Energy Code Program

The Ohio Masonry Association held three Energy Code Programs in three cities across Ohio in late April 2017. The program centered on how masonry materials and systems can meet the energy code.

Independence, Ohio

There were 68 attendees, including 34 design firms, five CMU producers, one brick manufacturer, two mason contractors, one masonry industry, and four masonry suppliers.

Copies of the ASHRE 90.1 and the IECC 2012 were given out to select designers who participated in the discussions during the presentation. Each recipient was asked to open the code books and help find where particular information was regarding masonry, masonry wall systems, and competitive systems were.

Columbus, Ohio

This “open book” approach was excellent as the group reviewed the differences between R-Value and U Factors regarding the energy code and wall systems/materials.

West Chester, Ohio

Each group invested three hours and received three AIA Learning Units. Two cities hosted a block plant tour – one at Oberfields and another Reading Rock – providing an additional AIA Learning unit.

Plant Tours

The presenter, Canan D’Avela from the Concrete Products Group, prepared a concise generic presentation that held everyone’s attention. Canan created a great opportunity for the Ohio masonry industry to provide designers the information they need to meet the needs of their clients as well as meet energy code compliance with mass wall systems.
These programs are provided by the National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA) and the Brick Industry Association. 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/BIA Presenter, and all associated costs of travel, time and presentation materials. The OMA member provides the lunches for the designers.

Educational sessions started the next morning which included a designer panel discussion, financial program and BIM-M presentation and update.

OMA held its 2017 Annual Meeting in Columbus in early March. We started off the two-day event with a bowling for networking and some evening fun.

OMA honored designers, contractors, suppliers and manufacturers at the Excellence in Masonry dinner in the evening.

OMA also approved the Board and Officers at the Annual meeting, listed below.

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OMA Office: 800-443-6779 / masonry@hughes.net
www.ohiomasonry.org
Excellence in MASONRY DESIGN AWARDS

The Ohio Masonry Association held its 27th Annual Excellence in Masonry Design competition which was hosted at the Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio on March 8, 2017. Architects, owners and contractors were honored for their masonry projects throughout Ohio. The following is list of projects awarded and judges comments.

Blue Ash Summit Park
Excellence in Masonry Design Award
Architect: MSA Architects
Masonry Contractor: Jess Hauer Masonry
Masonry Manufacturer: Lehigh Hanson Cement Company

It took a great deal of spirited discussion among the jury members in reviewing all the Honor Award winners to ultimately arrive at a decision to award this project the 2017 OMA EXCELLENCE IN MASONRY DESIGN AWARD, the most prestigious that can be confirmed on a project for its exceptional design intent and execution. Given these criteria, this project stands out as a truly unique investment in a public project dedicated to the enjoyment of the citizens of Blue Ash and visitors.

University of Cincinnati Teachers Complex
Honor Award - University Educational Facilities / Masonry Veneer
Architect: Champlin Architecture
Masonry Contractor: Weisbrod Masonry
Masonry Supplier: Division 4, Inc.

It took the jury a bit of time to appreciate the myriad of challenges that this project posed for the design-build team. They summarized these as needing to: internally renovate/modernize and connect two existing, historic buildings housing the UC Teachers College; effectively deal with several floors of site elevation change; and, develop a new, main entry and outdoor plaza to serve as both a social gathering space and classroom.

All of the challenges were overcome and the design-build team seamlessly joined the existing and new structures into a complex that can stand proudly among the many buildings of “Startechs” for which the UC campus has gained international recognition. The jury was gratified to see that a sensitive concept was employed and then carried out to a high level of design development to give the UC Teachers College its rightful place among professional/academic colleges on this campus.

Shideler Hall at Miami University
Honor Award - University Higher Education Masonry Veneer
Architect: BHDP Architecture
Masonry Contractor: Jess Hauer Masonry
Masonry Manufacturer: Reading Rock

The jury was fully aware of both the century-old design tradition of the campus that has resulted in one of the most admired campuses in the nations and the need of the design-build team to adhere to very strict design guidelines. Given this context, the jury felt that the architects admirably performed the design responsibilities while the masonry contractor and crew executed the subtleties of the brick and stone work to perfection.

