

# THE LINE

SPECIAL EDITION

THE MASONRY MAGAZINE OF TEXAS

Fall/Winter 2020

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS MASONRY COUNCIL

Volume 24, No. 3-4

## 2020 Golden Trowel Winner

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS  
AT ARLINGTON  
SCIENCE & ENGINEERING  
INNOVATION & RESEARCH  
BUILDING

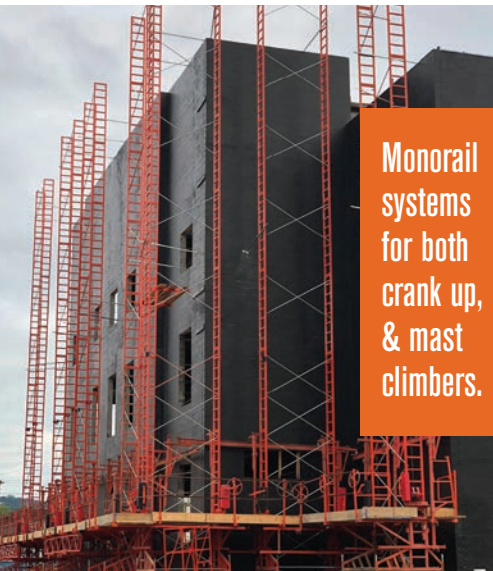
- Plus -  
Special Edition  
2020 Golden Trowel  
Award Brochure

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AUGUST 4-6, 2021  
THE LINE HOTEL, AUSTIN, TX

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## On the Level

FALL/WINTER 2020

TONY TOPPING, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## 2020 Wrap-up

We made it. The year 2020 ushered in many changes at TMC. Many of those changes have been positive and welcome. Our new focus on workforce development has been needed for many years. The addition of Kevin Ruiz as our Masonry Education Coordinator has already resulted in high school students looking at

masonry careers in a different light. TMC Board of Director seat allocations will give masonry contractors more representation on the board - making TMC a mason contractor led organization.

But, some of the changes were unexpected and certainly not welcomed. We were forced to cancel our annual con-

vention robbing us of our opportunity to honor the great work of architects and our masons. Fortunately, we found a way to celebrate their work later in the year with our first ever virtual Golden Trowel Award Show. The creativity of the architects that designed this year's projects was matched only by the craftsmanship of the masons who brought the designs to life.

The cancellation of our convention also put a dent in the way we fundraise for the association. But again, late in the year, we were able to supplement our revenue with our first online and virtual Live Auction. We raised nearly \$80,000 that will go towards expanding our workforce development efforts. We send out a big thank you to all the suppliers who donated products and the contractors who purchased them.

The TMC staff is looking forward to great things in 2021. On January 1st Mackie Bounds of Brazos Masonry will take the reins as TMC's new president of the board. Mr. Bounds has set a clear agenda for us moving forward and we are eager to tackle it

We will continue to focus on legislative issues at the local and state level. We will recruit young people into the industry through our increased efforts in workforce development. Our success in our legislative and workforce efforts will pave the way for our drive to increase membership and fundraising for the organization.

As we begin 2021, I hope everyone in the masonry industry will stay committed to supporting, strengthening, and growing our industry for the benefit of all.

Thanks,

Tony Topping, Executive Director

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AUGUST 4 - 6, 2021

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**2020**  
Golden  
Trowel  
Winner

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SCIENCE & ENGINEERING  
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SCIENCE



With 25 years' masonry contracting experience, J&E Companies located in Grand Prairie, Texas, is proud to have provided their services in the construction of the University of Texas at Arlington Science & Engineering Innovation & Research Building, and to have received the 2020 TMC Golden Trowel Award.

J&E's services include masonry, ICF, plaster, stucco, EIFS, drywall & framing and, over the years, the company has grown to be one of the most respected specialty subcontractors in Texas. The company specializes in all types of masonry projects from traditional brick, block, and stone, to hardscape, landscape, paving, water features, and masonry restoration.

