

**C M U**

# *Profiles in Architecture*

**Winners of the  
2002 CMACN  
Concrete Masonry  
Design Awards**



*Included are the Jury Comments  
delivered by Jury Chairman:  
Robin M. Ellerthorpe, FAIA*

*Co-sponsored by:*  
**AIA California Council**

*Presented by:*  
**Air Vol Block, Inc.**  
**Angelus Block Company, Inc.**  
**Basalite Concrete Products**  
**Blocklite**  
**Calstone Company, Inc.**  
**Desert Block Company, Inc.**  
**McNear Brick and Block**  
**ORCO Block Company**  
**R C P Block and Brick, Inc.**  
**Valley Block Company**

**California Cement  
Promotion Council**

*Visit our web site:*  
**[www.cmacn.org](http://www.cmacn.org)**



C

M

U

*Profiles in Architecture*GRAND  
AWARDS**CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL**

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

**Jury Comments**—This is a complex project with a challenging site – like a small city. The jury found this project incredibly elegant and well detailed. Viewed close up and then from a distance, one can see the variety of dimension and detail that set it apart. The subtle symbolism and ornamentation are exquisite. Overall a seamless project, well deserving of the Grand Award.

The challenge was to design a new home for Congregation Beth Israel to serve both current and future needs, while providing a link to the past. This third home for the region's oldest and largest Jewish congregation moves the community from its 1926 facility with its domed Sanctuary and beautiful stained glass, to a new 65,000-square-foot facility that includes a pre-school, day school and religious school, administrative offices, chapel, social hall and a Sanctuary accommodating 500 worshippers. Exterior spaces include terraces, courtyards and playfields.

This relatively small 3.6-acre sloping site with mature coral trees on the northern end provided both challenges and opportunities during the design process. Early planning of the facility sought to minimize the costs associated with the extensive site work and the required retaining walls. The completed facility, however, with its multiple levels, courtyards for gathering and tall walls, provides the Congregation with a sense of community. Pedestrian movement is from secular space, through courtyards, entry kiosks and vestibules to the sacred space of the Sanctuary.

Inspired by the City of Jerusalem, the Architects shaped building forms, selected materials and created spaces that provide a connection to the

“Old City.” Domes over the Sanctuary, chapel and school science room evoke the sense of early synagogues. Concrete masonry block capped with precast concrete was selected to reinforce Congregants' perceptions of permanence. The tall masonry facades move seamlessly from the exterior to the interior of the buildings. The striped patterning of the masonry is reminiscent of the patterns of the traditional “*talit*” or prayer shawl.

The concrete masonry includes a “sourdough” color split-face block and a custom white cement “bead-blasted” block. Grout joints are colored to match the adjacent block. Joints are struck deeply in a large pattern to provide the reference to larger elements.

**ARCHITECT:**

**Austin Veum Robbins Parshalle**  
600 West Broadway, Suite 200  
San Diego, CA 92101

Douglas H. Austin, FAIA  
*Principal*

Randy S. Robbins, AIA  
*Principal*

Michael Engel, AIA  
*Project Architect*

**OWNER:**

**Congregation Beth Israel**





C M U

*Profiles in Architecture***OVERALL RESIDENCE***MONTECITO, CALIFORNIA*

**Jury Comments**—*Although masonry is not strongly visible on the project, the entire structure relies on it. This residence is beautiful, simple and well carried out.*

Concrete masonry is an integral design component in the successful architectural design solution for the Overall Residence, a premium quality custom residence located in Montecito, California. The inherent strength, non-combustibility and efficiency qualities of concrete masonry block construction make it well suited for the project's challenging structural and fire protection requirements.

The residence design is clad inside and out with imported Italian limestone panels. The use of concrete masonry block at strategic areas provides an excellent structural framework that integrates well with the stone cladding to provide a very efficient, cost effective and watertight system of installation.

Concrete masonry block provides the high level of structural strength required for the project's large-scale limestone clad walls and massive chimney elements. Tall wall heights and the substantial weight of stone cladding resulted in very challenging structural design requirements. Concrete masonry block meets these demanding requirements providing the necessary structural strength and lateral support.

