



BLUE ASH SUMMIT PARK, EXCELLENCE IN MASONRY DESIGN & PEOPLE'S CHOICE 2016



The Ohio Masonry Association has a Charter Of Affiliation with the NCMA, and is the State Chapter of the MCAA. Tri-State Masonry Institute is the Southwest Regional Promotional Partner of the OMA.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: JOSH NARAGON

Excellence in Masonry Design



The Tri-State Masonry Institute, the Southwest Regional Partner of the Ohio Masonry Association, held its 17th Annual Excellence in Masonry Design Awards Program at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens in November 2016. Attendees were treated to animal encounters and an outdoor reception/dinner. Attendees were able to mingle and talk to award winners the entire night.

Architects, owners, contractors and the project teams were honored for their masonry projects in the Tri-State area. Nine projects were

awarded and one was given the distinction of being the "People's Choice".

A special "Thank You" for all the sponsors that supported the 2016 TMI's Awards Program.

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TMI MASONRY AWARDS Winners

The following are the projects that were chosen by the judges to earn either a Merit, Honor or Excellence Award.

Each project met or exceeded the rules set forth by the TMI Awards Committee, and were judged individually for their design and use and installation of masonry materials/systems. Jurors' comments for each project are included.

Jurors' comments as recorded and summarized by Tony Costello, FAIA, jury chair.



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Blue Ash Summit Park People's Choice & Excellence in Masonry Design

Architect:

MSA Architects

Mason Contractor:

Jess Hauer Masonry

Masonry Manufacturer

and Submitted by:

Lehigh / Essroc Cement



It didn't take long for the jury to realize that this was no ordinary park they were reviewing. In fact, it became evident that they were privileged to be viewing a project of extraordinary quality in that it had reinterpreted the commonly-held definition of "park" so as to create a complex of outdoor spaces and structures that one juror labeled as "a stunning composition on the landscape."



The symmetrical composition of the two flanking buildings that one juror likened to "fair pavilions" is punctuated by the elegant entry structure that sits behind two entry pylons ... reminiscent of those found in Egyptian architecture. The light, wing-like roof is supported on an elegantly structural system

whose angled, vertical struts emerge from canted buttresses that truly display the incredibly beautiful Tennessee stone that also clad the walls of the pavilions.

The beauty of the "super-sized" entry trellis is made all the more visually impactful by the integration of colored, transparent panels in its frame and positioning of a smaller shading trellis above.

The jury also noted how visually appealing the juxtaposition of the stone ... enhanced by with carefully-chosen and positioned stones pulled out to create a shadow pattern ... with both the wood siding and lush flora at its base was.

Lastly, the jury did not overlook the more traditional use of masonry pavers in very well designed and detailed hardscape walkways on which park-goers move throughout the complex.

As opposed to years past, this year's jury had little trouble in unanimously designating this project the 20127 TMI EXCELLENCE IN MASONRY Award winner. It also recommended this project be entered in national masonry as well as AIA and ASLA sponsored design competitions.



Congratulations to all winners.

All projects honored at the 2015 TMI Excellence in Masonry

Awards Program are automatically submitted to the OMA Excellence in Masonry Design Competition for 2017.

GE Family Wellness Center Honor Award Health & Wellness Facilities Masonry Design

Architect:

BHDP Architecture

Mason Contractor:

Accurate Masonry, LLC

Masonry Supplier

and Submitted by:

Division 4, Inc.



The jury began their review and evaluation of this project by complimenting the General Electric (GE) Corporation for their far-sightedness in developing this building that demonstrates a genuine concern for providing the highest quality care to ensure the health and well-being of its employees and their families.



This focus on high quality was matched by the care demonstrated by the architect and construction team in developing this facility. It is worth noting that this was the smallest building of all submissions and proves that the

size of a building does not matter when it comes to quality of design. "Elegance" and "simplicity" were the two words most used by the jury as they discussed the many qualities of this building that make it an impressive architectural statement. The metal fascia system is prominent in creating the strong horizontal statement of the structure on the landscape created and the visual impact upon entering into the high entry lobby element as it admits natural light through its clerestory windows is powerful. However, it is the stone masonry walls that give this building its distinctive visual presence. This presence was particularly celebrated in the photographs taken at night where the lighted glowing elements contrasted with the solidity of the masonry walls.