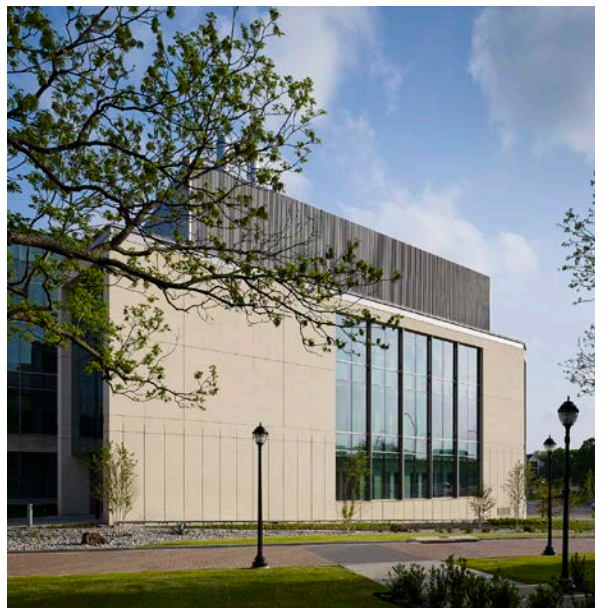
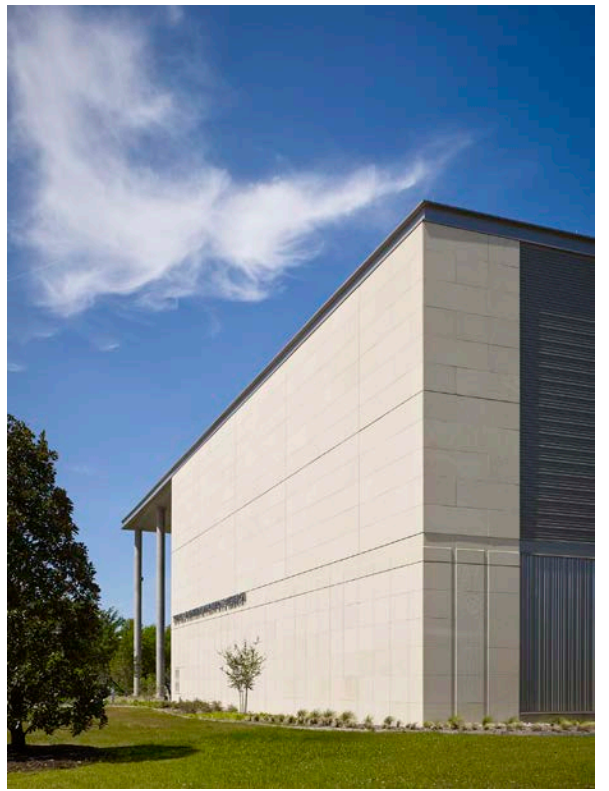
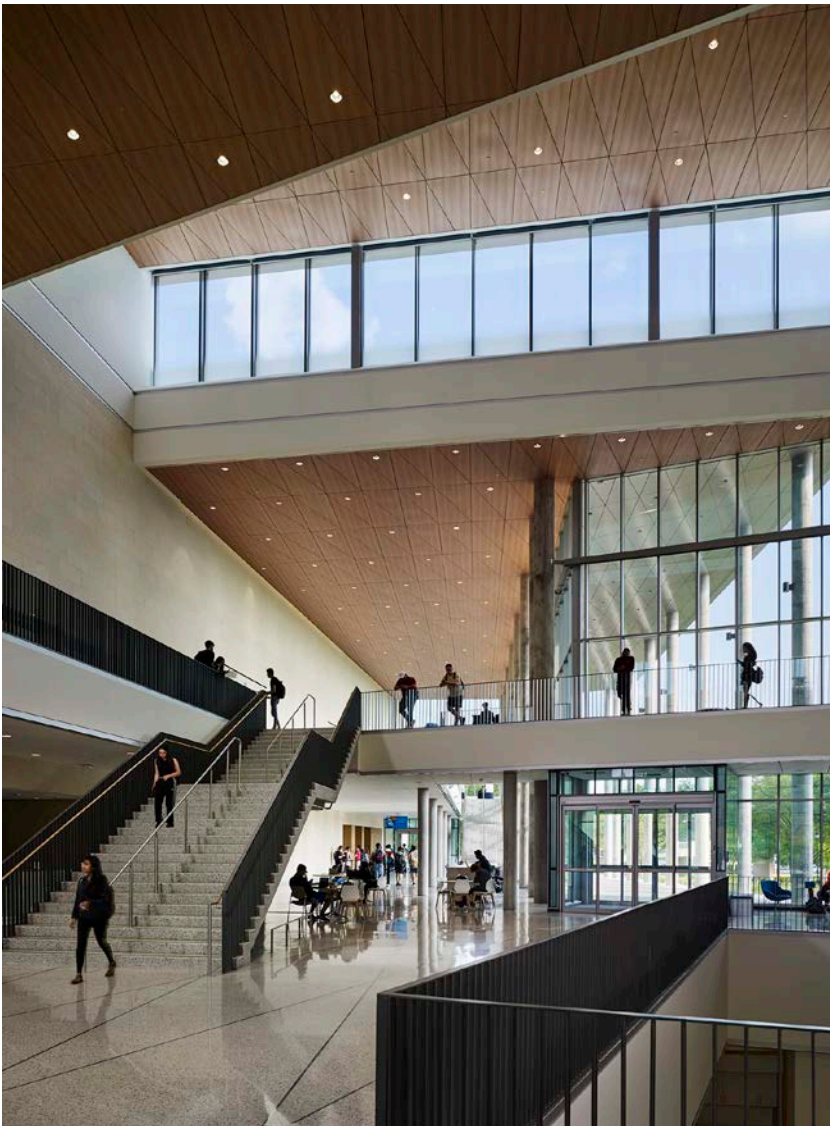
In this UT Arlington project, approximately 1,062 tons of fabricated Texas Limestone was used. We are proud of the intricate anchorage details particularly the blind anchored

soffits that weighed 700-1200 pounds. Schedule, site conditions, access, size, and weight of the pieces were just a few of the challenges.

In addition to providing high-quality masonry construction, at J&E safety is a high priority – we do not leave safety to chance. Our safety culture focuses on remaining 100 percent free of injuries, reducing exposure to risks, and sending our employees home safely every single day. We utilize comprehensive employee and foreman training programs led by OSHA-certified instructors. We also have jobsite inspections, checklists, and reporting, as well as project-specific safety plans, pre-task plans, and jobsite hazard analysis (JHA).

To contact us regarding your next project or to inquire about a career at J&E, you can reach us at [info@je-co.com](mailto:info@je-co.com) or (817) 686-3220.