The jury also noted how the design concept was carried through in the development of the site that required the integration of the main stairs and ramps to an elevated entrance courtyard onto which the main Jeffersonian portico entrance opens.

Awards Banquet Dinner and Presentation
The jury gave very high praise to both the client and the design-build team for making a strong commitment to an award-winning piece of architecture for a building typology (maintenance facility) that seldom receives any design attention. Adding the political controversy surrounding this project elevates its achievement even higher. They noted that they faced the additional challenge to build a structure of this size and function in one of the nation’s largest historic districts made up of late 19th century style buildings.

This challenge was met with a skillful design approach using brick masonry, a metal panel system and requisite industrial components of large overhead doors and mechanical equipment. Lastly, the jury noted the utilitarian use of CMU’s on the interior of the building and the site development with masonry walls and pavers adding to the beautification of the neighborhood.

The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Reading Branch
Honor Award - Library Facilities
Masonry Veneer
Architect: Champlin Architecture
Mason Contractor: Weisbrod Masonry
Masonry Supplier: Division 4, Inc.

This project immediately caught the attention of the jury who noted that even though small in size, it is very large in achieving a significantly beautiful piece of civic architecture. This reinforces the concept that no building is too small not to be given the best that a design-build team can commit to it.

The jury noted the simple concept of two pavilions that rise above the simple design statement obtained by the enclosing brick wall provide for both the main public entry and clerestory-lighted main space within. They also lauded the detailing of the wing-like, metal-clad roofs of these pavilions and the exceptional light quality achieved within the building and when viewing at night from outside.

Wyoming Middle School Addition
Merit Award - K-12 Educational Facilities
Masonry Systems
Architect: Ruetschle Architects
Mason Contractor: Jess Hauer Masonry
Masonry Supplier: Division 4, Inc.

This suburban, public service facility harkens back to when fire and police stations were seen as civic architecture. Its success as a piece of architecture is achieved through the articulation of the major components of the apparatus bay, living and support facilities, and the historic tower element once used for drying hoses.

Glazed overhead doors displaying the apparatus, skillful detailing of the flattened brick arches above, and brackets that articulate the bays all add to the distinctive image of the apparatus bay. The jury also noted the inviting-to-the-public site development that included a well-scaled, wood-framed pavilion as part of the landscape design.

Visit www.ohiomasonry.org
Princeton High School and Viking Village
Merit Award - K-12 Educational Facilities
Masonry Systems
Architect: CR architecture + design
Masonry Contractor: Weisbrod Masonry
Masonry Manufacturer: Lehigh Hanson Cement Company
Masonry Supplier: Division 4, Inc.

This school presents a strong statement on the flat landscape of site. Human scale is skillfully achieved in this building of enormous size by juxtaposing horizontal elements containing classrooms with vertical elements for major public spaces. The most prominent and sculptural among these are the vaulted roof form of the main entry – an important safety and security concern – and flanking stair towers. Nicely detailed brick work on the exterior is carried throughout the interior of the building and demonstrates the versatility of masonry in dealing with acoustics and low maintenance surfaces.

GE Family Wellness Center
Merit Award - Health Facilities
Masonry Veneer
Architect: BHDP Architecture
Mason Contractor: Accurate Masonry, LLC
Masonry Supplier: Division 4, Inc.

This project represents a straightforward and elegant solution to an emerging building typology that signifies corporations growing concern for the overall well-being of its employees. The client and the design-build team are to be lauded for setting a high standard of the architecture to reinforce this commitment.

Highlands High School Campus
Merit Award - K-12 Educational Facilities
Masonry Veneer
Architect: Robert Ehmet Hayes + Associates, PLLC
Masonry Contractor: Miter Masonry Contractors, Inc.
Masonry Supplier: Division 4, Inc.

