BRICK IN ARCHITECTURE

From the Brick Industry Association

The 2017 Brick in Architecture AWARD WINNERS

COMMERCIAL | EDUCATIONAL | HOUSE OF WORSHIP | MUNICIPAL/GOVERNMENT | RESIDENTIAL MULTI-FAMILY | RESIDENTIAL SINGLE-FAMILY

Since 1989, the Brick in Architecture Awards have been one of the most prestigious national architectural award programs featuring clay brick. Architecture firms from around North America enter their best projects to be judged by a jury of their peers.

This year, a diverse panel of architects independently reviewed and scored each of the entries. Based on the technical and creative use of brick in meeting the aesthetic and functional design challenges, the Brick Industry Association is pleased to showcase the following projects which were chosen as the Best in Class in their respective categories.

Apple Store, Williamsburg

Brooklyn, NY

Architect:
Bohlin Cywinski Jackson
Distributor:
Consolidated Brick & Building Supply, Inc.
Mason Contractors:
Structure Tech New York, Inc.
Long Island Concrete
Photographer:
Peter Aaron

Credits appear as submitted in entry form

The gritty, industrial Williamsburg neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York, is in many ways the poster child for gentrification. However, given the vast transformation the area has experienced over the past few decades, the last thing many neighbors wanted to see was the demolition and replacement of a historic brick building for an Apple Store, especially given the company's commonly sleek, modern aesthetics.

Given the community response, the architects were tasked with designing a new retail building that not only fit the neighborhood's rich architectural past, but also remained consistent with Apple's brand and identity, which was no small feat. To address the problem, the design team developed a solution by drawing inspiration from an unlikely source—the demolished building itself.

Before it was razed, one of the building's industrial brick walls was carefully photographed and served as a model for the new building. Working with its brick suppliers, the team conducted several rounds of mock-ups to determine the desired blend of brick colors and mortar dressing, resulting in a custom blend of molded brick. Next, the team paid homage to the original building's large arched openings, exposed structure, and decking.

Meticulous attention on coursing (using a Scottish bond), the periodic inclusion of clipped bricks, and the decision to eliminate as many vertical expansion joints as possible—these decisions imbued the new Apple Store with the older aesthetic characteristics of the area's surrounding 19th-century solid masonry structures.

EDUCATIONAL DESIGN (COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES)

Kent State University College of Architectural & Environmental Design

Kent, OH

Architect:
WEISS/MANFREDI Architecture/ Landscape/Urbanism
Associate Architect:
Richard L. Bowen Associates
Manufacturer:
The Belden Brick Company
Distributor:
W.L. Tucker Supply Company
Mason Contractor:
Foti Contracting
Photographer:
Joe Albert

Credits appear as submitted in entry form

Inspired by strong urbanist principles, Kent State University's new College of Architectural & Environmental Design building had one overarching goal: to better connect the University with downtown Kent. To achieve this, the architects sited the new structure along a primary east-west pedestrian Clay Brick esplanade, even subtly canting the orientation of the building to maximize a perspectival effect of the corridor. A ground floor café, gallery, and library—all serve to welcome visitors into the building.

If the site and multi use design were designed to invite passers by, so too the building's materials. Northern Ohio is home to a number of brick kilns. For this project, the design team worked meticulously with a local brick fabricator still using traditional beehive kilns for the firing process to produce ironspot brick units in custom shapes. These types of kilns produce bricks in a range of colors dependent on their location relative to the heat source. The result is a warm, traditional brick that simply feels familiar and timeless.

Although builders have been using brick for thousands of years, its design possibilities still surprise. A lengthy structure, the new Architectural & Environmental Design building boasts a predominant asymmetrically bull-nosed brick to establish a pleasing rhythm along the lengthy building. The fins project a maximum of 4-inches from the facade. The overall pattern and scheme was designed in counterpoint to the building's glass curtainwall and cantilever.

Sourced locally and literally from the ground, Brick also contributed to another of the University goals: LEED Platinum certification.