

The Ohio Concrete Masonry Association is celebrating its 55th year of promotion. OCMA hosted its annual Excellence in Concrete Masonry Awards ceremony in February at the DoubleTree Hotel in Worthington. Honored were architects, mason contractors, project owners and producer members for their design, workmanship, quality of materials and use of masonry. This publication honors those chosen by the judges as the premier masonry designs constructed in 2007. The judges comments are presented as given at the award banquet.



Excellence in Concrete Masonry Weinland Park Elementary

Owner: Columbus Public Schools

Architects: HKI Associates, Inc.

Cole + Russell Architects

Mason Contractor: D. E. Huddleston Inc.

Block Producer: Oberfield's, Inc.

After much deliberation and discussion about the projects that qualified for this, the highest award to be bestowed in this awards program, the jury ultimately arrived at the conclusion that this was the single project most worthy of the “*Excellence in Concrete Masonry Design Award.*”

The jury sensed that this building created an image that conveyed the concept that “learning can be fun.” It also believed this concept would create a very positive and prideful mind-set among the students, teachers and/or parents who use this building. This image is primarily created by the architect’s skillful selection and use of a diverse pallet of masonry materials.

They also acknowledged the composition of various geometric volumes that help to define entries and various rooms of the building. These are reinforced by the spirited, yet careful, composition created by the various

textures and colors. In addition, the jury also felt that the distinct belt-courses — using both CMU’s and brick — successfully created “horizontal banding” for the building that greatly help to visually reduce the mass of the building, an important goal for a building whose major users are elementary school-aged children.

Lastly, the clean and careful detailing, even down to the symmetrical placement of the weeps at the lintels above the heads of windows was lauded. Obviously, the jury felt that it was important to point out that this also speaks to excellent craftsmanship exhibited in the project.

For all of the above reasons, each one of which relies solely on the various inherent qualities of masonry materials and construction methods, this project is a very worthy recipient of the “2008 OCMA Excellence in Design Award.”

