



Masonry Insight Program for Students of Architecture IL, WI, IN, MI From the Ground Up!

April 10, 2026



Masonry Insight Program for Students

From the Ground Up!

Program Agenda

Friday, April 10

To provide architectural students with a hands-on experience from start to finish. Young professionals with industry-related experience will also provide educational insight and answer questions.

Friday, April 10

9:00 a.m. Bus Departure | Meet at Aloft Schaumburg

10 a.m. Introduction to Block -Phil Santoro
Production Facility Tour Northfield Block/OldCastle/Echelon

Tour of the manufacturing facility – How is block made? | Approved for 1 AIA lu

Learning Objectives

1. Participants will be able to identify concrete Masonry's inherently sustainable qualities.
2. Participants will understand how improvements of the manufacturing processes have affected the strengths, fire ratings and overall performance of concrete masonry products.
3. Participants will understand the manufacturing process, with respect to quality assurance in the production of masonry products.
4. Participants will understand the stages of manufacturing while applying modern masonry solutions to real worked problems and examine how the use of concrete masonry products can potentially contribute to sustainable building projects.

12:30

Lunch Break on site at DCTC

District Council Training
Center Addison, IL

Apprentice Coordinators & Instructors
Hands on Experience, Building with
Masonry & Robotics



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AIA Illinois



Program Agenda - Cont'd

Apprentice Coordinators and Instructors - Hands on Experience, Building with Masonry

Hands on Demonstration (US Robotics-The Mule) Robotic Bricklayer | Approved for 1 AIA lu

1. Participants will be given an introduction to the bricklaying building trade and the necessary tools used in the construction process.
2. Participants will be given an introduction to the various materials and components used in masonry construction.
3. Participants will have an exercise that includes hands on experience in the building of an actual masonry wall.
4. Participants will understand how technology (through US Robotics) will assist in the future of masonry construction. Attendees will also have an opportunity to operate "The Mule."

Afternoon
Presenters

**Design and Build -
Masonry Construction**

Tino Kalayil , P.E.
Senior Technical Director | CMU Checkoff

Learning Objectives

1. Review basic structural properties of masonry.
2. Explore masonry misconceptions and myths.
3. Discover updated design criteria and methods for masonry and realistic height limitations.
4. Learn how properly designed masonry can be more economical than other systems.
5. What architects need to know about designing with masonry.

**Designing with Masonry - Personal
experience on actual projects**

**Claudia Billsten,
Design Professional | Dewberry
Cambrie Kaspari
Design Professional | FGM Architects**

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Learning Objectives:

1. Firm Recruitment, finding the right fit, and the hiring process
2. The Transition from academia to professional practice
3. Involvement in specific projects, particularly those involving masonry
4. Whether current roles align with your initial expectations for your architectural career
5. General tips for success and any unexpected aspects of profession



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Program Agenda - Cont'd

Importance of Choosing the Right Supplier

Nathan Karaway
President| Premier Brick Sales

Learning Objectives

1. What's new in masonry products
2. Participants will gain insight into the process of material selection, design, color, and product trends, availability of products and delivery timeline.

Panel Discussion- Ask the Experts

Tino Kalayil, Claudia Billstein,
Cambrie Kaspari, Nathan Karaway

1. Discuss masonry misconception-myths.
2. Discuss the relationship between the architect and the mason contractor
3. Discuss onsite construction steps needed in order to have a successful outcome for the architect's project
4. Open for Q&A from students regarding the design and construction process as it applies to masonry.

Evening Break – Topgolf Schaumburg

Dinner/ Drinks/ Networking

Overnight Stay | Aloft Schaumburg (If Needed)

Saturday, April 11

Breakfast provided at Aloft Schaumburg
Conclusion of Event



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Program Notes

April 10-11

- Students should dress comfortably and appropriately (Pants, long sleeve shirt, and closed toe shoes) (Touring the manufacturing plant and working with brick and mortar to build a masonry wall).
- For students with extensive travel, please contact us directly to arrange for additional hotel accommodations on April 9 in order to be ready at 9:00 a.m. for bus departure on April 10
- All transportation, lodging, meals, tours, presentations and evening entertainment sponsored by the Masonry Advisory Council.

Masonry Insight Program for Students
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Registration Form

April 10

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Date: _____

School: _____

Expected Date of Graduation: _____

Program: _____

School Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

Personal Email Address: _____

Please complete and submit to Kathryn Kurzawa
at kkurzawa@masonryadvisorycouncil.org.