



TROWEL TALK

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36th Annual Awards Program

Josh R. Naragon, Executive Director

2009 Winners and Judges Comments

Excellence in Masonry Springboro Municipal Building



Architect
Lorenz & Williams
Incorporated
Mason Contractor
Miami Valley Masonry

After serious discussion, the jury unanimously agreed that this project deserved the highest award of the 2009 MID Design Awards Program ... The Award of Excellence in Masonry.

There were many factors that informed the jury's decision. Possibly the strongest was that from both a distance or up close, this building proudly proclaims, "I am a civic building and that I proudly represent the Springboro community." This

image and vision is created by the substantial and well-considered use of both Brick and CMU's masonry. Combined, they demonstrate a design team's successful efforts to create a strong architectural statement that is enhanced by careful detailing and superb craftsmanship.

Masonry's attributes ...including its simple, honest, and inherent expression of color and texture is evident throughout the building's exterior. Variations in the masonry's horizontal banding both articulate and reduce the scale of the building's various forms while also unifying the sculptural composition. This banding, which is extended from the building to the landscape design through low wall elements that define entries, reinforces the horizontality of building and its relationship to the site.

The jury concluded that this project could only have been realized by community officials who understood the significance of this civic building and were willing to invest in making it a reality. This understanding and investment were translated into a physical reality by a talented design-build team who also understood both its significance and how the use of masonry enhances this. The resulting building is one that the jury believes embodies civic pride in all of the residents of Springboro served by it.





Merit Design Award Dayton Children's Springboro Outpatient Facility

Architect
Pinnacle Architects

Mason Contractor
Anderson Masonry Co.

This jury felt that this is a wonderful piece of architecture that proudly proclaims, "I am about children."

The jury never debated whether this project was worthy of an award but, in keeping with adherence to the criteria for judging based on this as a masonry design awards, concluded that it was worthy of a Merit Award.

In its deliberations, the jury noted that the brick masonry plays the effective role of a "subservient ... but effective ... material" to that of primary ones of metal and glass. In this role, it successfully provides a series of solid and opaque base elements that effectively anchors the lightweight, structural skeleton and transparent main elements to the landscape.





Merit Design Award Central State University Center for Education and Natural Sciences - Phase 2

Architect

Levin Porter Associates, Inc.

Mason Contractor

Miami Valley Masonry

This project impressed the jury with its skillful handling of the building's various forms to create a very powerful, sculptural statement for the campus.

This project also demonstrates what can be achieved by a talented design/build team in achieving a building that uses bricks of only two colors. Yet the team achieved a piece of architecture that used this two-colored pallet in a carefully considered manner so as to celebrate the inherent beauty of the materials, careful detailing and extraordinary workmanship on the part of the masons.

A jury actually used a phrase that is attributed to the great architect, Mies van der Rohe, when he proclaimed "less is more." In this case, the less shows a restraint in materials and detailing that is all too absent in architecture today.





Historic Renovation Award Fort Piqua Hotel

Architect
Jeff Wray Architects

Mason Contractor
Trisco Systems, Inc.

By any standard of preservation and restoration, the jury felt that this project could only be labeled as “exemplary!” As with many small towns and cities, this truly grand hotel (Originally named the Orr-Statler) ... along with city halls, courthouses, churches and train stations, ... were the historic buildings that literally defined the lasting image of each community.

Sadly, a great number of these buildings are now only memories in the minds of those who remember them as children growing up in that town. Very fortunately, Piqua, Ohio, can point with pride to this lovingly restored building that will serve this and generations to come.

Every member of the preservation and restoration team ... from the advocates for its “new life” to the investors, architects, engineers, and contractors ... can take great pride in this project. Not to be overlooked must be the CREW OF masons who expertly repaired and restored irreplaceable, rusticated stone exterior.





Citation Award Fort Loramie Elementary School

Architect
Freytag & Associates Inc.
Mason Contractor
PCC Masonry, Inc.

The extensive use of masonry in creating the both the exterior and interior aesthetic expression of this school was lauded by the jury as the results of a series of design decisions that recognized and celebrated the many attributes of masonry.

Given that a limited budget as well as the requirements of durability and low maintenance drive the design of schools buildings, this building shows that a skillful architect can successfully respond to all of these in creating an architectural statement of note.

The jury noted that the brick and stone used on the exterior were instrumental in bonding the building to the site.

The jury especially noted the extensive use of both brick and CMU's in the "public" areas such as the corridors, stair cases, and "cafetorium" and the extensive use of acoustical block in the gymnasium.

This building illustrates both the logic and cost effectiveness of the use of masonry products in school construction and serves to prove to taxpayers that it is a wise, long-term investment on the part of their school board in their children's education.





Citation Award Shoppes at 725

Architect
Sebald Architects Inc.

Mason Contractor
Anderson Masonry Co.

The jury cited this project's substantial use of masonry in reinforcing the notion that design plays a critical role in developing a shopping environment that is unique and attractive, especially in a building typology that is typically governed by budget constraints.

The substantial use of both brick and cast stone provides a pallet of varied colors and textures and serves to successfully distinguish the various components of what is basically a strip shopping center.

The jury concluded by noting that the architect successfully interpreted the traditional components of the Italianate-styled, commercial building of the late 1800's consisting of a rusticated base, brick wall and projecting, bracketed cornice .





Citation Award Good Samaritan Heart & Vascular Hospital

Architect
NBBJ

Mason Contractor
Anderson Masonry Co.

In summarizing its comments on this project, the jury referred to the statement, “you only have one chance to make a first impression!”

In this case, the jury felt that this small, but important, *Addition to Good Samaritan Hospital*, certainly provided a very strong and pleasant, welcoming statement to those entering the hospital. It noted that this pavilion-like structure created a human-scaled “frontispiece” for the high rise medical facilities it serves while also providing a sheltered auto-drop-off.

The jury lauded the designer’s ability to achieve an inspired, sculptural composition with the well-conceived use of a limited pallet of materials that juxtaposed the solidity of the brick masonry with the structural expression of the steel suspension rods and well-detailed standing seam roofing.

The jury also noted that the use of masonry materials ... both brick and stone ... on the interior worked well in carrying out the sense of permanence that masonry adds to an important space such as a major entry to a large medical facility.





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