

# The Masonry Society

## Sustainability E-News

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### SPONSORED EDITION

#### From the Editor

This edition features several articles related to extreme weather events and natural disasters. A common theme is rebuilding using superior materials like masonry and concrete. However, in reading the articles, I was struck by two things. The first is that we need to do a better job of using proper terminology when it comes to educating the public. In the article on an addition to a Tennessee high school, the contractor is quoted as saying the building is covered in reinforced concrete...too bad it's really reinforced concrete masonry with brick veneer! The second was that current design and building codes do a pretty good job of protecting us, but unfortunately poor construction and lack of code enforcement can have devastating effects. We all need to do our part to make sure our buildings are not only well-designed but also well-built with high quality, sustainable materials.

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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.*

### **SUSTAINABILITY aka RESILIENCY**

Sustainable designs should also be resilient ones. The links below feature several projects rebuilding in areas damaged by natural events. Note that in the first two articles, "concrete" and "cinder blocks" are used to mean everything from concrete, to grout, to concrete masonry. Two examples where correct terminology is needed! ~Tina

### **New Exterior Helps Pay for Tenn. High School**

#### **Addition**

**WRCB-TV**

A 13,000-square-foot addition at the Walker Valley High School in Charleston, Tenn., has been built -- and is covered in reinforced concrete. [editor's note: it is really a brick veneer over reinforced concrete masonry] The addition of the concrete is expected to make the building more resilient during tornadoes, and adding it also meant the Federal Emergency Management Agency would contribute to the structure's cost. "The entire outside is reinforced concrete ... So it's basically built like a bunker," said Cason Conn, a senior project manager at Tri-Con, the project's contractor according to [this report](#).

### **Exam of 2013 EF5 Tornado Site in Okla.**

### **Sponsors of TMS's Sustainability E-Newsletter**

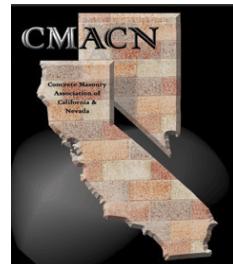
Click on the links below to find out more about each of these organizations who have graciously sponsored this E-Newsletter. Sponsors designated with an Asterisk(\*) are also TMS Members at the following levels:

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#### **Platinum Level**



## Reveals Construction Flaws

**The Journal Record (Oklahoma City, Okla.)**

Chris Ramseyer is an associate professor of civil engineering at the University of Oklahoma, a concrete-use expert and was a member of an American Society of Civil Engineers and the Structural Engineering Institute team sent to Moore, Okla., in 2013 following an EF5 tornado. The storm destroyed two schools and killed dozens. In [this article](#), Ramseyer discusses some of the construction flaws he and the team found.

## Group Backs Bill to Help Curtail Wind Damage to Homes, Businesses

**PropertyCasualty360**

The Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety backs legislation filed by Rep. Randy Neugebauer, R-Texas, to bolster research on making homes and businesses less susceptible to wind damage. "Tragic high-wind-related disasters during the last two years alone ... are clear signs that we need to focus on significantly reducing the vulnerability of our communities to these types of devastating events," said Debra Ballen, the group's general counsel and senior vice president of public policy. [Read more.](#)

## LEED NEWS

### Update to LEED for Homes Up For Vote

**USGBC**

LEED for Homes v2008 is up for ballot. This update only affects one credit - [EA credit 1: Optimize Energy Performance](#). Two changes are proposed:

- It changes the threshold so that projects using LEED for Homes v2008 will need to earn a minimum of 13 points in the Energy & Atmosphere (EA) section for climate zones (CZ) 1-5, or 9.5 points for CZ 6-8. Previously projects could earn anywhere from 1 to 34, with no minimum threshold.
- Projects will need to achieve a Home Energy Rating System (HERS) score of 70 or lower, or earn the equivalent number of points in the prescriptive path.

To learn more, [click here.](#)

### Top 10 LEED States of 2013

**EDC MAGAZINE**

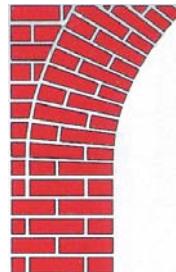
Illinois leads among all states in 2013; mid-Atlantic region of Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia tops list. [Read more.](#)

## High Performance Building Benefits and

## [Concrete Masonry Association of California and Nevada\\*\\*\\*](#)



## National Concrete Masonry Association **FOUNDATION**



[Western States Clay Products Association\\*\\*\\*](#)

Gold Level



[Masonry Institute of America\\*\\*](#)



Portland Cement Association\*\*



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## Investment Costs

**USGBC**

One of the most common questions posed by real estate professionals is, "What are the benefits of pursuing a LEED rating, and what are the marginal investment requirements necessary to attain these benefits?" This GBIG Insight Research Anthology – High Performance Building Benefits and Investment Costs [see PDF here] contains brief summaries of top research articles, academic papers, industry reports, comprehensive textbooks, and resources devoted to informing strategic and tactical business decisions.

[Read more.](#)

## PRODUCT NEWS

As ASTM and others work toward development of EPDs and the related product category rules (PCR), Architecture 2030 has jumped in to develop a template format for future EPD. Check out the link below to learn more and provide your input. ~Tina

### Scrap Tires Used to Boost Masonry Blocks

[PHYS.ORG](#)

Scrap tires could gain a new purpose as ingredients for construction materials, thanks to [research](#) at Missouri University of Science and Technology by one TMS member! Check out [this article](#).

### Architecture 2030 Developing Open Standard EPD and Wants Your Input

**ECOBUILDING PULSE**

Architecture 2030 is developing an open standard Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) and EPD summary template to simplify the process of reading, comprehending, and using EPDs across the building industry. To kick-start the initiative, Architecture 2030 is accepting feedback from industry participants via an online survey. [Read more.](#)

### Permeable Pavers Transform Alley

**ICPI**

The City of Richmond, VA, a recent green alley convert with five demonstration alleys and five planned for 2014, uses interlocking concrete pavers on its alley surfaces to meet three important design requirements: historical aesthetics, stormwater management and utilities access. [Learn more.](#)

### Permeable Pavers Transform Walkways and Parking Lots

**LandscapeOnline**

Keeping sustainability in mind, the permeable pavers were selected for their ability to reduce rainwater run-

Silver Level



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Bronze Level



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off and reduce the heat-island effect according to [this article](#).

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

I recently attended this ASTM webinar on chemical assessment and can recommend it for an overview of the various chemical assessment frameworks (such as GreenScreen). ~Tina

### ASTM Chemical Assessment Webinar Recording Available

If you missed the ASTM webinar on Chemical Alternatives Assessments and the tools used in the Chemical Hazard Assessment process, you can access the recording of the webinar [click here](#). For the presentation slides, [click here](#).

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