Construction with concrete masonry block provided the design capabilities and flexibility necessary to create the expansive openings and unique detailing of the custom Rumford-style fireplaces. The fireplaces are critical elements of the residence aesthetic design and are the main focal elements of the living room, family room and study. Neumann Mendro Andrulaitis

Architects worked closely with the general contractor and mason to achieve custom fireplace designs that are dramatic design elements, but just as importantly, function well for the client's everyday use.

Fire safety is a paramount concern for our client. The project is situated on a steep, remote hillside site that is prone to significant seasonal forest fire danger. The residence also has three large-scale wood burning fireplaces. The non-combustibility of concrete masonry block construction makes it a natural choice to provide fire protection for the fireplaces, columns, and selected exterior walls of the structure.

Concrete masonry block construction facilitated Neumann, Mendro Andrulaitis Architects vision for a unique, dynamic, contemporary residence design solution appropriate for a high fire danger.

**ARCHITECT:**

**Neumann Mendro Andrulaitis Architects**  
888 Linden Avenue  
Carpinteria, CA 93013

Andy Neumann  
*Partner*

Dave Mendro  
*Partner*

Mary Andrulaitis  
*Partner*

**OWNER:**

**Jack and Sheri Overall**



C M U

*Profiles in Architecture*

## BIBLIOTECA LATINOAMERICANA & WASHINGTON UNITED YOUTH CENTER

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

*This project responds well to the Latin culture and heritage and is an excellent example of the range of uses available with concrete masonry. We loved the protective and complex nature of the "La Entrada" wall and were also taken by how engaging and impressive the project is when lit at night.*

Located along the historic stagecoach route leading into San Jose, the Biblioteca Latinoamericana and Washington United Youth Center anchors a redevelopment parcel surrounded by commercial, educational and residential uses one mile south of downtown.

The 15,000 square foot library plays a central role in both local and regional community life by housing one of the state's largest collections of Latin American literature. "La Entrada," a primary architectural element of the project, is a concrete masonry block and clay brick abstract tapestry that narrates the history of Anglo and Latin American relations. A traditional geometric motif taken from historic Latino culture serpentine across the wall and is engaged by a free form abstract mass of masonry influenced by abstract modern paintings. The weave of the two symbolizes historical precedent and modernism.

The 17,000 square foot youth center also serves a central role in community life. It houses a gymnasium, boxing/weightlifting, multi-purpose room, game room, staff offices, classroom and parent/teen counseling rooms. It is constructed

primarily of expressed concrete masonry block in complementary colors and similar textures to the library.

Concrete masonry block was always the main building material consideration for a project that had budget constraints and requirement for architecture that demanded a sense of permanency and strength. The unique patterning of the masonry utilizes three different colors and smooth, striated, fluted and split-face texture serves to make the community proud of the buildings and has discouraged graffiti vandalism due to that community pride.

### ARCHITECT:

**Steven Ehrlich Architects**  
10865 Washington Blvd.  
Culver City, CA 90232

Steven Ehrlich  
*Design Architect*

**Garcia Teague Architecture + Interiors, Inc.**  
1998 The Alameda, Suite 1  
San Jose, CA 95126

Gilbert M. Garcia, AIA  
*Executive Architect/Architect of Record*

Wendy Teague, ASID, CID  
*Interior Design Principal*

**OWNERS:**  
**City of San Jose**



C

M

U

*Profiles in Architecture*HONOR  
AWARDS**STANFORD SHOPPING CENTER EXPANSION  
RETAIL PAVILION: WILKES BASHFORD STORE**

PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

*Jury Comments—Every detail of this project was well done and pulled together. The Jury was impressed with how the architect used concrete masonry on details such as the eaves – something that isn't commonly done. We also liked how the masses of stone are tied together by materials that don't hide the masonry, but rather add to its appeal.*

The context of this project was to design a premium men's and women's clothier to be housed in a new freestanding 10,000 square foot pavilion at the Stanford Shopping Center in Palo, Alto California.

The design requirements of this project were to construct a highly visible building with four public facades and four important corners. This was to be accomplished using materials that convey elegance and high quality with enduring appearance that fit within the context of Stanford, the appearance of neighboring retail and the nearby University, all on a tight budget that called for design flexibility and low maintenance.

