Tri-State Masonry Institute held its 11th Annual Architectural Awards Celebration to recognize designers and the masonry industry at the Hollywood Casino.

Once again TMI offered a “People’s Choice Award”. Voting for the People’s Choice Award took place on the TMI website prior to the event and over 1000 designers participated in the state of Ohio. All of the architects representing those projects were guests of TMI. In this publication are the projects honored with comments prepared by Ellen M. Costanzo, Architect, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP from VSWC Architects, Inc. TMI mason contractors associated with specific projects were also awarded. TMI and the Ohio Masonry Industry congratulate all who were honored at the banquet.

**Excellence in Masonry**  
**North College Hill Schools**

Architect: SFA Architects Inc.  
TMI Mason Contractor: Jess Hauer Masonry

There are two new schools on this campus, an elementary and high school. Both projects reference the art deco period, as is evidenced by the stylized and sleek geometrical decorative details. The corners are articulated with step backs. The ornate stone details at the corners and at the top of the pilasters, reinforce the stylized design.

The horizontal and vertical planes are balanced by the choice of both rusticated and smooth masonry materials creating a rhythm as you move along the building. The intersection between the various masonry materials serves to highlight the details. There are several installation challenges from the sheer size of the stone pieces, cantilevered stone shades, and the stone details continuing into the interior.
Masonry helps unify this large sprawling building. The color and coursing of the banding masonry wrap brings the exterior together. The masonry divides the building into the three main sections, bottom, middle and top.

The bottom banding relates to the scale of an elementary child and ties the different parts of the building together. The façade is not overly complicated, nor monotonous with breaks and setbacks in the face plane to create visual interest.

Using brick on the interior spaces creates continuity between the interior and exterior. Vibrant colors and dynamic patterns with the acoustic panel layout are used for difficult areas to treat for acoustics. The canopy sweeps and layers the entrance emphasizing the office.
There’s a certain monumentality intention, not in true historic proportions, but by viewing the entrances, the size of the masonry pieces, the height of the base banding, and the height of the arch add to the design concept.

The alignment of the coursing creates a smooth transition from inside to outside with good craftsmanship and the scale of the multistory lobby is reduced with the use of large pieces of stone while the use of large scale pieces at the base on the exterior grounds the building to the site.

The window surrounds break up the solid plane of the buff brick and color matching of the stone at the entrances and pilasters. The brick mortar also helps to tie the building together.

Excellence in Elementary Education
College Hill Fundamental Academy
Architect: Moody-Nolan, Inc.
TMI Member Mason Contractor: Weisbrod Masonry

The original façade sets the tone for the choice of materials, rhythm and fenestration of the new construction. The addition is seamlessly integrated with the original building while the building lines are maintained, albeit with a different material, the stone cornices were probably VE’d out.

There’s careful brick matching and material selection with a replication of the corner brick detailing and a rhythm of solid/void progression down the face. There is a certain dialog with the original buildings as you move around it. The original rhythm was established with engaged columns or pilasters and punched openings that continues with a more subtle detail, but maintains the intention.

The rusticated material at the base, grounds the building well and references the existing lower floor line. Color on the interior is used for direction, to define a space and to tie the addition to the existing building.

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The major building components are identifiable by material and foreshadow the need to deal with 2 orientations. From a design standpoint, it’s all about the car.

The highway side of the building uses color and texture to create an abstract mural that can be perceived even at automobile speed. This façade mimics the motion of the passing cars with the placement, texture, color and masonry coursing.

The other side of the building uses brick color and banding to make the building readable as individual office spaces while relating more to the neighborhood. The heavier texture of the stone faced block, grounds the building to the site.

There’s just one word, visual interest. The visually active façade is rectified at the entrance and hinges the pieces together. One of the tenets of Montessori education is learning through experience and exploration. For new students entering, there’s a big helping of visual stimulation.

The masonry color, coursing and texture is used to amplify the visual experience. The multiple step backs and projections also come into play. As you view the building, corners, steps up or down in elevation, steps in or out of a given face plane, the type and pattern of materials change.
The classroom wing is typically the most difficult façade to vary because of programmatic restrictions. But even here, the banding becomes more active and the step backs are emphasized with a change of masonry material and color. Interior corridors continue the focus on visual diversity with pattern and color.

Excellence in University Design
Miami University
VOA Learning Center
Architect: Champlin Architecture
TMI Member Mason Contractor: Weisbrod Masonry

It is clear that a historic or traditional precedent is the foundation of this design, with the use of traditional brick and stone. Some of the minor details that give this traditional building character is the Flemish bond, stone medallions and sill band.

The massing is symmetrical and steps down from the main entrance. The directional hardscaping reinforces the main entrance by using the same materials and colors and creating a hard axis to the front door. Freestanding and engaged columns and window openings create a vertical rhythm around the building. Setbacks and projections, and varying roof lines further modulate the horizontality of the building.