A photo included in the project submission of a very unsightly 1960’s addition to the historic Highland H.S. building provided the impetus for the jury to acknowledge the skill with which the design-construction team re-clad this addition. The major addition also included new indoor athletic facilities and a free-standing fieldhouse. They noted the skillful handling of the sloped site to insert the larger volumes and maintain a human scale. The jury lauded the sensitive inclusion of historic stone and brick details to unify the resulting complex as well as the “Walk of Fame” that successfully links the indoor and outdoor athletic facilities.

Savoy at the Streets of West Chester
Merit Award - Multi-Family Housing
Masonry Veneer
Architect: SEBREE Architects, Inc.
Masonry Manufacturer: Reading Rock

This large housing complex successfully achieves a human scale through a well-considered site plan based on a subtle, angled relationship of multiple buildings. This is reinforced by a very prominent “layering” of the stories that are articulated using both brick masonry and exterior panel systems. The jury noted use of

Cincinnati Fire Station 35
Merit Award - Public Safety Facilities
Masonry Systems
Architect: MSA Architects
Mason Contractor: Kurzhals, Inc.
Member Manufacturer: Lehigh Hanson Cement Company
Member Supplier: Division 4, Inc.

The building’s main design statement of articulated, metal clad roofs floating over stone walls and the prominent sheltered entrance portico work well on the flat site. The quality of stone work was described as exemplary. The jury also noted the success in bringing the stone work into the lobby area. Finally, the photos of this building at night reinforce the important aspect of architecture where use is in the evening and night hours.
recessed balconies as a distinctive architectural and livability feature. Most noteworthy is the extensive use of concrete masonry pavers to create a central pool plaza that is skillfully raised on a sloped site through a retaining wall cast concrete units.

Ecole Kenwood French Immersion Pre K-6 Merit Award for K-12 Educational Facilities Masonry Systems
Mason Contractor: Kurzhals, Inc.
Member Manufacturer: Oberfields LLC

This project represents how an award-winning piece of architecture can be achieved when a design-build team approaches it with a carefully-considered, understated and elegant composition of forms. The jury lauded the columned, sheltered entry clad in a metal panel system that is unique within a composition of brick clad volumes. This element has become a non-negotiable requirement in school buildings where safety and security have gained importance.

The school corporation also needs to be lauded for committing to a masonry building that represents a long-term investment of public, tax dollars.

Thank You To Our Annual Meeting and Awards Program Event Sponsors

OMA /CSI Golf Outing

The Ohio Masonry Association and the Columbus CSI Chapter joined forces to host an event for both association members and guests for a day of fun in the sun and networking with other professionals.

The outing was held at the Golf Club of Dublin with over 130 golfers. The event raised money for the OMA Promotion Committee and CSI’s George A. Van Niel Scholarship Fund.

Even though we started out with rain, the event was well received and it gave extra time for people to mingle.

Contact the OMA Office for Lunch and Learn Programs
800-443-6779

Wayne Builders Supply
Fall 2016 Student Design Competition

This year’s Architectural Materials and Systems Class participated in a design/build competition sponsored by the National Concrete Masonry Association Foundation. Fifteen students working in teams of three designed a structure to be built entirely out of concrete masonry units (CMU). Each team put together a design presentation that was evaluated by a jury of professional architects and construction and design experts. The presentations included exploratory drawings, a brief essay explaining the conceptual and pragmatic aspects of the design, and both a digital and conceptual model.

The first jury selected three projects out of five submissions to be built full-scale. Outdoor construction of the chosen designs were carried out with the support and cooperation of everyone in the class. All construction was completed within approximately four class periods.

A second jury judged the five entries for recognition and ranked them according to first, second, and third place as seen below. Design quality and masonry construction techniques were the basis of the evaluation.

