

FELINE

The Masonry Magazine of Texas

Volume 27, No. 1

Spring 2023

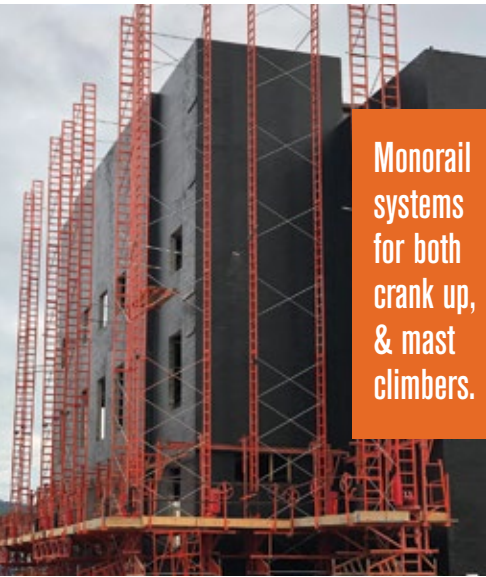
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Spring 2023

A Message From Our Executive Director: *Mr. Tony Topping*

2023 is taking the Texas Masonry Council into new areas of growth! The Board of Directors and Staff are excited to branch into programming that will recognize architects currently designing with masonry and offer continuing education opportunities for architects who want to expand their knowledge of our products, design needs, and engineering requirements. The TMC IDEA Committee and I will lead this effort, which you can read more about in this issue! In addition, although we have a new initiative, we will continue our 'Masonry ROCKS!' program and Golden Trowel Awards.

The 'Masonry ROCKS!' workforce development program will continue its regional events through the end of April 2023. The newest addition to the Texas Masonry Council staff, Ashton White, is a two-time SkillsUSA National Champion and will focus on teaching, coaching, and mentoring students who indicate interest in bricklaying. We hope this continues to grow the masonry industry and inspire the next generation of builders and designers to use masonry on their walls knowing they have a skilled workforce behind them.

For those already designing and building with masonry, we appreciate you and can't wait to celebrate with you as we continue our state Golden Trowel Awards! April through June is the regional Golden Trowel season. Austin/Waco, Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio celebrate design and innovative work and put their best projects to the state level to be judged. The state-level judging will take place in July, with the awards in conjunction with the Texas Masonry Convention. The Texas Masonry Convention will be held September 6th through 8th at the Horseshoe Bay Resort in Horseshoe Bay, Texas.

With so many ways to get involved, we hope to connect with you soon and get you plugged into your interest area. Architect and design community – we appreciate you trusting and building with masonry, and we're excited to celebrate your designs this upcoming season!



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Red River Brick (formerly Meridian Brick) is now stronger than ever after its 2021 acquisition by General Shale, the leading manufacturer of clay brick in North America.



SCAN ME

Find out more about Amaryllis

www.redriverbrick.com



CONCRETE MASONRY CHECKOFF

A New Era of Concrete Masonry

It's time to put block back on top, and the Concrete Masonry Checkoff is here to make that a reality. In 2021, a majority of concrete block producers made the game-changing decision to implement a national, mandatory checkoff that would exist for one reason: to drive demand for concrete masonry products.

What's Next?

Starting **April 1**, all concrete block producers are required by law to pay one penny per block sold to the Concrete Masonry Checkoff Board, consisting of concrete block producers from across the United States, for use to directly combat misperceptions around block on a national scale, while tackling local issues on a regional level. Investing these fractional funds now will pay huge dividends down the road.

Only products that meet these three criteria are eligible for assessment:

- 1 Made of dry-cast concrete
- 2 Formed on a block machine
- 3 Suitable for masonry construction
- 4 Has an actual width of at least three inches

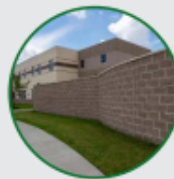
Visit ConcreteMasonryCheckoff.org for more specific product details.

How are funds invested?

At least half of all program dollars will be invested at the regional level, ensuring checkoff programs that bring value for producers and contractors in your region. On April 1, the penny assessment will be included on invoices for eligible CMUs, possibly as a separate line item. Invoices may also include the following language:

1 cent per masonry unit goes to the Concrete Masonry Checkoff Board pursuant to the Concrete Masonry Products Research, Education, and Promotion Act of 2018.

