APRIL 30, 2026 @ IRVINE, CA

1st MASONRY ARCHITECTURE STUDENT'S DESIGN COMPETITION

IRVINE, CA

CALIFORNIA MASONRY SUMMIT & EXPO

APRIL 30, 2026

Press Release

www.CaliforniaMasonryCouncil.org

CALIFORNIA MASONRY COUNCIL

APRIL 30, 2026 @ IRVINE, CA

1st MASONRY ARCHITECTURE STUDENT'S DESIGN COMPETITION

$12,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

CALIFORNIA MASONRY SUMMIT & EXPO 2026

The California Masonry Council (CMC) is pleased to announce the 1st Masonry Architecture Design Student Competition Winners, during the 2025-2026 academic year.

The program is intended to challenge undergraduate and graduate students, working individually or in teams, to explore a variety of design issues related to the use of masonry materials in design and construction. Concrete Block (CMU) or Brick (clay) must be used as a prominent material with special emphasis placed on innovation, resiliency, and sustainability.

The competition allows students to explore the many functional, and aesthetic uses for Masonry Materials. Students will get a chance to research and learn about many features as: fire resistance, sustainable materials, thermal mass and energy efficiency, constructability, aesthetics and architectural features, durability, resilience, ballistic resistance, and low maintenance costs.

CMC highly encourages students to design with materials that are locally manufactured and locally sourced within CA.

Our competition is divided into 2 different categories:

1- Concrete Block (CMU)

2- Brick (clay products)

HIGHER EDUCATION BUILDING FACILITY

Students will have the freedom to design a building in a higher education campus of their choosing within California.

A significant component of campus life that would enhance the student experience in a campus. It can be a replacement for an existing building, or a new building you consider to be necessary.

APRIL 30, 2026 @ IRVINE, CA

1st MASONRY ARCHITECTURE STUDENT'S DESIGN COMPETITION

JESSICA ORLANDO
Higher Education Practice Leader @ Perkins & Will - President @ AIA Pasadena & Foothill

SUYAMA BODHINAYAKE
Senior Associate & Studio Lead @ MG2 Design - Secretary of the Board of Directors @ AIA O.C. - Chair of Advocacy @ AIA CA Climate Action

BOB HABIAN
AIA, Masonry Expert - Founder & CEO @ Tect App

ISMAR ENRIQUEZ
Design Lead and Project Manager @ Practice - AIA Los Angeles Board of Directors - AIA California Board of Directors

TONI LEWIS
Founding Principal @ Lewis Schoeplein Architects – President @ AIA Los Angeles

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Core Market Leader @ DPR Construction - AIA San Diego and AIA California Board of Directors - ACE Mentor San Diego Board of Directors

We are honored to present the Jury for our 1st Architecture Competition for Students in California.

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Thank you to our Competition Sponsors!

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ORCO BLOCK & HARDSCAPE
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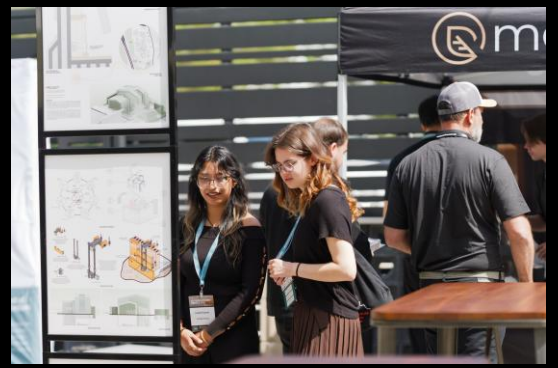

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1st Place
Concrete Block

Congratulations!