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**2020 VIRTUAL  
JUDGING RESULTS**

November 18, 2020  
12:00 PM

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*Oxley Williams Sharp Architects*

**Merritt “Bud” Johnson**  
*Grand Prairie ISD*

**Jesus Pineda, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C**  
*Perkins & Will*

**Joshua Medina**  
*Perkins & Will*

**Wayne Smith**  
*Wayne Smith Masonry*

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Special Thanks to  
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2018 - 2020

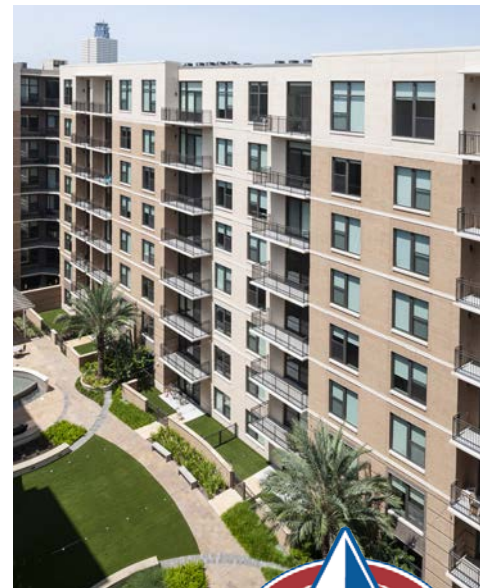
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**2021**  
*Annual Convention*

**AUGUST 4 - 6, 2021**

01

# MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL



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ZCA Residential, LLC

MASON:  
Camarata Masonry Systems, Ltd.

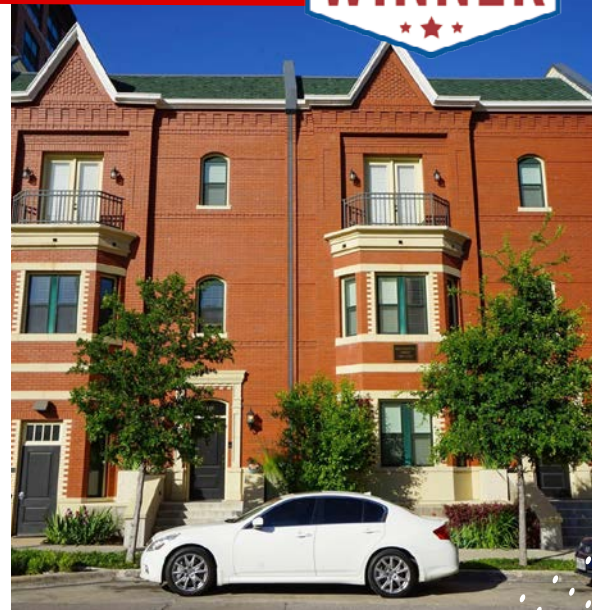
SUPPLIERS:  
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Jewell, an Oldcastle Company  
Mustang Metal & Supply Co. | Siteworks, Inc.



# GABLES MCKINNEY AVE UMCA

**ARCHITECT:**  
WDG Architecture  
Dallas, PLLC  
**MASON:**  
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**SUPPLIERS:**  
Advanced Architectural Stone | Blackson Brick Company  
Hohmann & Barnard, Inc. | Jewell, an Oldcastle Company  
TNT Equipment Company, Inc.



02

# GOVERNMENT & INSTITUTIONAL



## PROSPER TOWN HALL & LIBRARY

UMCA

ARCHITECT:  
Randall Scott Architects, Inc.

MASON:  
Skinner Masonry, LLP

SUPPLIERS:  
Advanced Architectural Stone | Blackson Brick Company  
Builders Equipment & Supply Co.  
Hohmann & Barnard, Inc. | Texas Building Products, Inc.



# WESTLAKE FIRE STATION UMCA

ARCHITECT:  
BRW Architects  
MASON:  
J&E Companies

SUPPLIERS:  
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Builders Equipment & Supply Co.  
Jewell, an Oldcastle Company  
Texas Building Products, Inc.





03

# INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL



## SPRINGHILL SUITES STOCKYARDS HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER UMCA

ARCHITECT:  
Nile Bolton Associates  
MASON:  
J&E Companies

SUPPLIERS:  
Builders Equipment & Supply Co. | Hohmann & Barnard, Inc. | Jewell, an Oldcastle Company  
Prosoco, Inc.



## ARRIVE HOTEL EAST AUSTIN CTMCA

ARCHITECT:  
Baldrige Architects  
MASON:  
Brazos Masonry, Inc.

SUPPLIERS:  
Hohmann & Barnard, Inc. | Jewell, an Oldcastle Company | Upchurch Kimbrough Company





# HOTEL ZAZA GABLES REPUBLIC SQUARE AMCH

**ARCHITECT:**  
ZCA Residential, LLC

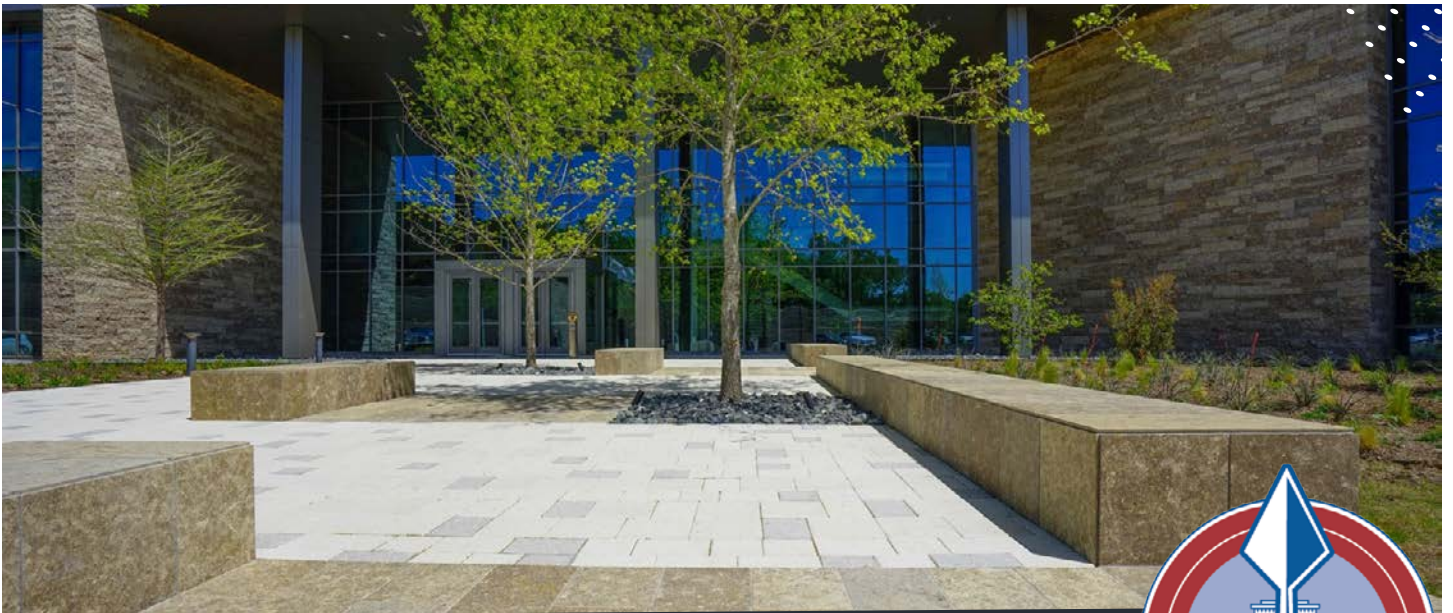
**MASON:**  
Camarata Masonry  
Systems, Ltd.

