



Masonry Hero

Samuel M. Rubenzer

Mr. Benchmark Harris, Chairman of the Haller Award Subcommittee is The Masonry Society's (TMS) Design Practices Committee, and former recipient of the Award (2015) presented the 2016 Paul Haller Structural Design Award to Samuel M. Rubenzer, owner of FORSE Consulting., at the TMS's Annual Meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina on October 8, 2016. Harris noted that Rubenzer was selected for his outstanding contributions to Structural Masonry Design and Education that included serving as the structural designer of numerous masonry projects and many load-bearing masonry retail stores. He is also a noted software consultant and expert especially on masonry structural analysis and design using FEM, STAAD, & RAM.



Ben Harris (left) presents the 2016 TMS Haller Award to Sam Rubenzer on behalf of the Design Practices Committee.

The Haller Award is given to an individual engineer or an engineering firm that has enhanced the knowledge of masonry in practice. This award recognizes the beauty, elegance, and economy of structural masonry projects. The award is named after Professor Paul Haller, who started a renaissance in the use and design of structural masonry. Haller, a civil engineering graduate from the Federal Technical University in Zurich, Switzerland in 1924, was responsible for testing over 1600 brick masonry walls, and based on the results of those experiments, designed an 18-story building with no structural frame. The tall load-bearing walls of this structure were only 12 to 15-in. thick, causing nothing less than a revolution in the structural use of masonry. From this design and his experimental research, rational structural design of masonry became possible. Learn more about the [Haller Award](#) >

MAC congratulates our 'Masonry Hero' Samuel M. Rubenzer on this achievement!