

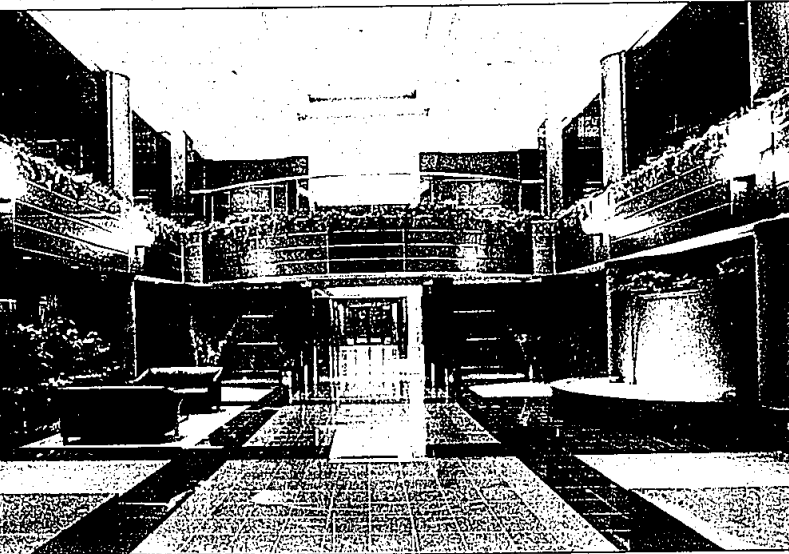
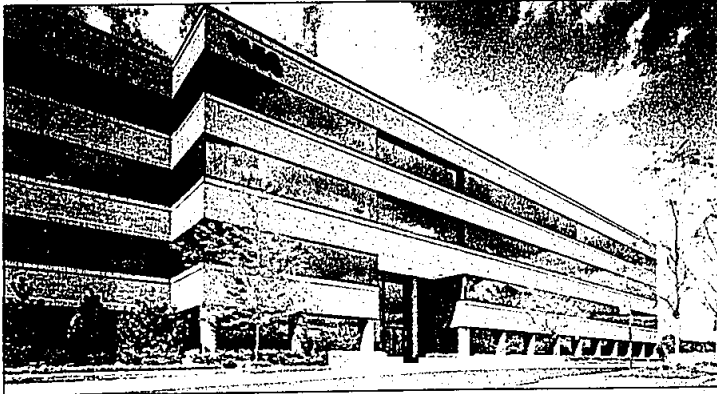
Building Scene

Marilyn Fitchett editor/953-2102



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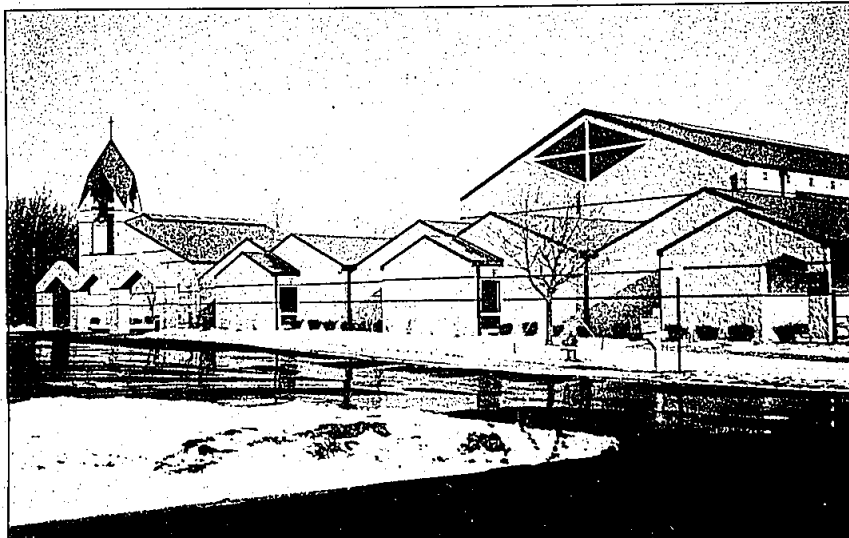
Construction industry showcases top projects



photos by LASZLO REGOS

The Timberland Four office building incorporates extensive use of landscaping and plenty of windows from which to enjoy the

parklike view. The lobby features granite and wood materials, a water display and indirect neon cove lighting.



St. Mary's of the Hills features a large multipurpose room towering over classrooms with varying roof lines. A bell tower connects to the chapel.

By Doug Funke
staff writer

BUILDERS AND architects with local connections were highly regarded by their peers this year in voting for Showcase Awards sponsored by the Construction Association of Michigan.

Seven of the 10 projects selected as best examples of quality design and construction craftsmanship in the state by members of the professional association involved firms in the Observer & Eccentric circulation area.

"This is one of the few award programs in existence where people who actually build projects every day determine which jobs represent outstanding work," said John DeMatia, CAM chairman and president of a Novi construction company.

Each of the CAM 3,000 members could nominate up to three projects that were built within the past four years and included both a Michigan contractor and architect. More than 300 were submitted. Showcase award winners include:

TMP Associates of Bloomfield Hills designed the Northern Michigan University Sports Training Complex in Marquette and the Saginaw Regional Correctional Facility, a state prison, in Freeland.

R.E. Dalley & Co. of Southfield was the contractor on both of those projects.

A.J. Etkin Construction of Farmington Hills was the contractor for Timberland Four, a Troy office building, and Volkswagen of America, North American Headquarters in Auburn Hills.