**SUPPLIERS:**  
AHI Supply | Best Block  
Mustang Metal & Supply Co. | Siteworks, Inc.  
Spec Rents | Upchurch Kimbrough Company



# 04

# HARDSCAPE & LANDSCAPE



**TD AMERITRADE** UMCA

ARCHITECT:  
GFF

MASON:  
ROC Construction, Inc.

SUPPLIERS:

AHI Construction Products | Amerimix | Best Block  
Hohmann & Barnard, Inc. | Texas Quarries





## HOUSTON BOTANIC GARDEN AMCH

**ARCHITECT:**  
West 8

**MASON:**  
Camarata Masonry  
Systems, Ltd.

**SUPPLIERS:**  
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Jewell, an Oldcastle Company  
Mustang Metal & Supply Co.  
Upchurch Kimbrough Company



05

# K - 12 EDUCATION



## SAN MARCOS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CTMCA

ARCHITECT:  
Perkins & Will

MASON:  
Brazos Masonry, Inc.

SUPPLIERS:  
AHI Construction Products | Boral Concrete Products  
Continental Cut Stone | Advanced Architectural Stone, Inc.  
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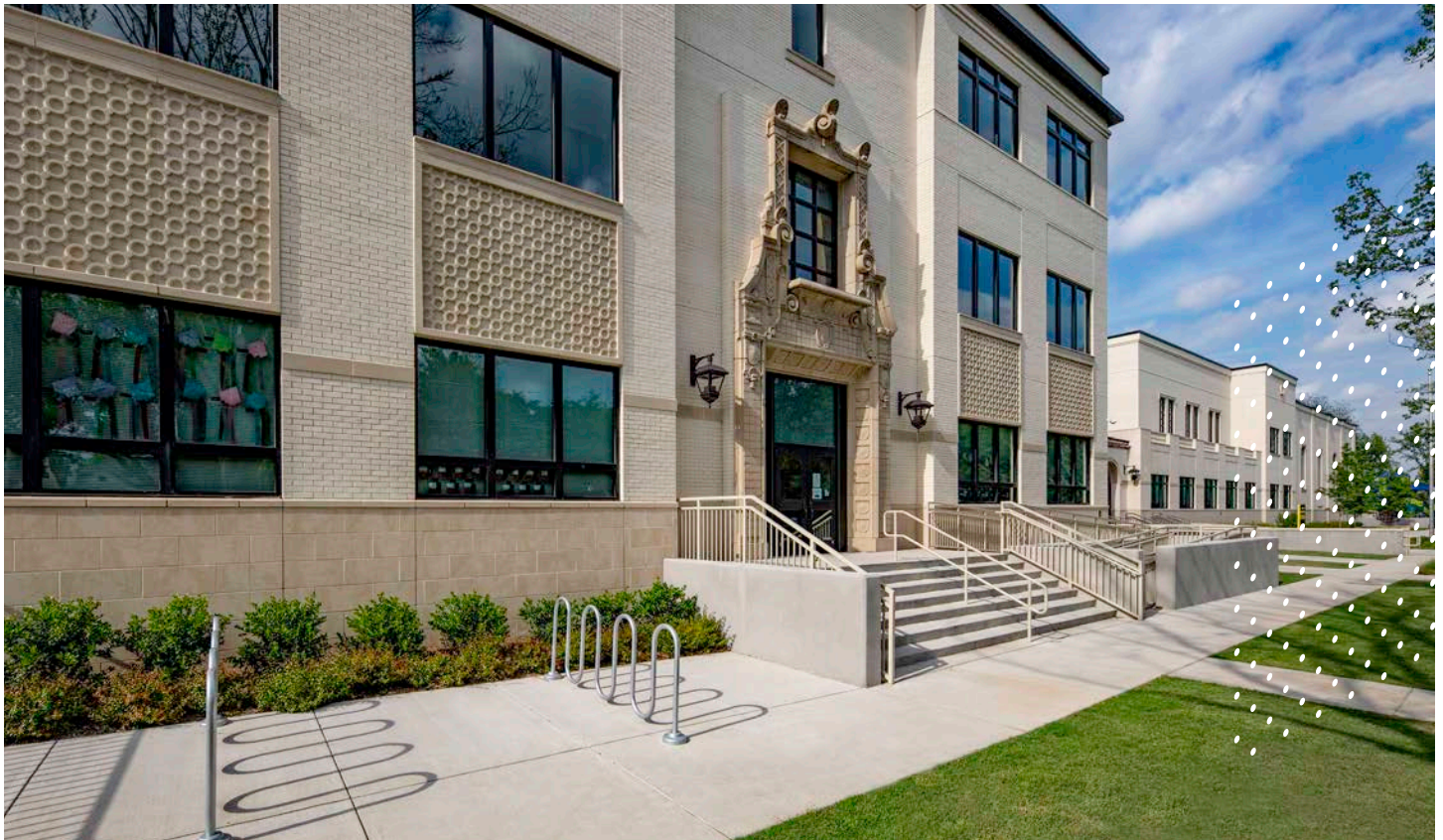


# BRADFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UMCA

ARCHITECT:  
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MASON:  
Skinner Masonry, LLP

SUPPLIERS:  
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Builders Equipment & Supply Co. | Cisco Supply, LTD  
Texas Building Products, Inc.



# 06

# COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY



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CTMCA

**ARCHITECT:**  
Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.

**MASON:**  
Brazos Masonry, Inc.

**SUPPLIERS:**  
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**MASON:**  
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CTMCA

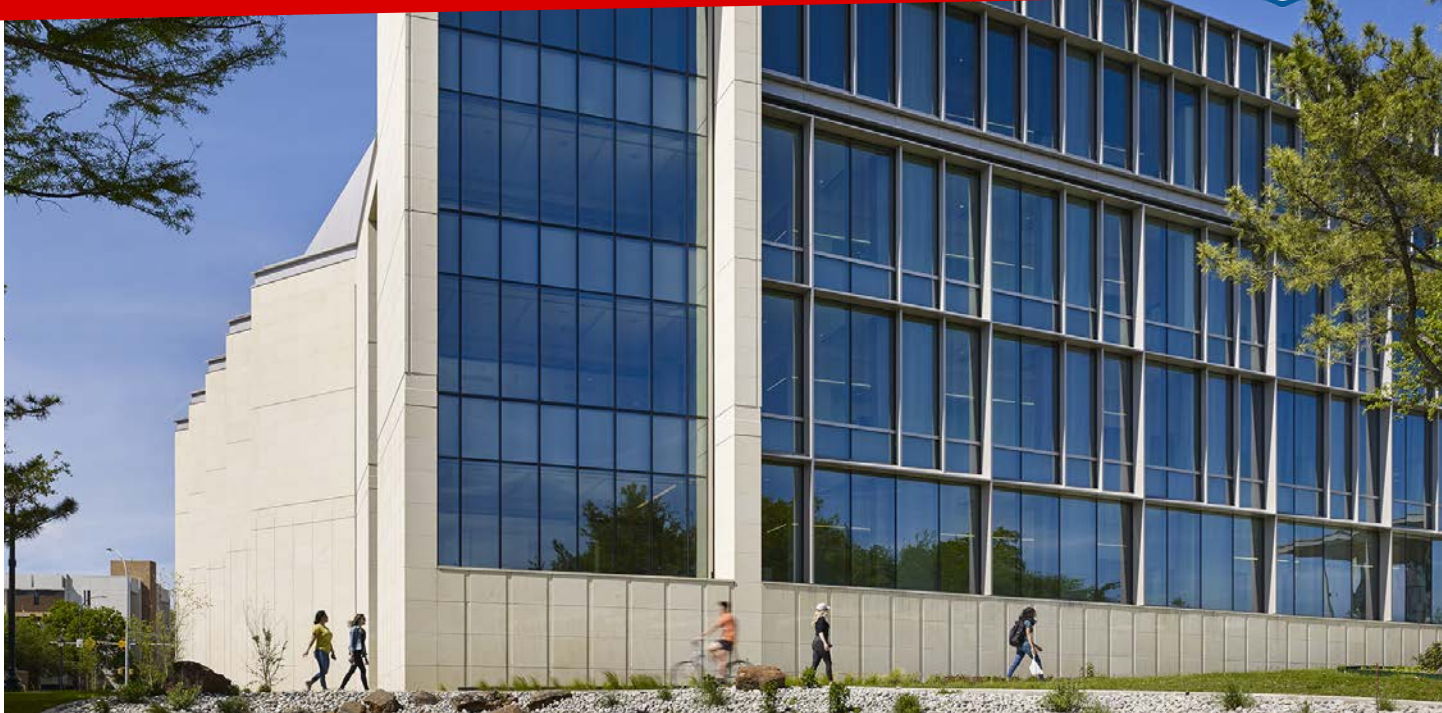


ARCHITECT:  
Page/

MASON:  
J&E Companies

SUPPLIERS:

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Hilti, Inc. | Hohmann & Barnard, Inc. | Prosoco, Inc.  
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# 07