With our Concrete Masonry Checkoff, we will fund projects that ensure our products are:



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In demand, meeting or even exceeding capacity.

Here's to a better tomorrow with block on top.

ConcreteMasonryCheckoff.org



COVER
FEATURE

Fannin County Courthouse

A Historic Renovation

The Fannin County Courthouse was a renovation of the existing courthouse that had deteriorated and weathered over the years. Architexas, experts in architecture, planning, and renovation, painstakingly detailed every square inch of this historic structure.

When the general contractor, Turner Construction, took on this project, they knew a team that could get it done, and they chose the masonry team at GG&S Construction to restore this iconic county seat. Most pieces were individually crafted for their specific use, and most anchoring was done piece by piece.

GG&S Construction Company was founded in June 2009 and provided commercial masonry and plaster services throughout the greater Dallas-Fort Worth area. They are committed to a safe and honest work environment. Similarly, they are committed to their relationships with owners, general contractors, specialty contractors, and their suppliers in the construction industry. They continuously evolve and strive to be a leader in their industry through proactive problem-solving and knowledge of their trade.

Most GG&S projects have some combination of the following scopes of work:

- Structural CMU Block
- Traditional Masonry Veneer (Brick & Stone)
- Cast Stone
- GFRC
- Traditional Plaster/Stucco Finishes
- Continuous Insulation Systems (EIFS)
- Adhered Masonry Systems (Thin Brick, Thin Manufactured & Natural Stone)
- Fluid Applied Weather Barriers
- Rigid & Semi-Rigid Insulation Board

Most GG&S projects are in the following market sectors:

- Retail
- Institutional
- Industrial
- Religious
- Medical

Although their portfolio mostly consists of new construction, they were happy to rise to the occasion on Bonham, TX's Fannin County Courthouse renovation. The job came with many challenges they don't face daily on new construction projects. This courthouse was initially built over a century ago. Bringing it back to its original state required handcrafting – crafting each piece of stone as needed since no two pieces were identical. GG&S is proud of their team and the craftsmanship they put on display here. Also, they are thankful for the opportunity and the extended team (GC, Architect, Suppliers, etc.) that supported them in the restoration along the way.

What does their future hold? Good things. The hardships they face with the current economy go without saying. All have felt the impacts of the pandemic and its aftermath. But GG&S prefers to focus on the great jobs they have in progress and the opportunities ahead. Their workload continues to grow along with their team and its abilities. You can be certain GG&S will weather the storm.



“Fun Facts” on GG&S Construction Company:

The company name (GG&S) represents the company’s founders by last name initial. (Joshua Gray – President; Joe Gray – Director of Operations; and Brett Schelldorf – Vice President)

The GG&S main office was originally on the square in downtown McKinney, TX. They moved to their new location in Celina, TX, about five years ago.

In addition to traditional masonry, their mason division offers ICF (Insulated Concrete Forms) construction services. And in addition to conventional plaster, EIFS, and adhered masonry veneer, their plaster division also provides installation services for Nichiha Fiber-Cement Architectural Wall Panels.



Better Together!

Industry Development and Education Alliance

In early 2023, the Texas Masonry Council relaunched its education committee that had been dormant for a handful of years. Local Architects, Masonry Contractors, Suppliers, Engineers and Educators came together at the initial meeting to set some foundational goals for this committee and the direction they'd like to see it continue.

One thing is for certain, the need to connect architects to the masonry industry and masonry industry to architects exists. To know how to better serve the design community with the knowledge of masonry products, an initial group of suppliers representing brick, block and additional architectural products assembled with professors from the University of Houston, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering and the University of Texas, College of Architecture. Initially, the goal of the conversation was for industry professionals to assess what desire existed to getting masonry education in collegiate coursework and to identify opportunities for the industry to support currently practicing architects and the architects of tomorrow.

While this committee is still in the early stages on the discovering what these outreach and educational goals will be and what activities the organization will do to support those goals, we encourage the design community to join the conversation.

We look forward to working as a team: architects and design professionals, producers and manufacturers, and contractors and installers - together creating a complete, and beautiful, bigger picture.