St. Mary's of the Hills Church in Rochester Hills was designed by Brown Associates Architects of Bloomfield Hills. Payne-Hickey of Livonia was the general contractor.

Hubbell, Roth & Clark of Bloomfield Hills was the project engineer for the Wixom Wastewater Treatment Plant and Coquillard/Dundon/Peterson & Argenta of Southfield was the architect for Madison Heights Police headquarters. Both are Showcase Award winners.

"We think it's important to highlight architects that show innovation in design and innovation in construction," DeMatia said of the awards.

TOM LANDRY, president of A.J. Etkin Construction, elaborated.

"Awards are given by people in the industry. It's like players in the National Basketball Association deciding on the all-stars, not the fans. It's contemporaries who judge who are in the trenches with you," he said.

Following is a brief description of the award winners with information provided by CAM. Comments from principals involved also follow.

● St. Mary's of the Hills Church, Rochester Hills.

The initial phase of 19,000 square feet consists of a multipurpose room currently used for worship, a smaller chapel, narthex with coffee bar, kitchen and office facilities, and five instructional rooms. All at a cost of \$2.2 million.

"We did a very nice project for the money, a good value," said Doug Atkinson, project architect for Brown Associates. "We used a lot of masonry, a lot of block. We used shingle roof on everything."

"By keeping the cost of the building down, we could spend money inside," he added. "The chapel has ceramic tile. Pavers are at the front entrance. The multipurpose room has an inexpensive (57-foot) skylight."

Hoisting the bell tower proved to be a unique experience, said Dale Payne, president of Payne-Hickey.

"The top section was completed on the ground including gypsum board, roofing, all flashings, finish paint and the cross installed at the very peak," he said.

The completed tower section then had to be lifted from the bottom because there was nowhere else to lift from. This, of course, made balancing it extremely difficult because it was top-heavy. Once set in place, the mason contractor was able to enclose the columns," Payne said.

● Timberland Four office building, Troy.

The fourth building in the complex, 126,000 square feet at a cost of \$6.5 million, incorporates extensive landscaping in a park-like atmosphere. The lobby features granite and wood materials, a water display and indirect neon cove lighting.

Disruptions of other tenants was kept to a minimum during construction, Landry said.

"Basically we maintained the same theme. All buildings are brick. Maximum trees were left on the site

and landscaping enhances overall development," he added.

● Volkswagen of America, Auburn Hills.

This four-story structure of 360,000 square feet integrates offices with research and development functions. The building, erected at a cost of \$25 million, has a high ratio of perimeter windows to interior space providing natural light and a good view of the outdoors.

"It's an office building that encompasses two wings that has an atrium in the middle that connects both areas," Landry said. "It was built in 13½ months — including all interior and tenant work — extremely good for a building that size."

● Northern Michigan University Sports Training Complex, Marquette.

The timber-domed sports arena rises 138 feet above the ground at its highest point and measures 533 feet in diameter. The dome is formed by 400 preassembled wooden triangles in a grid system, a wooden deck, insulation, then a roof of synthetic rubber.

The structure cost \$21.5 million.

"They (university officials) said we want to play football in it," said Stephen Smith, project architect. "We researched what materials were the most cost effective for the climate and we arrived at a wooden dome."

"Tolerances were plus or minus ¼ inch at the foundation for all of the precast pieces to merge at the top," Smith said, adding, "It fit like a glove."

"It's unique in that once it was enclosed, completion schedule was accelerated," said Larry Dalley, the general contractor. "Usually you do the frame, then the exterior walls, then the roof. In this case... exterior walls are really the roof."

● Saginaw Regional Correctional Facility, Freeland.

The \$33-million, 612-bed multisecurity state prison consists of six housing units, an educational/recreational building, administrative building, clinic, food service and warehouse.

Again, both TMP and Dalley combined on the project.

"Things representative of a successful project are to come in within the budget and we did that, come in on schedule and we did that," said George A. Rogers, project manager for TMP.

"There was great coordination between-building-trades," he added,

"and the product is a fine example of craftsmanship. The site is pleasing. In the psychology of return and incarceration, a more pleasant yard helps morale and in the healing process to return to society," Rogers said.

"One thing important to the construction aspect because there were so many buildings was sequencing the work so the project was adequately manned to maintain schedule," Dalley said.

"A complicated part of most prisons is hardware and security systems and coordinating those with the owner," Dalley added.

The prison hasn't yet open due to the state money crunch.

● Wixom Wastewater Treatment Plant, Wixom.

A new technology never applied before to municipal wastewater treatment — parallel plate settlers and continuous backwash filters — was engineered to treat three million gallons of water daily. The \$16 million plant discharges treated water into Kent Lake in Kensington Park.

"Basically, the treatment plant was designed like other plants, then this additional equipment was tacked on at the end of the process to bring the phosphorus level down," said Curt Christenson, project manager for Hubbell, Roth & Clark.

"It really does expand the state of the art, in effect," he added. "We think it's easier to maintain and operate. The plant after one year is operating beautifully."

● Madison Heights Police headquarters.

The 35,000-square-foot facility built at a cost of \$2.7 million contains a central command area, a plato training range, exercise rooms and office and locker areas.

"We have a lot of very functional floor space in a very economical package," said Dennis Dundon, principal in charge of the project. "We kept the complications to a minimum and were able to get a lot of value for the owner."

"We have brought together positions manned 24-hours a day — dispatch, lockup, desk where people first come in and shift commander," Dundon added. "This gives flexibility for one person to cover for another during peak times."

Showcase Award winners will be displayed during the CAM Expo Feb. 12-13 at the Pontiac Silverdome.