Tri-State Masonry Institute, the Southwest Regional Partner of the Ohio Masonry Association, held its 18th Annual Excellence in Masonry Design Awards Program at the MADTREE Brewing Company on Thursday, February 22, 2018.

Attendees started off with a reception which included craft beverages and a great networking opportunity.

Architects, owners, TMI Contractors and TMI Members who submitted winning projects were honored for their masonry projects in the Tri-State area. Eleven projects were awarded and one was given the “People’s Choice” distinction.

Projects submitted by designers, manufacturers, suppliers, and contractors were reviewed by the judges to see if they qualify as either a Merit, Honor or Excellence Award.

Each project had to meet or exceed the rules set forth by the TMI Awards Committee and were judged individually for
their overall design, use and installation of masonry materials/systems.

Tony Costello presented each winning project at the awards banquet reciting the jurors' comments as well as some addlibbing. Jurors' comments summarized by Tony Costello, FAIA, Jury Chair accompany each project listed in this publication.

As always, Tony kept the audiences attention by using humor, architetural dialog, stories, praise and advise to the project teams.

Horter Investment Office Building
Excellence in Masonry Design & “People’s Choice”
Architect: Platte Architecture & Design
Mason Contractor: Kurzhals, Inc.
Masonry Manufacturer: Reading Rock

With the jury subscribing to the notion that a company can be defined by its clients and the public by the quality of the architecture of the building that bears their name, they unanimously agreed that Horter Investment Management can promote themselves as a company of the highest integrity and quality of service.

A pretty strong statement, but backed up when one evaluates this building from every scale - from its massing to the proportions of its elevations to its relationship with the ground and the sensitive interpretation of a historic style.

The carefully proportioned towers that denote the main entrance, major interior space and the corners are skillfully tied together at the ground floor by an arcade. This element harkens back to how many historic buildings related to the exterior surrounding their building - whether a site in the city or in a more natural landscape.

The variety of ways in which the architect handled this element was not lost on the jury, including the minimalist single, inserted large bay that is clad in a contrasting brick.

The final aspect that elevated this project to that of being designated the recipient of the excellence in masonry award, was the incredible care in the detailing of the stone veneer which harkens back to when stone masonry was routinely the domain of masons as artisans.

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OMA and TMI provide AIA Accredited Lunch and Learns for designers in Ohio. You can choose from National Concrete Masonry Association and Brick Industry Association nationally accredited courses.
The first comment that a juror offered after the initial short-listing by individual jury members was, “I sure hope this project is also submitted for awards in wood design competitions.” As is obvious in the photograph of it on the landscape, the image of this pavilion-like building is that associated with the traditional notion of park structures or club houses.

Devou Park Golf & Event Center Honor Award – Recreation Masonry Design
Architect: Hub + Weber Architects, PLC
Mason Contractor: Miter Masonry Contractors, Inc.
Masonry Supplier: Division 4, Inc.

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Kramer Elementary School Honor Award – Elementary Education Masonry Design
Architect: SHP Leading Design
Mason Contractor: Jess Hauer Masonry
Masonry Supplier: Division 4, Inc.

The jury used terms like, “elegant simplicity; understated beauty; and, most bang for the buck!” in discussing this project. It is easy to see why, from when you first view the minimalist, porch-like entry, that greets and shelters the arriving students, and that is juxtaposed to a larger simple shed-like form next to it that is clad in beautiful purple-hue masonry units.

2770 Observatory Honor Award – Multi-Family Residential Masonry Design
Architect: GBBN Architects, Inc.
Mason Contractor: Miter Masonry Contractors, Inc.
Masonry Manufacturer: Reading Rock

Of the housing projects submitted, this project truly impressed the jury when evaluated and judged on every criterion ... from overall massing to material selection and detailing. From its signage, to

However, as one of the criteria used by the jury states, “How well does masonry serve as a secondary material that provides a suitable and non-competitive background. One could say this is equivalent to the “best supporting actor or actress award at the Oscars.”

When entering the building, it is evident that this marriage of stone masonry and wood is skillfully detailed. However, the jury noted that in a very important context ... the main lounge ... the stone fireplace becomes the main actor.
the juxtaposition of masonry and wood, this project represents a level of design excellence that did not escape the jury's scrutiny.

The jury lauded the massing that is based on a serrated plan configuration that steps back in successive bays, and also permits a very successful handling of what appears to be an entrance to the unground parking beneath the four story superstructure above.

The element that most struck the jury were the recessed balconies at the corners that truly added a human scale and also created private outdoor space for the occupants. They also noted the success of the prominent cantilevered cornice that bridges these indentations, and provides for strong terminus to the elevations and horizontal line against the sky.

The jury lauded the quality of this project’s design which is not often seen in buildings of this typologies.