# BLOCK



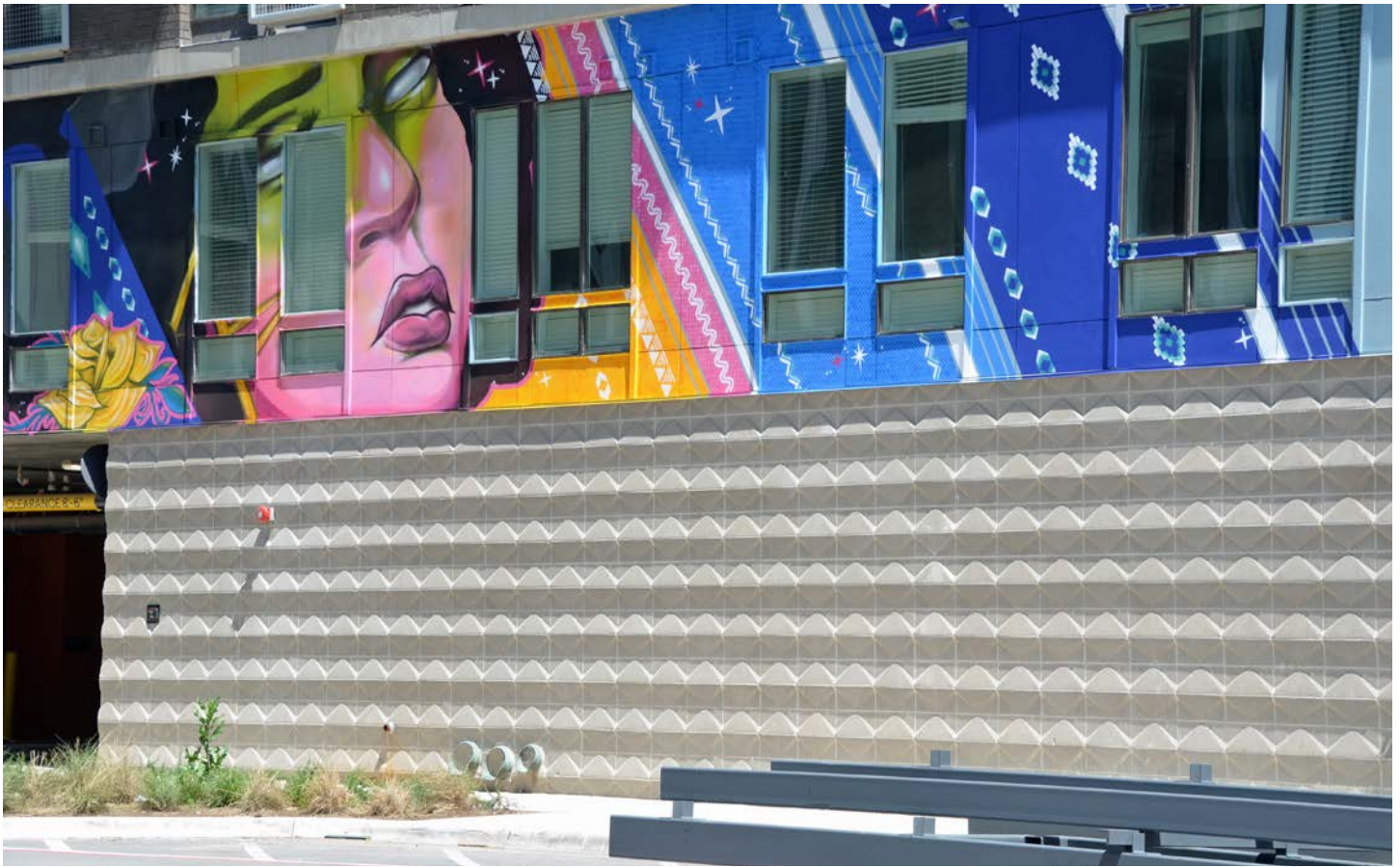
## PROSPER ISD CHILDREN'S HEALTH STADIUM UMCA

**ARCHITECT:**  
Huckabee

**MASON:**  
Skinner Masonry, LLP

**SUPPLIERS:**  
Acme Brick Company | Builders Equipment & Supply Co.  
Houston Foam and Plastics | Jewell, an Oldcastle Company





## PLAZA SALTILLO CTMCA

ARCHITECT:  
JHP Architecture / Urban Design  
MASON:  
Brazos Masonry, Inc.

SUPPLIERS:  
Acme Brick Company  
Hohmann & Barnard, Inc.



# 08

# RESTORATION



Before



During



After

## TEMPLE ISD & WESTERN HILLS CTMCA

ARCHITECT:  
Stantec  
MASON:  
Legacy Masonry

SUPPLIERS:  
Acme Brick Company | AHI Construction Products | Best Block  
Espinoza Stone | Hohmann & Barnard, Inc.



# BAKER BUNKHOUSE CTMCA

OWNER:  
Texas Audubon

MASON:  
Nick's Bricks Masonry & Stone

SUPPLIERS:  
Boral Concrete Products | Lehigh White Cement Co.



*Before*



*During*



*After*



# GOLDEN TROWEL AWARDS

## OUR PAST PRESIDENTS

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Ben Wheaton, 2017  
Thad Cleckler, 2016, 2015, 2012  
Romeo Collazo, 2014, 2013  
Rick Dunn, 2011, 2010  
Kevin Camarata, 2009  
Paul Odom, 2008  
Anton Shadrock, 2007  
Rob Barnes, 2006  
Mel Oller, 2005  
Jim Jones, 2004  
Ron Wickes, 2003  
Danny Green, 2002  
Trey Atwood, 2001  
Dan Martinelli, 2000  
Paul Hoggett, 1999, 1998  
Jimmy Alvey, 1997

Paul Yeatts, 1996, 1985  
Scott Sutherland, 1995  
Mel Oller, 1994  
Sid Smith, 1993, 1984  
Robert Byrne, 1992  
John Hoggatt, 1991  
Dwayne Vernon, 1990  
David Veazey, 1989  
Bo Bartlett, 1988  
David Sutherland, 1987  
Jim Reynolds, 1986  
Robert V. Byrnes, Jr., 1983  
Walter T. Vernon, 1982  
Gene Lee, 1981  
Ken McCurdy, 1980  
Dee Brown, 1979, 1963  
Henry Beckham, 1978

G.W. Veazey, 1977  
Robert L. Fenimore, 1976  
J.L. Hankey, 1975  
Rollin Lord, 1974  
Gene Lee, 1973  
Vernon Emory, 1972  
Turner Smith, Jr., 1971  
Bill Dendy, 1970  
Dan Buel, 1969  
Gerald Sutherland, 1968, 1964  
W.W. Bartlett, 1967  
C.W. Prewitt, 1966  
Robert J. Fenimore, 1965  
Bill Courtney, 1962  
Herman May, 1961  
W.B. Slayden, 1960

TEXAS MASONRY COUNCIL



## THE 1ST ANNUAL MASONRY ROCKS! Student Project Competition

Members of the Texas Masonry Council Workforce Development Committee have devoted countless hours to developing and launching a new workforce development program focused on recruiting young people into the industry. That effort led to the hiring of Kevn Ruiz as TMC's first Masonry Education Coordinator.