Concrete masonry units were selected as the primary building material for the retail pavilion, because aesthetic characteristics and technical flexibility resolve the primary design challenges. The building's design demonstrates an elegant expression of concrete masonry, a material more commonly used for efficiency and economy. Special modules of concrete masonry block 4-inches by 16-inches were custom colored, recalling the buff colored stone and masonry used to build the Stanford campus. The horizontal mortar joints between blocks are raked, while the vertical joints are struck flush to accentuate the

horizontality of the single story building and provide a textured, articulated finish.

Bearing concrete masonry is used both as a structural system and exterior finish, demonstrating concrete masonry block's versatility as a construction and finish choice and its capability to deliver cost efficiency to the client. The glazed aluminum storefronts read as light and transparent in contrast to the solidity of the façade's concrete masonry bearing wall. Aluminum framed fabric awnings at the street elevations provide shade and accentuate the retail windows. In contrast with the earth-tone of the concrete masonry block, concrete columns with steel canopies create arcades at north and south facades to announce the store's entries. Rich natural landscaping provides the finishing elegant touches that complement the building's concrete masonry block and glass design expression.

**ARCHITECT:****ELS Architecture and Urban Design**

2040 Addison Street  
Berkeley, CA 94704

Geno Yun, AIA  
*Principal*

**OWNER:**

**Stanford Management Company**



C M U

*Profiles in Architecture***PAN PACIFIC PARK RECREATION CENTER***LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA*

***Jury Comments**—The Jury loved the playfulness of the center and how it “Exploited the use of the materials.” The curving walls are very appealing and the horizontal accent striping is very well done. The glass block used to emit natural light is especially appealing at night.*

This recreation center occupies the site of the former Pan Pacific Auditorium that burned down in the late 1980’s, which architecturally and culturally represented a significant part of Los Angeles history. The City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks required that the new recreation center be designed in the spirit of the former Pan Pacific Auditorium.

Other design considerations for this project, placed on it by the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department, other City Departments and adjacent homeowners, were programmatic, materials, and a tight budget. As this project fronts a busy retail street it was important that this facility extend the park to the street and the street to the park, tying the two together.

To address these considerations, the mass of the building was broken down to avoid the typical “big box gym” in the park. The building and the landscaping were woven together. A tower feature, an abstraction of one of the original four ticket booth towers from the Pan Pacific Auditorium, was placed at the entrance of the center to signify it as the main entrance to the building.

The major building material for this structure is concrete masonry. All the exterior walls and the majority of the interior walls consist of split-face block and precision block with a single score. The serpentine and curving walls, which are used to break down the mass of the building and tie the building into the park, consist of all straight 8-inch by 8-inch block cut on the radius. Glass windows were prohibited from use do to security concerns; so glass block was used to emit natural light and was incorporated into concrete masonry block compositions. Internally, the concrete masonry block was used with reinforced concrete to create cantilever projections and flat arches in the lobby. Concrete masonry block used in conjunction with steel beams was used to create some of the major openings and the large curving light well above the information area.

**ARCHITECT:**

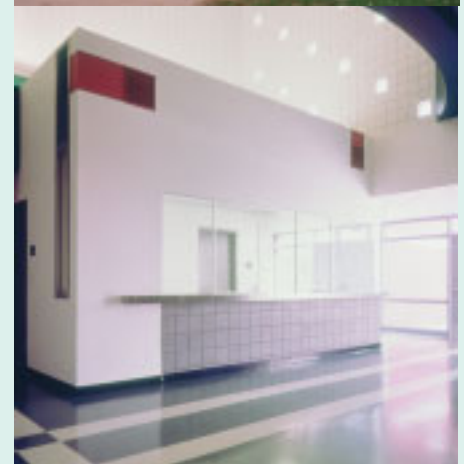
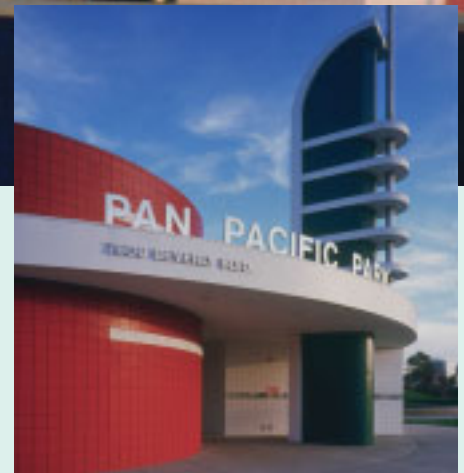
**Jeffrey M. Kalban and Associates**  
10780 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 120  
Los Angeles, CA 90025

