

The Masonry Society

Sustainability E-News

Innovative Masonry

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From The Editor

Masonry is an ancient material, but that doesn't mean there isn't room for innovation. I get excited when I hear about companies that are expanding the ways we think of 'masonry'. That's why I just had to share the article on the footbridge at the Venice Biennial. It's both masonry and 3D printed! Certainly an innovative approach, but one that also honors time-tested techniques (arching action). You'll find several articles on new approaches to masonry in this edition.

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NOTE: Inclusion in this newsletter is not an endorsement of the products and materials featured, nor have these products been evaluated by TMS or the editor. Furthermore, the views expressed in the articles featured are those of the article authors.

GREEN BUILDING NEWS

Technically the first article isn't about buildings, but it is a cool example of innovative masonry. And the buildings featured in the second article include several interesting masonry designs. ~Tina

Arched 3D-printed footbridge to grace Venice exhibit

3D PRINTING MEDIA NETWORK

Holcim, incremental3D, Zaha Hadid Architects and researchers at ETH Zurich are building an arched, [unreinforced masonry footbridge](#) composed of 3D-printed concrete blocks. The structure, named Striatus, will be on display at an international architecture exhibition in Venice.

Architecture that innovates sustainably

WALLPAPER.COM

A brick extension to the Tambacounda hospital in Senegal by Switzerland-based architect Manuel Herz is a true project of collaboration, rooted to the local community. The design is defined by the striking geometric bricks that make up the main façade. The porous veil of bricks is a relatively common façade treatment in the

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east of Senegal, with the bricks themselves typically made on site. Read more about this and other notable projects [here](#).

Commentary: Resilience aligns with sustainability
THE HILL

In [this op-ed](#), Randolph Kirchain and Franz-Josef Ulm from the MIT Concrete Sustainability Hub explain how resilience can work hand-in-hand with sustainability. "We've found that resilient construction can have around 5 to 10% lower lifetime impacts due to energy efficiency -- despite having up to a 30% greater initial impact from materials and construction," they write.

Pittsburgh pursues sustainable deconstruction to salvage building materials

WASTE DIVE

City of Pittsburgh is pursuing a [building deconstruction policy](#) meant to spur the potential recovery, recycling and reuse of materials from certain city-owned condemned structures. Leaders say potential benefits of such a policy include removing blight from neighborhoods while decreasing waste sent to landfills, advancing climate action goals, and opening opportunities for job training.

CODES and STANDARDS NEWS

If you are a USGBC member, now is your chance to apply to a LEED committee and be a part of developing new criteria for the LEED rating systems. ~Tina

Volunteer for a LEED Committee in 2021

USGBC

Do you care deeply about the environmental, economic, and human health impacts of buildings and communities? Are you interested in catalyzing market transformation by contributing to the technical development of the global leadership standard for high-performance green buildings? If so, volunteer for one of the many LEED Committees. USGBC seeks innovative sustainability professionals and experts in the design, construction and operations of buildings and communities to serve on LEED Committees. Learn more [here](#).

GREEN PRODUCT NEWS

This edition includes links to a couple of new masonry podcasts. ~Tina

Study: Rice husk ash useful in aerated concrete

MDPI.COM

Rice husk ash is normally discarded as a waste byproduct in industrial production. But according to [this article](#), researchers in Pakistan have found that it can serve as a partial replacement for cement in lightweight, aerated concrete, offering enhanced strength and durability.

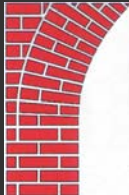
Traditional earth bricks used in Dakar, Senegal

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION

An architecture firm in Dakar, Senegal, is building homes with earth bricks instead of concrete to regulate heat and humidity. Made mostly of local red earth, the bricks are compressed by hand and then dried for three weeks. [Read more](#).

Masonry Principles podcast episode 5 available

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The latest episode of Masonry Principles features Masonry iQ. This innovative software solution is a Revit plugin that allows architects to automatically design, detail and render masonry while providing insight into how masonry assemblies function. Masonry Principles, a collaboration between the Masonry Institute of Michigan and the Upstate Masonry Institute, is available wherever you get your podcasts, as well as on [their website](#).

Episode 6 of Just Mason Around is now available

NCMA

In [this episode](#), learn about the benefits, history and evolution of Manufactured Stone Veneer with an interview from Alex Gillespie with Creative Mines.

EDUCATIONAL NEWS

Masonry Education Hub

THE MASONRY SOCIETY

The Masonry Society (TMS) has launched the [Masonry Education Hub](#), a Learning Management System that allows designers, professors, students, and other users to obtain on-demand masonry education. The Masonry Education Hub provides a central location for excellent and accessible training sessions on a variety of masonry topics including sustainable design, energy efficiency, masonry basics, inspection, testing, codes and standards, and strength design of masonry.

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