The project was designed to focus attention on the physical properties of materials and the logic of construction techniques. First-hand knowledge of materials - not only what they look like, but their texture, their heft, their pliability and their particular joining requirements- expand a designer’s conceptual range and design intelligence. Actual experience handling materials and meeting the demands of construction techniques provided an understanding that cannot be duplicated in any other format. Materials and construction are fundamental to design and not merely functional or technical concerns to be worked out later. Materials and construction techniques were appreciated as aesthetic contributions, not just as the physical.

This year’s theme “Dry Stack Design” explores the considerations and concepts that govern architecture within a tectonic tradition of craft, construction, detail, and assembly as exemplified by Robert Irwin’s work for the Chinati Foundation. Irwin’s largescale artwork reconfigured an existing U-shaped army hospital compound into a site-specific sculpture. The 10,000-square-foot project was opened in July 2016 and is on permanent display at a contemporary art museum in Marfa, Texas founded by Donald Judd.

As a starting point, the students were asked to investigate the interrelationship of geometry, form, tectonics, and materiality as it relates to overarching organizational systems, structural logics and physical setting.

The goal of this year’s competition was to inspire students, as designers, to explore the endless possibilities of CMU’s as composition: using concrete masonry units and segmental retaining walls (SRW) or articulating concrete block (ACB) units traditionally produced by Ohio NCMA Producer Members.
Specifically, the students were encouraged and expected to exploit the endless possibilities of expression through the intuitive, rational and innovative integrations of CMU’s. Besides the possible combinations of placing concrete blocks adjacent to another material, the visual ecology of the site creates an interesting challenge to find a meaningful and poetic interpretation. But equally important was exploring and answering this question: How can CMUs influence form, affect space, challenge perception and elicit experience that supports and contributes to an architectural scheme?

It is up to the students to re-design one of the four existing structures from last year’s competition (retaining wall, encircled fire pit, linear-shaped element and curvilinear wall) and go beyond the traditional boundaries of closed architectural spaces by re-integrating the surrounding landscape and environment in new additive and subtractive compositions that showcase CMU’s as a building material.

Each re-design folly had to specifically address conditions and reference as follows: 1) choose one site out of the four and explain why: retaining wall, encircled fire pit, linear shape of element or curvilinear wall; 2) perform site analysis (reconfigure the ground plot, circa 8’ x 8’); 3) develop a narrative to include adding at least two more differences in heights to the existing structures and a panoramic opening that frames the surroundings like in a painting; and 4) research, as a reference, American artist Robert Irwin and his work at the Chinati Foundation, chinati.org/collection/robertirwin.

Project Showcase Pictures

If you want to learn more about how the OMA and the NCMA Foundation can help in student design at your college or university, contact the OMA office at 800-443-6779.
2017 Ohio High School Masonry Competition

Each year a vocational training center hosts the Ohio High School Masonry Competition for junior and senior high school students. This event was the 12th year for Ohio students to compete in an independent competition run by the vocational/tech schools. Thank you to Scioto County Career Technical Center as the 2017 host school and instructor Larry Moore as the event coordinator.

The host school is responsible for the entire event, from project design, material selection, request for donations, labor to help during the event, prizes, etc. This is not an easy undertaking for the event coordinator who is also teaching classes, grading papers and updating computer reports.

Volunteers throughout Ohio come to help judge the event (judges meeting pictured on left). Others help with material and prize donations, project designs, and monetary donations for contestant shirts and food.

A review of the projects with the students starts off first thing in the morning (pictured on right). Sample panels are erected before the competition so students can see what the completed project should look like. The rules are reviewed with the students and competition guidelines are set. There are two different projects, one for the juniors and one for the seniors. Each project is a timed event and is judged in several different categories, including level, plumb, design, square, etc.

During the competition, students build their projects based on the drawings handed out during the meeting. They can ask questions or get clarifications by talking to the judges, but cannot talk to parents or instructors. Once the student determines they are finished, they leave their measuring tape and level on their project for judging. Once the student leaves the competition area, they are not allowed to return, so most students take their time reviewing and cleaning their project and workspace up before declaring they are finished. The winners are pictured below, first place to third place (left to right).

Congratulations!

Junior Winners

Senior Winners