Pictured: (left to right) Katherine Teel - Continental Cut Stone, Mackie Bounds - Brazos Masonry Inc., Texas Masonry Council President, and Rob Teel - Continental Cut Stone



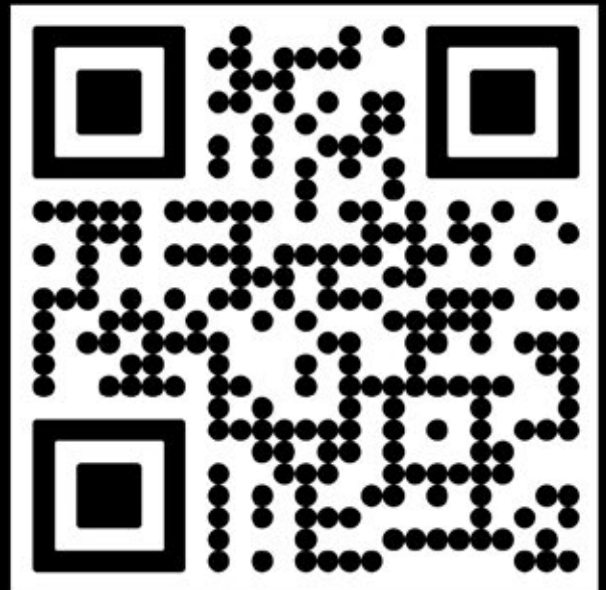
Katherine Teel with Continental Cut Stone has been involved with the stone industry for over a decade; she's made connections in the design and masonry industry through organizations such as Texas Masonry Council (TMC), American Institute of Architects (AIA), and the Natural Stone Institute (NSI).

Her expertise and understanding of stone and manufacturing capabilities allow her to help guide the design process to prevent any problems upon installation allowing stone designs to be installed with minimal delays.

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- Outstanding Supplier Award
- Golf Tournament
- Live Auction & Casino Night
- Industry Meetings
- Resort Activities
- Architect Education
- Golden Trowel Awards
- People's Choice Award

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Masonry Coating

Words and Photos: Julia Pineda-Santiago, Rainguard Pro

Finding the right coating for masonry can be quite difficult. It's important to consider not only the aesthetic needed, but also the resistances needed in the application. Some of the most prevalent coatings used today are anti-graffiti coatings, mineral and efflorescence blockers, and waterproofers. These coatings not only play a role in keeping away deterioration and degradation of masonry, from foot and tire traffic, UV rays, chemicals, graffiti, and other impurities, they can also be used to help enhance the aesthetic of the masonry.

Graffiti damage, as we are all aware, results from unauthorized artists tagging their names, affiliations, and mottos using a variety of markers or spray paints. While it ruins the aesthetics of masonry, and can represent reprehensible images and ideas, it can also ruin the masonry surfaces and cost hundreds to thousands of dollars in labor and repair. It's imperative that all of these problems are avoided. Fortunately, it's possible to handle this aggravating

Knowing the difference between the two will help you choose the best one for your needs.

Sacrificial anti-graffiti coatings are almost unnoticeable and aren't permanent meaning a new layer of coating must be applied after each graffiti removal. Non-sacrificial anti-graffiti coatings are available in flat almost invisible finishes as well as a variety of attractive appearances such as gloss, satin, and matte finishes.

They allow numerous graffiti removals without a new layer of coating needed after each removal. Depending on the base material of the coating (acrylic, polyurethane, urethane, etc.) these non-sacrificial coatings are durable enough to protect the surface for many years. Since graffiti tends to take place in areas with lots of human contact, it's important to choose a solution that is not only safe for the applicator and environment, but also for the end user. environment, but also for the end user.



Damage to masonry caused by efflorescence and mineral stains are an issue that arises when moisture penetrates the surface of your substrate and when the water evaporates, it brings to the surface salt and mineral deposits that were inside. When evaporation happens, these deposits find points of discharge back out onto the surface leaving discoloration, typically a white chalky appearance.

These stains are unsightly in appearance but can also cause

and damaging circumstance with the use of several products on the market.