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DOS MANTOS

1st Place
Concrete Block

College of the Canyons

$3,000 SCHOLARSHIP

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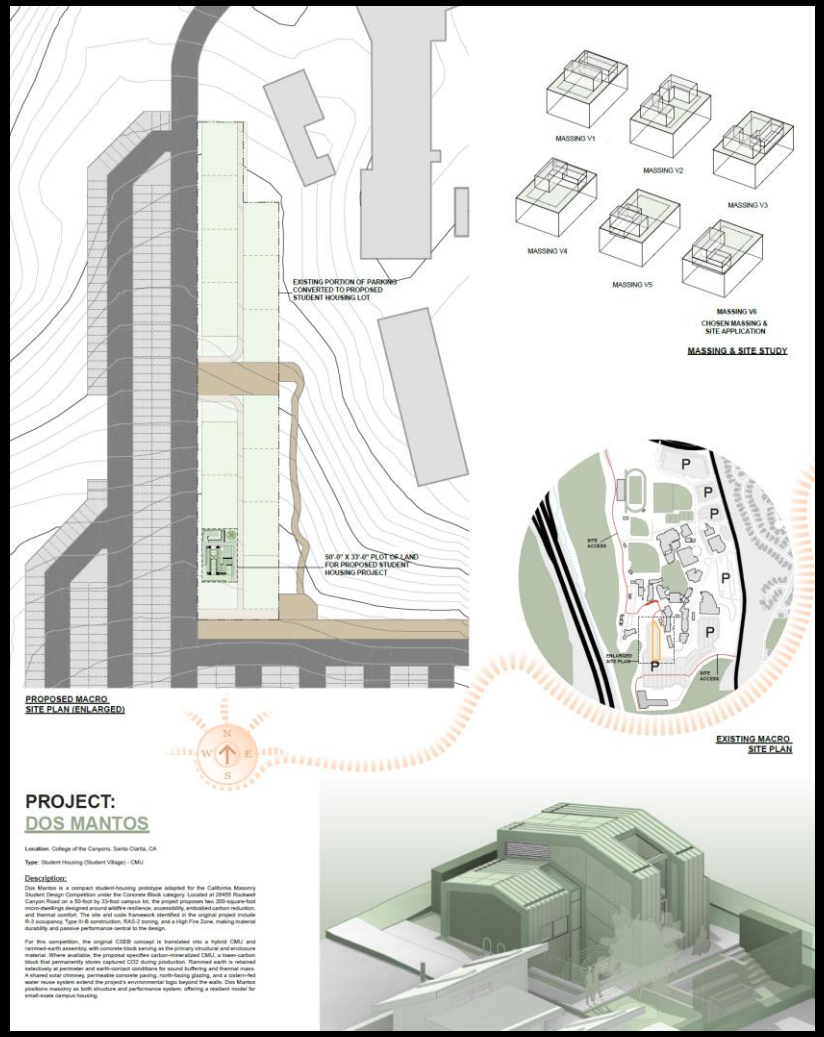