The jury noted that the stone masonry provided a very nice contrast to the beautiful wood used on the underside of the drive-up/drop off pavilion as well as on certain elements of the ceiling of the lobby. The jury concluded this was a building worthy of an Honor Award.

University of Cincinnati Teachers Complex Honor Award - Higher Education Masonry Design

Architect:

Champlin Architecture

Mason Contractor:

Weisbrod Masonry

Masonry Supplier

and Submitted by:

Division 4, Inc.



The jury was very impressed with how the architects creatively solved a myriad of both programmatic and campus site challenges. Added to these, they noted the inherent difficulty in physically and functionally linking two existing academic buildings that had a strong historic "neo-style" one might call simplified academic Georgian.



This style is predicated on a prescribed vocabulary of placement and proportions of base, wall and cornice as well as windows. The design of the new elements which focus on a

very impressive new, main entrance blend beautifully with the existing buildings while establishing their own sense of physical presence and visual priority. The jury felt the use of the subtle curved form above the new main entry really helped to give it prominence in the courtyard off of which it functioned.

The jury noted the extensive use of masonry in the functional and esthetic responses to reinforcing a barrier free, campus environment on a sloped site as well-designed, exterior public spaces. Lastly, the jury expressed their appreciation for the manner in which masonry was carried into the new multi-story lobby and offered a nice counterpoint to the use of wood on balconies and other cabinet work.

For all of these reasons, the jury unanimously concluded that this project deserved an Honor Award.

Progress Park Tower Merit Award - Office & Retail Masonry Design

Architect:

PDT Architects

Mason Contractor:

Ollier Masonry, Inc.

Masonry Manufacturer

and Submitted by:

Reading Rock



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The jury lauded the design/build team and the developer for creating a strong piece of architecture within the budget constraints normally associated with a “spec office / retail complex. They felt that the decision to develop a symmetrical massing with a central, multi-story, office block sitting on a ground story, retail base that extends on both sides beyond the central mass works well in giving the building a presence within the context of the office park.



They especially noted the role that brick masonry played in the gridded building elevations that have a sense of permanence and materiality. They also noted that the central walkway through the building off of which are the lobby entrances functions is greatly enhanced by carrying the masonry walls and paving through the building to the adjacent parking lots. Lastly, they recognized that a different brick has been used on the flanking retail storefronts to have them visually read as distinct from the main, central form. This secondary brick was carried down the entire length of the side façades and included some decorative masonry detailing, an investment not normally found in the building typology.

Batavia Elementary School Merit Award - K-6 Educational Facilities Masonry Design

Architect:

CR architecture + design

Mason Contractor:

Kurzhals, Inc.

Masonry Supplier

and Submitted by:

Division 4, Inc.



The jury complimented the design/construction team for this project for being able to produce a building that by all accounts would be a great place for students to learn and teachers to teach. They noted that masonry plays a large role in achieving a meritorious piece of architecture within cost constraints imposed by school corporations' budget limitations.



The jury was especially impressed with the decision to develop a distinctive, main entry form that is key to orienting all who enter the building while achieving safety and security

objectives. They also were impressed with how the pleasing scale of the mass of the front of the building was achieved through the use of the subtle curved forms on the single story elements and pleasing grid pattern and palette of brick colors on the two story wings. Each of these massing elements is made even more aesthetically pleasing by the care in the use of the sunscreen elements above the windows on the single story elements and careful positioning and detailing of the downspouts on the two story elements.

The jury also noted the success in minimizing the distinction between the exterior and interior through the continuation of masonry wall materials in the two story entry. Lastly, they were impressed with the interiors of the building which were enlivened by the creative use of color and lighting elements.

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**Highlands High School
Campus
Merit Award - Historic
Restoration & Improvements
Masonry Design**

Architect:

Robert Ehmet

Hayes + Associates, PLLC

Mason Contractor:

Miter Masonry Contractors, Inc.