A main component of Kevin's job is to build relationships with CTE instructors and administrators across the state with the goal of building interest in accredited Masonry Classes.

One of Kevin's first suggestions to help build interest among students was the creation of more masonry competitions. And with that, the first Annual Masonry Rocks! Student Project Competition was born.

TMC put out a call for project entries in early November. The entry form asked for the expected items - photos, description, materials used, etc. But Kevin wanted the students to give some thought about the challenges and difficulties they faced while completing their project. He wanted them to tell us the emotions they felt and the sense of accomplishment they had as they completed their project.

The 2020 winning projects show that there are young people in Texas learning a trade that can lead to a lifelong career in masonry. We are so proud of the work these students submitted and hope next we will have entries from students from every corner of Texas.

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# THE 2020 MASONRY ROCKS! STUDENT COMPETITION WINNERS

## COLLEGE & APPRENTICE

### Winner

Marvin Melara - Dallas College: Northlake Campus

#### Materials:

- 98 Gray Block
- 250 Brick
- 10 Bags of Masonry Cement
- 10 Buckets of Sand (5 gallon)

#### Quote from Marvin

“I constructed a project called “Capill.” It is a chapel to pray and worship. Completing this project gives me great pride because it is something that will bring my family together.”



### 2nd Place

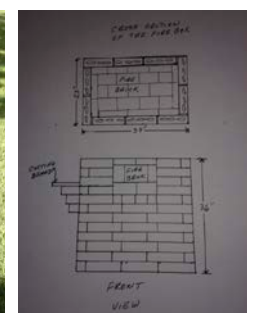
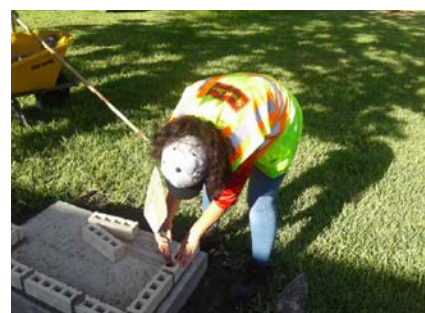
Sadat Gutierrez - Texas State Technical College

#### Materials:

- 120 - 10" brick
- 25 fire brick
- Two bags of masonry cement
- Mortar sand
- ½" rebar

#### Quote from Sadat

“It gave me a sense of pride to know that this project will last a long time. Also, it was hot working in 90-degrees, but the end project was worth it.”



# THE 2020 MASONRY ROCKS! STUDENT COMPETITION WINNERS

## HIGH SCHOOL

### Winner

Brycen McLaurin - Grand Prairie High School

#### Materials:

84 Red Brick

6 Dark Red Brick

9 - 4"x16" Gray Block

#### Quote from Brycen

**"I am submitting a modular brick wall with a projected header panel with soldiers. Upon completion of the masonry program under my instructor Mr. Johnson at Grand Prairie High School I will seek employment within the masonry field."**



### 2nd Place

Julia Lopez - Grand Prairie High School

#### Materials:

38 Brick

4 Glass Brick

Cement



#### Quote from Julia

**"I felt great about myself with how I started working on the project. I focused a lot on it and got better little by little. Adding the lights inside the project was amazing and made it stand out and look like a Christmas tree. Except it wasn't a tree at all... it was made of bricks."**

### 3rd Place

Victoria Sanchez - Harlingen High School

#### Materials:

51 Modular Brick

4 - 8" CMU

2 - 8" CMU Caps



#### Quote from Julia

**"Unfortunately, the state masonry competition was cancelled this year due to coronavirus. I am happy that this contest is available because competition makes you improve and refine your skills. I am proud of this project."**





## HERE WE GO AGAIN!

*By the time you read this, the 47th Regular Session of the Texas legislature will be underway. What should we expect?*

**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.*

### **No Contested Speaker Race**

Following the controversy which dogged last session's speaker, there was a general expectation that the race for Speaker of the House would be hotly contested - the wielder considerable power in the Texas legislature. Following a bout of unexpected pre-session consensus-building, Representative Dade Phelan is expected to be easily elected to the post. The good news about this, of course, is that there will not be a long and contentious speaker is that the beginning of the session.

Rep. Phelan sponsored HB 2349 in the last session, the bill that ultimately passed substantially restricts local governments' rights to implement building codes guiding the development and quality of their communities and protecting their tax bases. Relief from the unintended consequences of that legislation may be hampered by Rep. Phelan's speakership, because some legislators may be unwilling to go against legislation which the presumptive Speaker sponsored. The challenge, of course, will be to demonstrate to legislators that prudent changes are called for. Already, as this is written, the first bill to modify that legislation has been filed, one which would exempt communities of 25,000 or fewer population from the effects of HB 2349.

### **Then, there is the Budget...**

Texas legislators are accustomed to having a solid tax revenue base, easily achieving a balanced budget allowing for substantial state services, plus a healthy surplus. The pandemic has slashed tax revenues in pretty much all categories, so the state will be contending with significant budget constraints; Comptroller Glenn Hegar has projected a \$4.58 Billion shortfall. Anticipate a vigorous fight over money for state programs, and as a result, substantial difficulty in getting as much legislation through as we might hope.

