



Materials used on the 4,500-square-foot addition to this house built in 1927 were the same as the original. Brick on the addition was



The City Center Office Building features bronze glass in bronze aluminum frames. Four-inch thick limestone inserts set off the brick. Wood, marble, plaster, glass and brass metals were used inside.

Institute applauds design excellence

Five building projects and their architects have been recognized for masonry design excellence in the 16th annual M awards program. Sponsored by the Masonry Institute of Michigan, based in Farmington, the awards will be presented March 2 at a banquet at the Northfield Hilton in Troy.

Architectural firms cited for design excellence include:

• Luchenbach/Ziegelman and Partners, Birmingham, for the Michigan National Corp. Headquarters, Farmington Hills.

Jury comments: "Nice contemporary interpretation of traditional forms. Massing helps scale — but not overpowering. Details, special shapes, 'hand-burned' brick bands give attention to human scale. People friendly — pedestrian use. Interior courtyards exceptionally nice. Discussion of shutters — inappropriate with context of building — takes away from overall design. Why are they there? Nice proportions. Base of arches should be near ground instead of halfway up."

• Neumann/Greger & Associates, Southfield, for the 4,500-square-foot addition to the Bloomfield Hills residence of Mr. & Mrs. John Rakolta Jr.

Jury comments: "Creative use of stone and materials continue and reinforce the vocabulary that previously existed. Looks like it was built at one time. Design of new details was nicely done. Interesting details were added, but were still compatible with existing. Weak area: circulation from existing to new (could have used strong connection)."

• Kenneth Neumann/Joel Smith and Associates, Southfield, for the City Center Office Building, Southfield.

Jury comments: "Good job of

making speculative-type building interesting — works well in site — good restraint. Punctuation marks at critical points. Massing and shapes carry project. Portal elements at entrance — lack of followthrough between portal and seems relatively unimportant after passing through a grand entrance portal. Well-detailed lobby."

• Smith, Hinchman & Grylls Associates, Detroit, for the BASF Corp. Coaling and Colorants Division Research & Development Center, Southfield.

Jury comments: "Exquisite job of detailing with large facility — great scale — showroom expressed properly with glass between solid 'masses' — creative and new ideas — excellent. Nice integration of louvers into elevation. Nice entrance, arrival point. Applaud client and architect for use of innovative details. Effort appreciated. Integration of bullnose shape at windows and masonry well integrated and conceived. Timeless piece of modern architecture. High-tech expression in brick (a 'traditional' material) handled extremely well. Indirect natural lighting at showroom area works well. Provides

high-tech image quite appropriately without being 'cold.'

• Straub Associates/Architects, Troy, for the St. Paul of Tarsus Catholic Church, Mt. Clemens.

Jury comments: "Feeling of rising from earth materials to other forms — uplifting and spiritual like a flame. Appears to be climbing. Fenestration is well conceived. Warm tone of brick and color of door framing work well together. Modern interpretation of today's vernacular. Curves generated by structural members expressed well in interior of building. Flexibility of floor and individual seating are in line with current church vernacular."

Winners were selected from 42 entries submitted by members of the Michigan Society of Architects. Judging was by a panel of architects from Memphis, Tenn.

Two masonry institute member contractors that were involved in the projects will be recognized. They are Monte Costella & Co., Novi, for BASF Corp. research building and City Centre Building; and Robovitsky Construction, Southfield, addition to Rakolta residence.

Family business probed

Professionalism in the family-owned building business will be the topic of a Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan seminar 7:15-9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19, at the Northfield Hilton, 5500 Crooks, Troy.

Speakers will be Howard Morof

and Steve Maltzman of Morof, Shupow, Weinstein & Co. They will discuss strategic planning, balancing family and business concerns and choosing outside professional advisers.

Registration is \$15 for BASM members and \$25 for non-members.

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