Masonry Supplier

and Submitted By:

Division 4, Inc.



The jury truly appreciated the inclusion of a photograph of the existing condition of the academic portion of this education facility so that they could objectively evaluate this project and conclude that this project is truly a transformative project that the school district and community can be proud of.

The jury concluded that the architect succeeded in skillfully dealing with diverse programmatic requirements and the challenges inherent in a sloped site.

Employing brick as the main exterior material, including decorative detailing, reinforces that masonry is the perfect material to use in order to result in a complex comprised of an academic building, linking public walkway, and gymnasium.

The jury noted how well the brick used for the major

staircase down to the Walk of Fame also creates a podium for the new major element above.



The Walk of Fame includes a ticket sales pavilion which adds functionality to the design. Plus, the new brick and cast stone façade gives an impressive front to the gymnasium which is a pre-engineered building. This is a good example of a well-considered decision that balances design and budget considerations.

**Shideler Hall
at Miami University
Merit Award - Higher
Education Masonry Design**

Architect:

BHDP Architecture

Mason Contractor:

Jess Hauer Masonry

Masonry Manufacturer and

Submitted by:

Reading Rock



This project continues a series of projects executed on the Miami University campus that continues to add to one of

the most cohesively-designed campuses in the nation. Strictly adhering to design guidelines of the campus', decades-long, planning and design philosophy and those informed by the traditional Georgian Style of campus architecture, this building skillfully adds to this tradition.

The architect was careful to use all of the traditional proportions of the Georgian Style from the height of the walls to the hipped rooves with the traditional eye-lid dormers. At a smaller scale, one can see the traditional proportion of solid wall and windows to the modulation of these windows.



The skill of the masons comes through with the brickwork of the flat arches above windows and the quoins at the corners. Lastly, the jury noted how the traditional palette of red brick and cast stone is skillfully carried out into the immediate building and the landscape development at the main entry.

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**Savoy at the Streets
at West Chester**
**Merit Award - Multiple Family
Residential Masonry Design**

Architect:
Sebree Architects, Inc.
Masonry Manufacturer
and Submitted by:
Reading Rock



The jury was impressed with the design quality ... from both the well-designed site and hardscape development to that of the well-considered, design expression of the complexes' buildings.

The first point is evident in the very well-designed pool deck that is the center-piece of the courtyard that extensively uses concrete pavers. To achieve a level pool deck, the designers also made excellent use of concrete wall stone units in the retaining walls that gracefully grow in size as it moves down to the lowest portion of the site.

The scale of the project is initially dealt with by the angled juxtaposition of the two housing blocks that enclose the complex's courtyard.

The human scale is further achieved by the use of buff-colored brick on the first and fourth floors with a darker brick cladding on the second and third floors. The manipulation of brick work in this dark brown brick in the form of soldier courses

displays the work of skilled masons.

The jury also noted the recessed balconies ...especially those on the buildings' corners ... were lauded for allowing occupants to enjoy being outdoors immediately off their units.



What makes all of the above more notable is that this project's typology often time results in solutions with little concern for design quality.

The Grandstone
**Merit Award - Multiple Family
Residential Masonry Design**

Architect:
Phoenix Architecture
Mason Contractor:
Jacob Masonry Contractors
Masonry Manufacturer
and Submitted by:
Reading Rock



The jury especially appreciated the design quality that was achieved in this project whose typology often time

results in banal solutions with little concern for design quality.

A project with long elevations, the architect effectively broke down its scale by employing a distinctive system of off-set bays, each bracketed by a distinctive pilaster. These bays are further articulated by a palette of brick and concrete masonry that also uses the traditional triad of base, wall and cornice to also give a human scale to the three story structure.



The jury noted that the architect's decisions to develop architectural statements at both the very visible, rotated corner tower and main entrance demonstrated an understanding of where to get the "most bang for the buck" on a project where a limited budget plays a big role in decisions that ultimately impact the quality of the final project.



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