There are coatings that can be applied that act as a barrier between the masonry surface and graffiti. Specifically there are two in nature: non-sacrificial coatings and sacrificial coatings.

surface erosion, and like graffiti damage, removal and repair can cost hundreds to thousands of dollars in labor and materials.

Usually efflorescence can be removed with a masonry cleaner, but what do you do when moisture is constantly in contact with the masonry?

This typically happens when you have below grade masonry, planters, or a waterproofing membrane fails.

In these types of applications, efflorescence maintenance is constant and unending. The good news is that there are sealer products available that prevent minerals, efflorescence, and alkali from reaching the surface before the stains start to form.

These sealers are typically clear with a natural looking finish and resistant to hot-tire pickup. When looking for an efflorescence blocker, it's important to find one that is water-based and non-toxic, to prevent any harmful chemicals from affecting the soil touching the masonry.



Another important thing to note is that efflorescence and mineral stains can develop during the new construction process. This is not necessarily something that most are aware of and prepared to treat after construction is completed. What we've discovered from clients is that there is often a lengthy gap in time between when the masonry is put up by masons and when the finishing crews get to task priming, sealing, or painting. There are two ways of addressing this. One, if the efflorescence is already present, use a cleaning product specifically designed to remove efflorescence that can be used immediately before the finishing process. This can then be followed with a coating of efflorescence and mineral blocker to prevent efflorescence from appearing again. Two, a deviation from standard can be put into play where this type of coating is applied immediately after the masonry construction is complete. This will prevent efflorescence from forming in the first place, and will help to prevent any delays in the project.

Other water damage that causes major issues in masonry range from mold and mildew, to spalling and cracking, to actual masonry displacement.

These are damages that start in the thousands and often surpass the tens of thousands in repair costs. And these are, for all of the severity, avoidable by the use of a proper water repellent coating.

Primarily there are two coatings that are the most popular solution against water damage. One being an opaque elastomeric coating, and the other being a clear invisible penetrating coating. Using a clear, penetrating water repellent is ideal for applications where changes to the look and texture of the masonry are unwanted. Since a

penetrating water repellent coating doesn't form a film, there is no risk of yellowing, cracking, or peeling over time— even in direct sunlight. In colder climates, a penetrating water repellent protects the masonry from absorbed water freezing and expanding in the pores of the surface which can cause cracking or spalling.

The elastomeric coating provides even more comprehensive protection. It is a film-forming and flexible coating that not only repels water, but also bridges hairline cracks. The flexibility of this coating allows it to move with the structure underneath as it expands and contracts due to temperature changes and structure movement. These coatings are high-build and are available in clear, white, and sometimes tintable bases to create a unique finish.

When choosing what type of sealer to use for your project, consider all the features of a coating that add up to providing maximum durability for your masonry while still adhering to the strictest V.O.C. laws in your area. With the right masonry coatings, your project will benefit from additional protection and added longevity.



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In the early days we were a small, tight-knit team, with just one location and a handful of employees. But even then, we had big dreams and ambitious goals. We knew that by providing top-quality building materials and supplies, combined with outstanding customer service and support, we could make a real difference in the San Antonio community and throughout Texas.



Robbin Bostick | CEO

*"23 years in, we're still committed to **building better together** with our partners and our community."*

Through it all, we've never lost sight of our core values: integrity, innovation, collaboration, and service.

We believe that **building better together** means more than just providing high-quality products and services - it means being a trusted partner, a supportive community member, and a responsible steward of our resources and environment.

As we celebrate our 23rd anniversary, we want to thank our partners, our team, and our community for their continued support and trust in us. We couldn't have done it without you, and we're honored to be a part of the San Antonio community.

We look forward to **building better together** with you for many years to come.

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Note From TMC Membership Coordinator, Cori:

Our membership process has moved online!

To make joining and renewing the most convenient for all we have transferred our membership form to our website and can be found at <https://texasmasonrycouncil.org/membership-signup/>

With any questions on joining or TMC you can reach us at info@texasmasonrycouncil.org

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Contact Brandon Oppermann at
info@mrbrickofhouston.com

Brick Preservation and Restoration: Stain's Valuable and Long-Lasting Role

Brick buildings come in all sizes. Whether large or small, they are usually considered strong, safe, stable, and durable. Few observers realize, however, that these sturdy structures are in constant motion. As external temperatures change, for example, brick expands when heated and contracts when cooled. And beyond just brick, mortar and many other materials also make up the wall system. As strong as these buildings are, they still need to be maintained. Preservation and restoration can make all the difference for these buildings as they age over time.