They noted the well-executed massing with the corner entrance being articulated by a distinctive tower element, as well as incorporation of the graphics and metal elements that are used for the roof, entry canopy, and coping elements.

Most impressive to the jury was the substantial and well-designed outdoor eating courtyards that are critical to the enjoyment of its patrons.

Like anyone approaching the school, the jury was very impressed with the bold statement of the main entry both in the daylight and in the nighttime - an increasingly important part of school safety and security.

This statement owes its design excellence to the combination of large, but well done, graphics, and the elegant architectural roof form. They also noted how the masonry base strongly anchors this building to the site, and on other elevations, includes subtle banding to emphasize the horizontality of the two-story massing and addition of a second colored brick to reinforce the recessed entry to an outdoor area.

The jury also noted the secondary scaled entrance as defined by the red glazed brick frame that carries into the main interior space.

Appreciating the cost constraints associated with
educational buildings ... the painted CMU interiors create a delightful learning and teaching environment.

Lastly, the jury enjoyed the incorporation of the limestone cornerstone and bar reliefs from a previous school which also celebrate the artisans who routinely fashioned these important elements in historic schools and other public buildings.

**LCNB National Bank Corporate Operations Center Merit Award – Commercial Masonry Design**

**Architect:** BHDP Architecture  
**Mason Contractor:** Accurate Masonry LLC  
**Masonry Supplier:** Division 4, Inc.

This project impressed the jury in two major ways. The first was the manner in which it expressed a system of detailing, based on the Italianate style. This is most apparent in the cornice of the building which provides a strong visual profile against the sky. It also noted the subtle change in this historic element with the details used to define the mass that contains the main entry. However, a strong horizontal element that appears as a civic-scaled “porch” visually unifies both elements.

As one moves around the building, a more modernist esthetic that skillfully uses a palette of masonry materials emerges.

The second aspect is the really well-executed landscaping of the site with a major plaza that fronts the building, gracefully descends to a lower level with a second “porch-like” entry element on the side and further down another level to the rear. The detailing of the masonry hardscape is outstanding.

**Madeira & Indian Hill Joint Fire District Station 64 Merit Award – Public Safety Masonry Design**

**Architect:** MSA Architects  
**Mason Contractor:** Kurzhals, Inc.  
**Masonry Supplier:** Division 4, Inc.

For three centuries, this style has been associated with civic or municipal buildings and brick has been the consistent material of choice.

The architects have responded with a very well executed project whose basic form, proportions and detail of masonry in its fenestrations are true to the core of this historic style.

**Current Watersports Merit Award – Retail Masonry Design**

**Architect:** Hub + Weber Architects, PLC  
**Mason Contractor:** Krallman Masonry, Inc.  
**Masonry Manufacturer:** Reading Rock

The jury lauded this project for the quality of design not often seen in commercial buildings of this typologies.

It was obvious to them that the elevations display a well-chosen palette of masonry materials, brick and CMU’s that was, in turn, designed with great skill in
terms of proportions and details, such as the slightly inset bays and tree courses of dark tan CMU’s to create distinctive horizontal banding. Well-proportioned windows and projecting awnings add to the notion that good design can impact any building type.

The jury also noted that this system of materials and detailing wraps the entire building.

**Staybridge Suites**  
**Merit Award – Hospitality**  
**Masonry Design**  
Architect:  
Architectural Group III, Inc.  
Masonry Manufacturer:  
Reading Rock

This typology has become a ubiquitous element on the American landscape. From almost every interstate interchange to in-town sites, the American hospitality industry has responded to America’s love affair with travel.

The jury felt that this project proved that good design of this typology comes down to a few basic elements like massing, proportions, selection and detailing of materials, and relationship of building and the outdoors.

It is obvious that the design of the elevations are based on the historic tri-partite laying of the base, wall, and cornice. It is evident that each is defined by a well-designed and proportioned system of masonry materials.

**Mercy Health West – Medical Office Building II**  
**Merit Award – Office Building**  
**Masonry Design**  
Architect:  
Champlin Architecture  
Masonry Supplier:  
Division 4, Inc.

The jury felt this building provided a good example of a building that establishes its presence in what appears to be an “office park” context.

They noted the skillful massing with both articulated masonry clad elements and where masonry serves as the “element of continuity” that ties together the metal and glass elements that define the entry and most public corner.

The jury also noted the important role that masonry played in the hardscape of dealing effectively with the major vehicular entry on a sloped site.

Congratulations to all the award winners. All projects honored at the 2017 TMI Excellence in Masonry Awards Program that meet the OMA Call for Entries Rules are automatically submitted to the 2018 OMA Excellence in Masonry Design Award Competition.

www.ohiomasonry.org  
masonry@hughes.net  
800-443-6779  
P.O. Box 130  
Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311