with several very identifiable elements that varied in height, form and use of masonry materials.

It is the continuity of the use of the brick and stone masonry that unifies this multiple façade elements and also provides elements that repeat in concept those appearing on historic building nearby. Recognition the use of masonry at head of windows and in the development of the hardscape portion of the landscape.

The recognized this project as a way to commend the client, architect and construction team for realizing an example that has improved the design quality of a building typology … an inexpensive hotel … at both ends of the design process.

Whether the client made this conscious decision or it was a response to a set of design guidelines or design code imposed by the municipality in which it is located really doesn’t matter. The jury hoped it was the first scenario. First; it is quite evident that the simple box most often associated with this chain has been broken with a series of setbacks on the front elevation. A brick clad pillared arcade expands the entrance statement and a rather daring cantilevered canopy has replaced the heavy portico share.

Hopefully, this chain may become the “McDonalds of the Family Hotels” and improve the quality of design of its prototype.

**Event Sponsors**

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The Quikrete Companies

(TMI Awards Continued on page 6)
Maplestreet Station Residence and Dining Hall
Merit Award – Residence Halls
Masonry Design
Architect: CBT Architects
Masonry Contractor: Accurate Masonry, LLC

The jury noted that this was a project that has remained true to the Georgian tradition of campus architecture which is its context.

The massing skillfully breaks down the mass of the buildings and is true to the original style derived from the times of George 1st through George 4th ... 1715-1840. Perceived as a very large "manor house," the placement of multiple elements of dormer windows, multiple chimneys, and porches give a nice sense of "home" to this project.

The jury was especially impressed with the defined patio space immediate to the building's large rooms. Excellent detailing of the brick and outstanding workmanship throughout the project.

Mariemont Elementary School Addition and Renovation
Merit Award – Renovation & Additions
Masonry Design
Architect: SFA Architects, Inc
Masonry Supplier: Division 4, Inc.

The jury applauded the restraint used by the architect in adding on to a very handsome historic building executed in an eclectic style that might be classified as Greek Revival / Colonial / Georgian.

Well-designed and proportioned, modest stone bands at the new cornices relate well to the existing building as does the replication of window sizes and 8/8 light double hung type.

Sensitive interface of the meeting of old and new is shown in this photo where the historic masonry is on display. The architects have wisely chosen to celebrate the new main entry with a well-proportioned, colonnaded, porch-like element that responds to its corner location.

Rothenberg Preparatory Academy
Renovation and Addition
Cincinnati Public Schools
Merit Award – Renovation and Addition
Masonry Design
Architect: WA, Inc. Architects
GBBN Architects, Design Consultants
Masonry Contractor: Ollier Masonry, Inc.
Masonry Supplier: Division 4, Inc.

The jury really applauded the retention of this historic building which, obviously, has been a prominent and significant part of the educational, social, and cultural history of this neighborhood.

The plan and the massing of the contemporary addition is informed by its placement on the acute angled corner portion of the site. A very impressive entry invites the users in. Upon reaching low end of site, one realizes that the architect responded to the scale of the historic housing is abuts.

St Francis de Sales Church
Merit Award - Religious Buildings
Masonry Design
Architect: MSA Architects
Masonry Supplier: Division 4, Inc.

The jury lauded the parish, the architect and the construction team for the realization of this small church which continues two millennia of Catholic worship space. The jury offered that this was a building that conveys permanence and dignity, to characteristics often missing today in houses of worship that have cashed in quality of square footage.

The architect has successfully interpreted the traditional basilica plan to include a front elevation that plays an asymmetrical element against the symmetrical major sanctuary form. The expressive tri-partite tower that begins with a stone base; transitions to a bricked middle register and ends with a wood framed and clad top-most element.

The sense of permanence mentioned earlier is achieved through the traditional use of masonry with a stone wainscoting defining the base of the walls and sanctuary front. Buttresses on side walls all having a battered profile that is accomplished with a reverse corbelled brick.

Three Rivers Local Schools K-12 Building
Merit Award - Educational Buildings
Masonry Design & “People's Choice 2013”
Architect: SFA Architects, Inc.
Masonry Contractor: Hagerman Construction
Masonry Supplier: Ironclay Masonry Products

The jury was impressed the manner in which the architects dealt with a very challenging program. The aerial view shows two schools within a school that zones appropriate age groups. Large building broken down in scale w/ three distinct masses: a 2 story unit / a three story unit and consolidated communal facilities

As one approaches the cylindrical element stands out as the iconic element and also defines the entries where it intersects with the rectangular classroom blocks. Cylindrical element raised one story off the floor with masonry piers that continue skyward to become engaged pilasters. Work well with metal panel wall and shading system. Subtle use of two types of brick on classroom facades and cast stone lintels.

Congratulations to all designers, owners, mason contractors and masonry team that contributed to these outstanding masonry projects!
Fall 2013 Student Design Competition

**Competition** in the months of September through November, 2013, the BGSU Architecture program held its’ sixth annual Architecture Student Design Competition for teams of students explored the theme of “Intricate Walls” based on the CMU. In architecture, intricate walls explore the considerations and concepts that govern architecture within a tectonic tradition of craft, construction, detail and assembly. Sol LeWitt (1928-2007), who had worked as a draftsman in the architecture office of I. M. Pei briefly at the beginning of his career, as a starting point, students studied the interrelationship of geometry, form, tectonics, and materiality as it relates to overarching organizational systems, structural logics and physical setting.

**Judging and Awards:** This year’s competition produced unusually strong entries. Judges were asked to consider the following criteria, balanced by their personal preferences: innovative use of material, physical design, and adaptive construction technique. The final jury, which took place on Tuesday, November 5th, 2013, awarded one First Prize, one Second Prize and two Third Prizes, with judges unanimous in their praise of the winning projects for their “significant contribution to design/build culture,” and the potential for the winning designs’ innovative stacking patterns and texture to join construction standards.

**Cash prizes:** of $1000, $500, and $250 went to First, Second, two Third place teams. In an unusual decision this year, two teams tied for third place. Prize money is supported by a grant from the National Concrete Masonry Association Foundation.

**Competition Objectives:** To Bridge relationship between architectural representation and physical buildings, Emphasize the interrelation of design and construction, Encourage students to work as part of collaborative teams, resolving conflicts, managing communication, Further the understanding of CMU as one of the world’s most durable, economical and functional building material. Encourage innovative solutions to the challenge posed by designing with CMU. Highlight CMU’s as GREEN building materials and can contribute to LEED building points. Connect students with individuals from concrete masonry industries. Promote exemplary designs of future designers by displaying them prominently on campus. Utilize CMUs as a guideline for building design and performance. Recognize and award students for creative and innovative use of CMU

**Feedback:** In written responses to a post-competition questionnaire student strongly agreed that the competition was a rewarding experience in allowing them to develop a critical insights about a unique building material: the CMU. Students also enjoyed the hands-on aspect of the challenge. Out of the studio, into the field where they had to reconcile their drawings with real structures they could build, students reported an enhanced quality of learning that led to fresh perspectives on the nature of sites, structures, materials, and other real-world considerations.
Acknowledgements: We gratefully acknowledge the generous contributions of our sponsors, especially the National Concrete Masonry Association’s Education and Research Foundation (NCMAF) and the Ohio Masonry Association (OMA) whose ongoing support and interest has been crucial to the success of the competition. Grant money from the Foundation has made the competition possible for six consecutive years including 2013. Oberfields LLC generous donation of CMU’s with which student teams assembled full-scale, dimensional models of juried designs.

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