



**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*



## **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**

#### **Approved for 1 AIA lu**

##### **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

## 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 architects 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.

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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](mailto:kkurzawa@masonryadvisorycouncil.org).