The interiors reflect the desire for visual interest, as the same techniques are used to articulate the common spaces.

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Excellence in Government / Administration Masonry Design
Highland Heights City Building
Architect: GBBN Architects
TMI Member Mason Contractor: Flach Brothers Masonry

The design of this building uses several façade design techniques while creating 2 entrances, one for administration offices and one for the police. The center tower unifies the distinct functions here, and provides a way to resolve all of the roof pitches.

Façade interest is accomplished by modulating the face with simple brick pilasters and pulling the brick face forward with the half wall and canopy support.

Following the building around to the lower walkout, banding and coursing transitions are used at the entrances so that the “rough” coursing can be maintained as the true base of the lower level. Balanced asymmetry with some variation in texture and color, result in a cohesive and interesting small civic building.

Merit Award Elementary Education Masonry Design
Linden Elementary School
Architect: SHP Leading Design
Mason Contractor: Weisbrod Masonry

The organization of this school's parts is easy to understand from a composition standpoint. The lobby is a centering device breaking out of the two axis with a change in material and color. It glows like a lantern at night emphasizing its transparent nature between masonry masses.

By lowering the entrance portico, the height of the center lobby areas is emphasized. The mass of the gym wall is reduced by stepping the roof line down creating an arcade introducing a nice rhythm along this plane with the columns. The banding is highlighted with
excellence in elementary educational design
longbranch elementary school
architect:
robert ehmet hayes & associates, pllc
mason contractor: kurzhals, inc.

this design uses many techniques to create interest in a single story plan.
the design uses balanced asymmetry to provide interest in the overall massing by keeping your eye moving around the building. this is a good example of how roof lines can be manipulated to reduce mass and create visual interest in the vertical plane.

the horizontal massing is broken down with the stepping of the end walls, while simultaneously, the vertical plane is broken with the use of the projected overhangs. the wrapping of the canopy is another way to modulate the face of the wall, while the brick on the interior helps relate to the exterior of the building.

interior block work is so important at these major corridor nodes, and how the block layer finishes his work that day, will determine the level of “finish” that the space ultimately has.
vertical movement to bring the visitor right out to the campus green. The repetitive punched openings create rhythm and interest as they are modulated in shape and size.

The detail in the grating is duplicated in the hand railing running above and coordinates well with the site lighting.

The key to parking garage design, other than to park cars, is to enhance the landscape and unify it to the rest of the site. The façade materials match the existing buildings and in this instance, the garage roof defines pedestrian circulation that connects to the rest of the campus.

The towers at each end anchor the project, define the grade change, and allow necessary
requirements, rectifying the size of the program with the size of the site, and the contextual challenges of a school in an urban area.

The façade flows across the block from performing to classroom areas. The façade composition tells the story with form and material. The performance end of the building rounds the corner with a brilliant metallic cylinder, steps up to a larger arc countered with an opposing curved canopy moving down the street. The façade defines the academic classroom portion of the building with brick and more linear forms.
The building height steps down on the main façade to reduce the perceived scale, important for both the pedestrians on the street, as well as, the youngest children who attend school here. Visual interest on the classroom side is maintained with projections and setbacks and amplified with a change of material.

The rear façade of the academic wing creates visual play with colored tile insets, reminiscent of a Mondrian painting. The complexity of the exterior helps form exciting interior spaces as well.

While not an exact duplicate to Smith Hall, you can easily see that this is a companion building that creates the other side of the gateway. This building doesn’t have the same emphasis on the vertical right at the corner, but the much larger mass of the total facility creates balance.

Instead, this building leads you into the campus with a sweeping curve that opens up a green area. The same detailing on the masonry pilasters create the rhythm that moves you around and eventually drops down with the grade.

It’s the detailing that creates a cohesive corner so that when you turn onto the street, you know that you have crossed a threshold.

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**Merit Award University Masonry Design**

**Conaton Learning Commons Xavier University**

**Architect: Shepley Bulfinch**

**Mason Contractor: Ollier Masonry, Inc.**

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Congratulations to all Winners!
This Montessori school takes a more introspective focus. This building reads as one thing and visually has a sense of unity. The exterior is modulated with simple banding projections that align with the window fenestration.
Visual interest for this building is what’s inside the envelope and the how the designer brings the outside in. First, there is the use of courtyards which bring the focus to the interior. The courtyards are centering devices that pull additional daylight into the center of the building and create a relationship between two areas through the exterior space. The hardscaping within the courtyard provide a lyrical contrast to the exterior façade.

Daylight floods in through the large roof monitors in the gym and the cafeteria. Using brick on the interior is a subtle reminder to the visitor of the exterior.

TMI provides quality educational programs for designers, owners, contractors, educators, public officials, school boards, etc.

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