Brick and mortar are the two main products that clad a brick building. In most cases, brick will outlast the mortar joint itself, so a crucial part of preserving the building is repointing the mortar as needed. Usually, an entire building will not require repointing. Only designated areas of wear to the mortar need to be addressed. Thankfully, it is simpler to repoint mortar than it is to replace broken brick. And repointing is made easier today by testing for the original mortar used in order to discover just the right mix. Damaged brick is a bigger issue and a more difficult one to resolve, depending on the cause of the damage or the problem it presents.

Cracked brick running down a wall indicates the building may have settled. An engineer's involvement is necessary to discover a solution, and a restoration project must be planned in detail. What happens if you come across spalling, a shearing off of the surface of, or the disintegration of an area of a building's brick surface? Again, the discovery of the cause of the spalling is essential, and a solution must be devised and carried out. In the case of a small area of spalling brick, exploration often reveals that the underlying problem is worse than that of cracked brick. Typically, quite a few bricks in the same area will be compromised. Please note that a restoration company cannot always estimate the extent of a problem until they open up the wall area needing remediation.

Today our industry has the best architects, engineers, and restoration and masonry contractors available, and they do some of the most amazing work restoring our aging buildings! Their work is key to our industry's reputation and its claim on the best building product. Surprisingly, our toughest challenge is not the construction phase but the visible aesthetics when a restoration job is complete. This is difficult to achieve sometimes because the materials necessary for a good-looking repair or match are limited by what is available. Several brick plants that produced millions of brick in earlier years are

now no longer in operation. Because of this, it is sometimes difficult or impossible to locate an identical brick to use for repairs. Sometimes a brick stain is required, as well. One that withstands the test of time that neither harms nor compromises a brick in any way is needed now more than ever. And with all the misinformation that is out there, selecting the right stain to use requires a deeper dive.

Often it is difficult to find a match for historical brick, and I have often witnessed the difficulty of matching mortar, as well. The key to matching the brick is pretty simple and basically follows some common sense rules. First, if the brick is not available, find the closest brick in size and texture. Next, get as close as you can to the base color of the brick. Lastly, mortar plays just as important a role as the brick. If the brick is modular in size (2 1/4 x 7 5/8), mortar can represent as much as 18 to 20% of the wall area. This will, in turn, have a major effect on the color match. Matching the mortar color, texture, and the type of joint that is on your building will make a tremendous difference in quality and appearance.

The stain product you select for either the brick or mortar is a critical part of long-term performance, and knowledge of the different stain products that are in the marketplace today will be key to the success of a lasting solution. Stay alert for misinformation. A few products that call themselves a proprietary brick stain may only consist of watered-down paint products. While the product may tout great technical data, lab tests, and support information, it may not have long-lasting field performance to support such claims.

Years ago, lab testing was important; many of today's stain companies did not have jobs or projects back then with enough history to represent their products' field performance. So they selected a range of tests they hoped would indicate their products' reliability in the long term. Most, if not all of the current stain companies passed those early tests. Today, a better measure of reliability would be to compare these companies' actual field performances to their long-ago test results. If it is found that earlier test results do not correlate with the current field performance of their former projects, if field performance becomes a burden of ongoing restoration and maintenance, that calls the value of those tests into question. Going forward, the potential damage to brick buildings through the use of improper staining products, especially to our beautiful historic buildings, would be heartbreaking. Staining, applied correctly with the right product, can be successful and greatly rewarding to all involved.

Words: Don Foster, President &
Co-Founder of Masonry Cosmetics, Inc.
Photos: Masonry Cosmetics, Inc.



There are a few stain companies that have been around for 29 to 34 years, and a few that state a history much longer than that. Some of those, we have found, are a line of painting companies that would have painted the brick on a house vs. calling it a brick stain back then. Those same companies of 29 years or older that offer warranties—for example, 25-year, 50-year, and Lifetime Warranties—should have literally hundreds of jobs they could call up to represent the performance of their products over time. Caution is advised when considering a newer company that has been around only a few years, yet is offering a 50-year warranty. Are there proven tests that could support that claim?