Jeffrey M. Kalban  
*Design Principal*

Alain Sabbagh  
*Project Architect*

**OWNER:**

**City of Los Angeles, Department of  
Recreation and Parks**





C M U

*Profiles in Architecture*MERIT  
AWARD**THE MONASTERY OF THE THEOTOKOS,  
THE LIFE GIVING SPRING***DUNLAP, CALIFORNIA*

**Jury Comments**—*The Jury was enamored by the complexity of the masonry units and how they were used to form history with modern materials. They also liked how the project was sited on a mountaintop, creating a sense of strength and stability.*

The project challenge was to design a convent in the ancient tradition of the Holy Orthodox Church, rooted in the 6<sup>th</sup> century, on a 40-acre portion of a 400-acre secluded hillside site above an existing Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, California. This parcel is adjacent to King's Canyon National Park in the Sequoias. The site selection was based upon its seclusion, beauty, proximity and remoteness. An inspirational, twelve-minute walk that takes you progressively upwards to a place of repose and dignity, with a commanding view of the valley and mountains, reminiscent of monastery sites in Greece.

The Convent's design is rooted in the traditions and heritage of the monasteries such as St. Katherine's at Mt. Sinai and Mt. Athos. Phase 1 includes the new main church or "Katholikon," which is a dome cruciform church-walled city, creating a protective, stable and permanent sacred space within. As one approaches the convent, its strength and sense of stability is overwhelming as it sits majestically on the mountaintop. In future phases, the gateway and bell tower will lead one to the world within. This project is zoned into three general areas within, such as the public area, the nun's living quarters and work area or "Kelia" and the "Katholikon" or main church, which is the focal and pivotal point of the complex.

The substantial use of concrete masonry throughout the project was utilized in a unique way, keying it with the 6<sup>th</sup> century Byzantine masonry techniques. This was achieved by utilizing alternating rustic stone courses (split-face block) with smooth "tie" masonry courses (brick) and the creation of a new concrete masonry rusticated base shape that connects it to ancient times. The main church as the "crowning glory" of the monastery with its masonry textures, supports a series of minor and major domes, clad in copper, celebrating the heaven, the eternity, and God Almighty.

**ARCHITECT:**

**EKONA Architecture + Planning**  
121 Second Street, Suite 333  
San Francisco, CA 94105

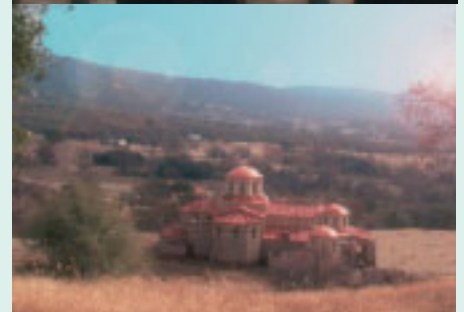
Christ J. Kamages, AIA  
*Design Principal*

John Hunter, AIA  
*Project Manager*

**OWNER:**

**The Greek Orthodox Metropolis  
of San Francisco**

His Eminence  
Metropolitan Anthony





C M U

*Profiles in Architecture*MERIT  
AWARD**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES  
KINROSS STAGING BUILDING**

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

*Jury Comments—The Jury felt the off-set, split-face of the concrete masonry units showed exemplary craftsmanship and innovation. We liked how color was used to clearly show the building's entry and throughout the interior as an organizing element. Overall, the sleek steel and glass against the rough concrete masonry made this project "sing."*

The new Kinross Staging Building was conceived as a permanent building for displaced departments on the University of California Los Angeles campus, while the departments' original facilities undergo renovations and upgrades. By responding to tight budget and schedule demands with ingenuity and creativity, Steven Ehrlich Architects provided a permanent campus structure consisting of 75,000 square feet of flexible classroom/lab/office space.