### **Did someone say, "Pandemic"?**

Operationally, it is anything but "business as usual" at the

capitol; again, as this is written, anyone wanting to visit the capitol to do business is required to take a COVID-19 rapid test, and wait for the results, before entering the building. With recently approved vaccines coming online, there could be some consideration given for those who have been vaccinated, but because broad access to the vaccines is months away for most of us, expect much greater difficulty in getting face-to-face with your legislators and their staff.

### **Texas Construction Association Legislative Priorities**

The Texas Construction Association (TCA) advocates for subcontractors, including TMC members. Issues TCA will be tending-to this year include the perennial favorite, Mechanics Lien Reform, relief from the consequences on contractors of defects in designs, preemption of aggressive municipal employment practices ordinances and improving the right of contractors to repair alleged defects in private projects before litigation can start.

After last session's experience in attempting to amend the mechanics lien law (the existing law was very nearly gutted!), expect efforts on coalition building and minor but useful changes to simplify the lien law.

As to liability for design defects, we can all agree that it is unfair for contractors to be responsible for failures in construction projects which result from poor design, rather than poor workmanship. Legislation filed in the 46th Legislature garnered a great deal of interest but did not pass; anticipate another effort to move this beneficial legislation forward this session.

Activist local governments (especially the cities of Austin, San Antonio, and Dallas) have sought to impose ordinances on small businesses including the much-maligned Paid Sick Leave initiative. Legal challenges have effectively left the Austin ordinance unenforceable, and by reference, the Dallas and San Antonio laws are likely unenforceable as well. Watch, however,

for proponents of such local ordinances to cite the coronavirus pandemic as justification for intrusive local ordinances. This may not be the session to fix this problem.

The "Right to Repair" doctrine may be ripe for some action; the 2019 legislature adopted HB 1999, creating a presumptive right to repair on public works projects, but the legislations effects have not yet been tested. We can hope that the legislature may be interested in expanding this right to private projects.

### Then There Was a Presidential Election!

With controversial but apparently settled election results, Joseph Biden's incoming administration bring with it the promise of substantial changes in the federal government's approach to many areas of governance specifically significant changes in policies on climate change, energy, and labor law.

President-elect Biden has promised organized labor that his administration will be reinstating much more liberal policies for union organizing campaigns including provisions enabling expedited organizing and union representation election campaigns, and requiring that employers make available, for use by unions and organizing efforts, company employee information and resources. These could include requiring access to company-owned email resources and employee file contents.

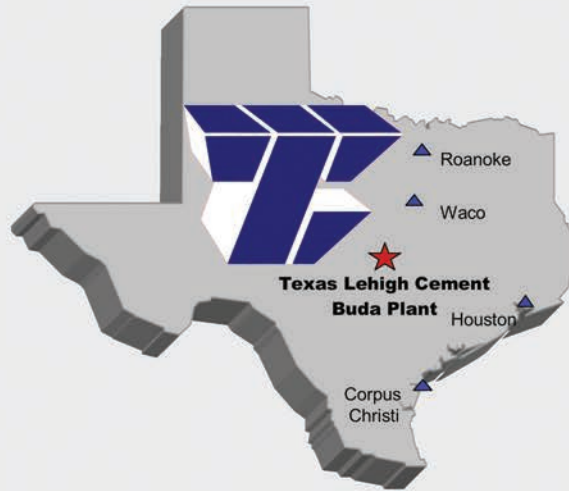
Promised restrictions on drilling and enhanced recovery operations promise to significantly increase energy costs for us all, including the construction industry, and dramatic increases in corporate taxes will impact employers disproportionately, as well.

All in all, it promises to be a tumultuous year, but in the end, we are still fortunate to be here in Texas, where prospects for business are simply better than most other places.

**Don't forget:** if the TMC or TCA call on you to contact your legislators to advocate for legislation, please answer the call; your legislators care what you think, and they will listen.

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## Savannah Cultural Arts Center, Savannah GA

"Any brick wall is a series of small 'stones,' expressly designed to be the scale of a human hand. I've used brick in almost every project I've ever done. The human element was the great accomplishment of this project, and I can't think of any other material—even natural stone—with the integrity to do that. Brick as a material is absolutely the work of human hands."

— Patrick Shay, AIA, LEED AP, Principal, GMSHAY

Richard Leo Johnson



## St. Vincent, Austin

"Mockups collaboratively with our talented masons, contractors, and owners were key to the design. This is especially true when working with gray bricks, which are like chameleons, and look very different in different light and orientations. The team really enjoyed working with brick, as there are endless permutations possible within a very rigid system."

— Jonathan Smith, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, Associate Partner, Lake | Flato Architects



## Central Academic Building, Texas A&M University San Antonio

"We designed to reflect historic traditions. We looked at variations, patterns, and shadow effects we could achieve with a single modular brick. Acme was willing to reconsider manufacturing to create the right look with a blade cut brick, and shave costs by creating a thin brick for monumental archways. Acme's local sourcing was important in efforts to build responsibly."

— Geof Edwards, AIA, Principal, Muñoz & Company



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## Washington Heights Elementary School, Fort Worth ISD

"The brick patterning and color scheme make clear this is an elementary school—playful and colorful—a place where kids come."

— Gary Griffith, AIA, LEED AP, Fort Worth ISD

"We used masonry to tie the whole building together. Acme Brick was a simple material we could use in interesting ways to celebrate the special parts of the building and handle the challenges of a tight plan."

— Roberto Ramirez, AIA, WRA Architects