Look carefully at what the warranty says. If you are expecting a company to come back and fix a staining job if it fails, you might find the warranty is not worth the paper it is written on. One recent example of a 25-year warranty says that on a pro-rata rate they offer three options: (1) Refund Product Cost, (2) Refund Product Replacement, or (3) Refund Pro-Rata Rate Credit on the next project. Pay Close Attention!!! Buyer Beware!!! There are NO ASSURANCES that this company will re-stain or fix issues with your brick staining project.

A few stain companies offer Case Studies. These can be misleading depending on what an actual case study represents. For example, does the study consist of a few beautiful pictures with a nice storyline, or does it include before and after pictures from when the project was originally stained. Does the case study continue with follow-up pictures of what the job looks like many years later? Have you been given enough information for the project to be studied? The study can look great on paper, but has anyone actually visited the projects? Case studies lacking evidence are marketing materials. There is truly nothing scholarly or academic about them.

The difference between Brick Paint and Brick Stain, from this writer's point of view, is pretty simple. A Brick Stain should be a translucent-in-nature slurry applied by brush to the absorptive brick, one brick at a time. This stain embeds itself into the pore structure of the brick and, most importantly, allows the straight-from-the manufacturer maintenance-free brick to remain a maintenance-free brick. It can get soaked by the rain, yet dry and 'breathe' naturally after it has been stained, just like an unstained brick.

A Brick "Paint-like" stain contains a percentage (any percent) of latex or acrylic, consists of either paint or watered-down paint, and is re-labeled and called a "proprietary

brick stain." This product, once applied, turns a maintenance-free brick into a maintenance one. These watered down paints can be sprayed, rolled, or brushed on, and sometimes all three applications could be used on the same project. Unfortunately, we have seen these "stains" either fade or turn into a chalky whitish film that can compromise the brick, its appearance, and its maintenance for years.

The University of Notre Dame's "Golden Dome" Administration Building pictured above is from a Case Study written in 2016, and is a great example of the then 137-year old building. Now 143 years old, its preservation and restoration contribute to its long lasting success all these years. A landmark, and one of the more photographed buildings in the United States, its aesthetic staining plays an important role in its success, and can do so for preservation and restoration projects to come.

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Spike Cutler

Attorney Spike Cutler, and the firm of Cutler-Smith, P.C., are staunch advocates for the rights and interests of construction trade contractors. Cutler provides legal counsel to a number of trade organizations, including the Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) of Texas, IEC- Dallas, IEC – Fort Worth, the Subcontractors Association of the Metroplex ("SAM"), the Texas Masonry Council, the United Masonry Contractors Association of DFW, and the North Texas Stone Fabricators Association. He is also a member of the Attorneys Council of the National Subcontractors Alliance.

The darndest thing happened last week – I was talking to a client, a subcontractor, and they told me that they had ordered materials for a project, which were delivered on time without a price increase. I darn near fell off my chair. Okay, I'm joking, but only kind of. Unfortunately, we all had to become accustomed to a new scapegoat, an excuse for bad performance, and it is the "Supply Chain"!

After Decades of Most Markets, for Most Materials, Being Reasonably Stable, Trade Contractors Can No Longer Rely upon Quotes for Price or Delivery Time – but the General Contractors Don't Seem to Care, so (As Usual) The Buck Stops with the Sub. So, What Can You Do About It?

No Single Measure Protects a Trade Contractor from Losses Relating to Delayed Delivery or Increased Price on Materials and Equipment. Still, There Are Several Individual Things You Can Do Which Will Each, in Some Way, Reduce Your Risk.

Before the Bid

During the pre-bid phase of a project, as you are soliciting and receiving quotes and proposals from your suppliers, make sure that any schedule constraints provided to you by the project owner or general contractor are communicated to your suppliers; you don't want them saying they had no idea there was a tight schedule.

When you receive proposals or bids from your suppliers, look them over more closely than you ever thought you would need to. Look closely for any limitations on how long the pricing is valid (big hint: these days, many suppliers protect prices for 30 days or less); what kind of lead time the supplier requires to provide the materials; and whether the supplier requires an early deposit to secure a production slot and a delivery time.