Desirable for its low cost, durability and tectonic expression, all gravity-resisting elements are comprised of exposed steel, whereas the shear resisting elements were built using fully grouted concrete masonry walls. This allowed for quick erection of the frame, but a variable pace for the installation of the concrete masonry. To add visual interest for the large masonry expenses, Steven Ehrlich Architects worked directly with the CMACN concrete masonry block manufacturer to develop a unique process for creating an offset split face unit. The splitting blade was moved by a quarter of an inch to yield a

half-inch overall offset, and units were erected in a random pattern. The collaborative process provided a product with enhanced texture and visual appeal, but at no extra cost for the manufacturer. Steel columns and beams were painted using a warm charcoal color that contrasted with exposed metal decks painted in light colors. Other portions of the exterior are clad with a corrugated, insulated and painted steel panel. Guardrails and balustrades are constructed of a common painted steel accented with brushed stainless steel handrails on two exterior stories that animate the campus with people in motion.

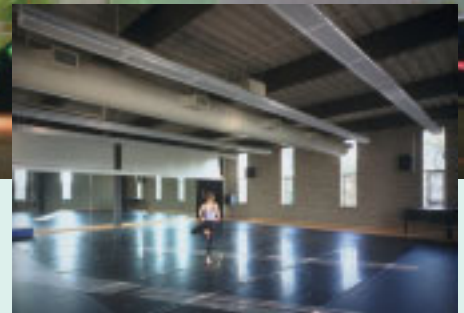
**ARCHITECT:**

**Steven Ehrlich Architects**  
10865 Washington Blvd.  
Culver City, CA 90232

Steven Ehrlich, FAIA  
*Principal*

**OWNER:**

**University of California, Los Angeles**





C

M

U

*Profiles in Architecture*MERIT  
AWARD**EXTENDED DAY CARE CENTER  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE**

IRVINE, CALIFORNIA

***Jury Comments**—The texture and form of the project attracted the Jury's attention. It responds to the site extremely well and is well articulated based on the design. The curved wall meets the local community and protects the children from it.*

The design of the Extended Day Care Center, creates a playful structure with simple elements:

- a sweeping curved precision concrete masonry block wall with 4-inch split-faced accented bands and clerestory windows
- three platonic cube-like precision concrete block rooms scattered as though tossed in place
- a simple metal shed roof floating over the concrete masonry block elements.

As a result of the juxtaposed elements, unexpected spaces are created making an environment of discovery for the children, staff and passersby. The use of concrete block was critical to the design intent, creating quality, security durability and character. This facility replaces the former classroom trailer and provides a safe and permanent presence for the UCI childcare program

The site is situated on a low berm along a curving university campus road. It is adjacent to campus housing, Residential Services Administration and another day care facility. The site is developed to accommodate safe and easy parking and drop-off from the street, as well as, a play yard nestled in a

small hill area away from the street. Due to the site's mild slope, there is a concrete masonry block retaining wall along the back of the yard, which provides for a large outdoor play area and bench-type seating.

The facility accommodates after school child care for 45 children between the ages of five and twelve in two classrooms that are convertible into one. Administration, computer and library, an open kitchen for class use and support are included. An essential part of the building program was to create a "light" environment that enhances the experience of after school day care for everyone using the building: children and adults alike. The expansive space and window walls do this.

**ARCHITECT:**

**R. L. Binder, FAIA Architecture & Planning**  
7726 81<sup>st</sup> Street  
Playa del Rey, CA 90293

Rebecca L. Binder, FAIA  
*Principal in Charge*

Kim Walsh, AIA  
*Principal/Project Architect*

**OWNER:**

**Regents of the  
University of California, Irvine**



C

M

U

*Profiles in Architecture*MERIT  
AWARD

## STEPPING STONE CENTRAL RESIDENTIAL RECOVERY FACILITY

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

*Jury Comments*—The Jury was impressed with the overall layout of this project. The massing of the buildings shows the various functions of the program well and creates a courtyard sanctuary with areas for planting. The building also protects its inhabitants from the community and vice versa.

Stepping Stone's 31-bed residential recovery program aims to create, sustain and extend life-enhancing alcohol and drug recovery and prevention services primarily to gays and lesbians in San Diego County. By offering a secure and caring environment, the center maintains an atmosphere of peer interaction and involvement, creating a setting where recovering people help other recovering people. Residents have the opportunity to live, attend support group meetings and interrelate socially within the facility.

