Old World Beauty

OWNER
Diocese of Belleville, IL

ARCHITECT
Cram and Ferguson Architects

ENGINEERS:
Hodge Structural Engineers

GENERAL CONTRACTOR
Poettker Construction Co.

MASON CONTRACTOR
Joseph F. Becker, Inc.

MATERIALS SUPPLIERS
Irwin Products, Inc.
Continental Cast Stone
Earthworks, Inc.

CRAFT WORKERS
Bricklayers’ Local #8
Southwest Illinois Laborers
#773 and #1197

St. Katerina Tekakwitha Catholic Church’s Gothic-inspired design pays homage to the original St. Joseph’s Church that was destroyed by a tornado in February 2012.

All that was left of the historic church was the Italian marble altar and part of the original bell tower.
The Catholic Church in Ridgeway, Illinois has been an anchor of that community since the late 1800s. So, when an EF4 tornado leveled the historic structure in February 2012, leaving behind only a pile of debris, the community of fewer than 1,000 residents was determined to rebuild it to its former glory. Constructed on the same site, a new church was erected in 2015 at a cost of $6 million, combining three parishes into one. Named for St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of the Mohawks, it is one of the first buildings to be named after the first North American saint canonized in 2012.

Designers at Massachusetts architectural firm Cram and Ferguson created a Gothic-inspired building, with a soaring 95-foot-high bell tower, capped by a 60-foot steeple. They turned to Joseph F. Becker, Inc. to handle the masonry work. Featuring locally quarried limestone throughout, with cast stone trim, balusters and window and door surrounds, the 10,000-square-foot church can be seen for miles around, once again a symbol of community pride.
Cast stone elements add detail and finishing touches to the church, such as this cross embedded into the limestone façade and ornamental trim drawing the eye upward toward the steeple.

The church was reinforced to resist tremors from the nearby seismic fault lines, as well as future wind storms.
The healthcare business is rapidly expanding and increasingly competitive. So, when companies look to build new urgent care clinics, they want it done quickly, professionally and on budget. Masonry provides the answer.

The new Mercy Clinic in Barnhart, MO, is one of three such facilities recently built by Jahnsen Masonry Contracting Company. Featuring CMU walls with an attractive brick veneer and cast stone contrasting accents, Jahnsen’s work on the 6,500-square-foot building was completed in approximately three weeks, on time and on budget.

Mercy says the look of its clinics are carefully evaluated to convey a sense that they are places where people can go to be healthy. To that end, Mercy and Bates Architects conducted extensive community research and feedback that led to a consistent design in all of its facilities. Masonry materials were chosen to help convey a warm and inviting environment, with easy access to make patients feel comfortable.

Masonry work on the 6,500-square-foot building was completed in approximately three weeks.

The white cast stone surrounding the entranceway contrasts with the adjacent natural stone pillars and brick walls to create a simple but appealing building that is instantly recognizable as a Mercy clinic.

OWNER
Pitt Development Group, LLC

ARCHITECT
Bates & Associates Architects

ENGINEER
Stock and Associates

GENERAL CONTRACTOR
Don C. Musick
Construction Co.

MASON CONTRACTOR
Jahnsen Masonry
Contractors, Inc.

MATERIALS SUPPLIERS
Midwest Block & Brick
Irwin Products, Inc.
Raineri Building Materials, Inc.
Caliber Cast Stone

CRAFT WORKERS
Bricklayers’ Union Local #1 of Missouri
Eastern Missouri Laborers’ District Council
Safety is paramount today when constructing a new school building. So too are budget considerations. Jahnson Masonry Contractors, Inc. and TR,i Architects solved both of those problems at the new Gotsch Elementary School in the Affton District with the use of a single-width Hi-R block masonry wall system. The Hi-R system incorporates insulation into the blocks that are delivered to the site ready to use. It achieves high thermal R values, improved sound resistance, and easy installation of pipes and conduits, with no effect on the structural integrity of the masonry construction. Because the units are delivered with insulation already in the blocks, the system also results in lower labor costs on-site.

The $1.95 million project included a large gymnasium that serves as reinforced shelter space, as well as a 2,675-square-foot entryway and administration addition.

The insulated Hi-R masonry blocks fit snuggly to form a consistent sound and moisture barrier.

The masonry work required careful blending of the Hi-R blocks to achieve a colorful and distinctive look.
The contemporary design of The REC in Fairview Heights created unique construction requirements, including cantilevered and curved walls. Once again masonry was up to the challenge!
Drive east on I-64 from downtown St. Louis and you’ll soon notice a distinctive, contemporary structure in Fairview Heights known simply as The Rec. This 58,000-square-foot community recreation complex — a source of local civic pride — includes an aquatic center, fitness room, gymnasium, a climbing wall, and meeting and party rooms.

The tall structural masonry block walls had to be cantilevered out an additional 10 to 12 feet at the top to meet the unique construction requirements.

To ensure an exact fit, Toenjes built the masonry walls separately, then lifted them into place for a perfect fit.
The architectural plans called for a transparent, open and inviting layout, which posed several unique challenges during the construction of this $17 million facility. The structural masonry block walls — ranging in height from 32 to 38 feet— had to be cantilevered out an additional 10 to 12 feet at the top to meet the construction requirements. The design also included curved exterior walls. "Masonry is a great option for these types of challenges," said Dan Toenjes from Toenjes Brick Contracting, Inc. Toenjes worked with the engineer and general contractor to build scale forms that were used as templates to ensure that everything would line up exactly.
St. Louis History Revived

St. Louis history and brick construction go hand in hand. So, when one of the most historic buildings in St. Louis was due to be restored for public use, Christner, Inc. and the Missouri Botanical Garden turned to Grant Masonry Contracting Company to help create something special.

The Stephen and Peter Sachs Museum, originally built in 1859 to house the Garden’s extensive library and specimens, now serves as a unique venue for special events and botanically-themed exhibits highlighting the Garden’s history and scientific achievements.

The challenge was to create a 2,100-square-foot entry addition that would complement, but not compete with, the historic red brick structure that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Grant Masonry installed the cost effective combination of load-bearing CMU, Valders Buff and Gabouri veneer stone to minimize cost which also maximized the speed of construction.

The result is an attractive and functional entryway that complies with state and federal historic rehabilitation rules and guidelines, while also blending into the Garden’s overall environment.

The museum and addition received a 2018 Design Honor Award from AIA St. Louis, with jurors noting, “The massing and materiality of the addition beautifully complements the historic building, literally connecting it to the surrounding landscape.” The project was also recently honored with the 2019 AIA Craftsmanship Award.

The Museum addition’s use of contemporary limestone distinguishes it from the existing 1859 building without mimicking it, per Historic Rehabilitation guidelines.
Valders Buff limestone and Gabouri veneer stone were used to create a simple structure that invites Garden visitors to explore a unique historic facility.

The addition includes an elevator and stairs for museum access, ADA compliant zero entry restrooms, a water fountain and a bottle filling station.
Congratulations to mason J.T. Payne and mason tender Jakob Payne of Foeste Masonry in Cape Girardeau, MO who took home top honors as “Missouri’s Best Bricklayer” and won a free trip to Las Vegas to compete for the World Championship.

CORRECTION: The last issue, Masonry 19:1
The following information was omitted at the time of publication. We regret any inconvenience caused.

• Page 4, Fulton State Hospital. Architect: EYP Architecture & Engineering, Parsons Brinckerhoff
  Engineer: David Mason + Associates
• Page 18, Barton Apartments. Architect: VE Design Group of Missouri, LLC