At Bid Time

When you are submitting your bid to the general contractor, make darned sure you have included every single limitation imposed by your supplier, whether it be delivery time, mandatory deposits and/or payment to secure a delivery time or to protect price or any other special conditions, in the qualifications of your bid. The last thing you need is a general contractor telling you, "You never told me I had to..." when they are trying to hold you to an impossible price or delivery. And, as we always advise, make sure your bid or proposal is only open for acceptance for a limited period (30 days or less). Of course, you can always extend it if asked and if you're comfortable doing so. Never, ever give a contractor a Bid Bond as a subcontractor.

At Contract Award

When you get your Subcontract, besides aggressively negotiating contract terms (like you know you need to do), aggressively review to ensure that any special conditions relating to the availability of pricing and materials, and the schedule impact of material delays, have already been included in the Subcontract. General Contractors routinely receive bids from subcontractors, which include numerous limitations related to the availability and timing of materials, yet issue subcontracts based only on the price. Once you sign a subcontract committing you to supply materials on time, you may be setting yourself up for a delay claim by the general contractor, something you don't need.

Order Now?

If you must order materials right away to protect the price, be sure that the General Contractor (1) agrees to the order, (2) affirmatively promises to pay you for the materials, and (3) agrees to pay you for the cost of storage between

the time the materials are delivered and the time that they are required at the job site. These are typical conditions necessary to protect pricing on rapidly escalating market materials.

Once the Project Starts

After you have been awarded the project, be diligent about complying with the terms of any lead times and deposit requirements from your suppliers, and be diligent in securing regular updates on the status of material orders. Suppliers often ship your materials to “that other guy” who is more strident and demanding! And, of course, if the supplier notifies you of a potential delay, you must immediately communicate that to the general contractor and let them know what you are doing to mitigate the uncertainty. The sooner you notify them, the sooner you can coordinate measures to reduce the impact on the project of delayed shipment of the materials. These measures could include resequencing work, minor design changes, or selecting alternate materials which are better available. This takes time, and it’s much easier to get done before the project is in trouble.

There are no silver bullets here, but communication is key between you and your suppliers, communication between you and the general contractor, and ensuring that any agreements regarding timing or delivery are well-documented in writing. When expectations are correctly managed, problems become more manageable.



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Ed Watson Becomes Acme Brick Company's President and CEO

EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2023



Ed Watson, Acme Brick Company's current Executive Vice President-Operations, will become Acme's 12th President in the 131-year history of the company. His predecessor, Dennis Knautz, will remain with Acme during 2023 as an advisor to Ed Watson.

Ed brings a wealth of experience to his new position as Acme's President and

CEO. He will soon be celebrating his 40th year with Acme Brick, previously serving as Vice President-Production, General Production Manager-Concrete Operations, Regional Manager-Featherlite Building products, General Manager-Texas Quarries, and Plant Engineer-Featherlite Building products.

"Ed is a personable and engaging leader who has proven to be an outstanding manager, Dennis Knautz said. His leadership and motivational skills will now be used in all Acme areas. I am confident he will continue Acme's long-standing commitment to excellence in this newly expanded role."

"I am honored to become Acme Brick Company's twelfth President entrusted to lead our great company," Ed Watson said. "Our company has been a successful building materials and service provider for over one hundred and thirty-two years thanks to our outstanding associates, quality products, and first-rate customers. While proud of our storied history, I am most excited about our bright future. We have a Strategic Framework in place and a team of talented leaders dedicated to our Vision to be THE trusted materials solution for enduring beauty, strength, safety, and strength in building communities."

Acme Brick Company, founded in 1891, sells building materials and design products for home and commercial projects through over 50 Acme Brick Tile & Stone public showrooms across 13 states in the Southwest and Southeast. Acme is a wholly owned subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway, Inc. For more information, visit brick.com.