A workshop involving staff, alumni and residents of the existing inadequate and deteriorating facility, generated a framework for the design solution. These goals were addressed by creating a central courtyard to provide organization, focus and comfort, two serenity gardens, offering opportunities for retreat and healing through scale and choice of plant materials, a central stair shaped as a "pump", providing the setting for "shows" and playfully addressing the residents. In addition, there are six separate buildings of varying materials, colors and textures, articulated

wood decks connecting buildings with a residential scale and detail and parking accessed from an alley and underneath the building.

In the design of this facility, concrete masonry block was selected to add hierarchy and scale. Split-faced concrete masonry block is offset with bands of precision concrete masonry block on the exterior of the stair tower and commons building. Split-face concrete masonry creates depth and shadow, while the precision concrete masonry bands reduce the scale. The block is exposed on the interior of these spaces as well, with a single score precision face concrete masonry block that reads as 8x8 tile and helps create a residential scale and feeling. In addition, concrete masonry block was used for site and retaining walls, because of its durability, ease of construction, scale and texture.

### ARCHITECT:

**Zagrodnik + Thomas Architects, LLP**  
2927 Meade Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92116

Jean Zagrodnik, AIA  
*Principal*

### OWNER:

**Stepping Stone of San Diego, Inc.**





C M U

*Profiles in Architecture***TEHIYAH DAY SCHOOL***EL CERRITO, CALIFORNIA*

*Jury Comments—The jury loves the critical form elements in this project; especially how the concrete masonry units support the gym and allow penetration of garage doors. We also felt the split face of smooth and glass block was beautifully done.*

This project is for a small private Jewish K through 8 school in the San Francisco Bay area. The new structure consists of a full sized gymnasium including bleachers, kitchen and support spaces, as well as Jewish Studies and Music classrooms. In addition to physical education and sporting events, the gym will also be used for all school assemblies and performances. Supplemental lighting, audio-visual and portable stage equipment was designed into the space.

The building is an addition to an existing campus of classrooms and administrative spaces in the midst of a residential neighborhood. It is sited against a steep hillside with homes overlooking the site. The primary design factor was to place the least “imposing” building possible.

The design team selected concrete masonry as the primary building material for the large volume of the gym. Appearance and durability

from both outside and inside were major considerations in this selection. Split-faced and smooth-texture horizontal bands were utilized to enhance the design. Large glass “garage doors” were inserted to bring maximum natural light into the gym as well as allow for simultaneous indoor-outdoor use.