*For more PRESS information, contact: Ron Taylor/
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BOND STRENGTH: ★★★★★



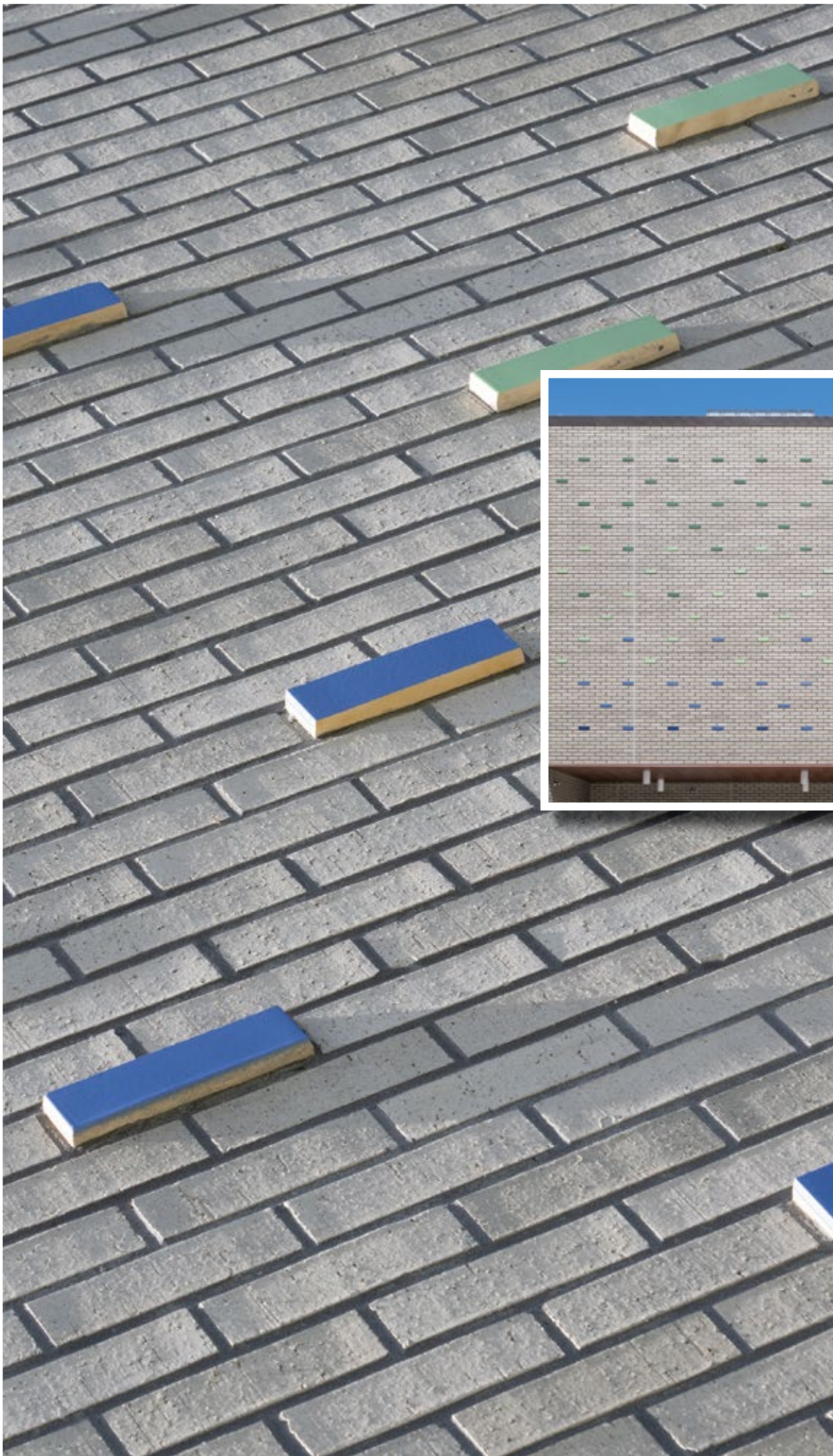
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The Elements of an Elementary School

This LEED Silver job features modular Acme Brick from the Perla plant, glazed brick accents, and steel siding.

The Fort Bend ISD Lakeview Elementary School replacement campus supports students from early-childhood to fifth grade, with a capacity of 600 students. In addition to the traditional classroom, library, and support spaces, there are specialized classrooms for art, music, and special education components.



Lakeview Elementary School, Sugar Land, TX
architect Kirksey Architecture
mason Newcastle Masonry, Inc.

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