**ARCHITECT OF RECORD:**

**Tom Eliot Fisch**  
228 Grant Avenue, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94108

Douglas Tom  
*Principal*

**DESIGN ARCHITECT:**

**SMWM**  
989 Market Street, 3rd floor  
San Francisco, CA 94103

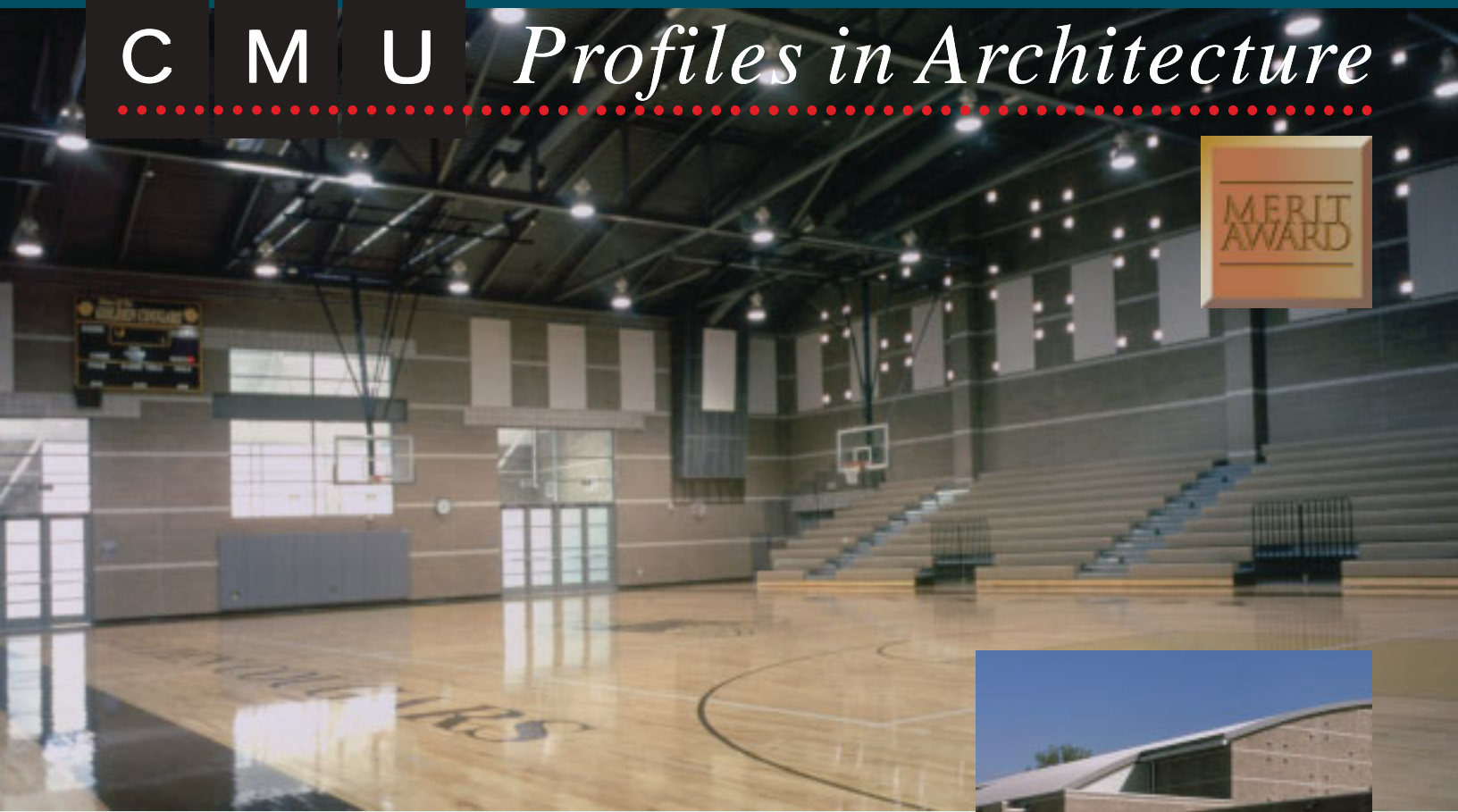
Bill Bondy  
*Project Architect*

**OWNERS:**

**Tehiyah Day School**



# C M U Profiles in Architecture



## LAUSD KENNEDY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

GRANADA HILLS, CALIFORNIA

*Jury Comments—The Jury was impressed with the interior of this project. We noted the warm inviting colors of the concrete masonry units and how glass blocked is used to let light in, yet still keep the environment secure for students. Many high schools today are struggling with form and how to deal with large expanses. We felt this project was very successful in breaking down scale.*

This new 44,000 square foot senior high school gymnasium is designed to be an integral part of an existing 40-acre Los Angeles Unified School District campus. The design employs the same color concrete block as existing campus buildings. Steel sunscreens are used to recall existing pre-cast campus cornices. The articulated masses of the two gymnasiums and locker room facilities become legible design features. Durable, maintainable burnished block accentuated with the varied use of split-faced, burnished and recessed bands of contrasting colored block and clear glass block patterns afford an animated facade while maintaining tight budget constraints.

The interior volume is expressed in the exterior form and the operative image of the paired vaulted roofs places the building as the gym, affords the wanted functional volume and assists in internal acoustics. The vault roof overhangs and steel elements provide functional sun-screening, as well as, legibility for the entry. The extended concrete masonry block streetscape wall

with its “window” punches and benches defines and secures the forecourt and the ticket booth. The building is sited on the street edge of the campus to allow the existing earthquake damaged gym to remain in use during construction of the new gym, as well as, to correct the siting of the original gym and enhance campus security. With the demolition of the original gym, the entire campus is now visible and secure without hidden yard areas.

### ARCHITECT:

**R. L. Binder, FAIA Architecture & Planning**  
7726 81<sup>st</sup> Street  
Playa del Rey, CA 90293

Rebecca L. Binder, FAIA  
*Principal in Charge*

Kim Walsh, AIA  
*Principal/Project Architect*

### OWNER:

**Los Angeles Unified School District**