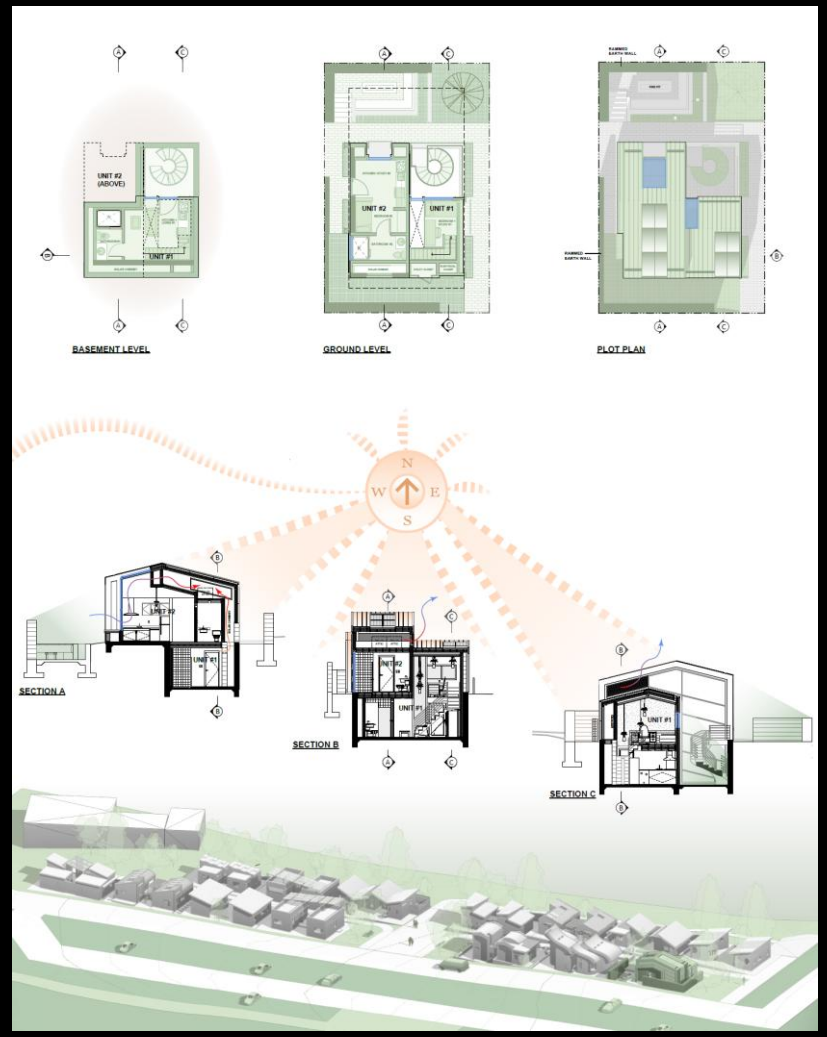
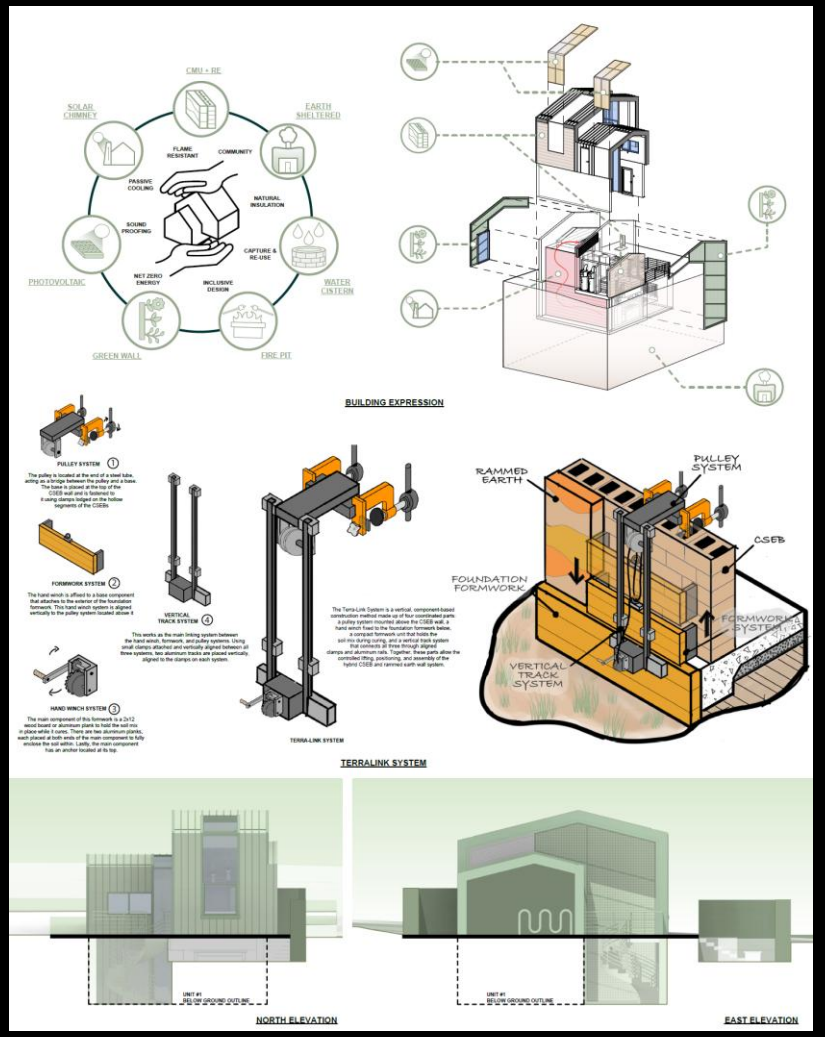
DOS MANTOS

1st Place – Concrete Block







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1st Place
Brick

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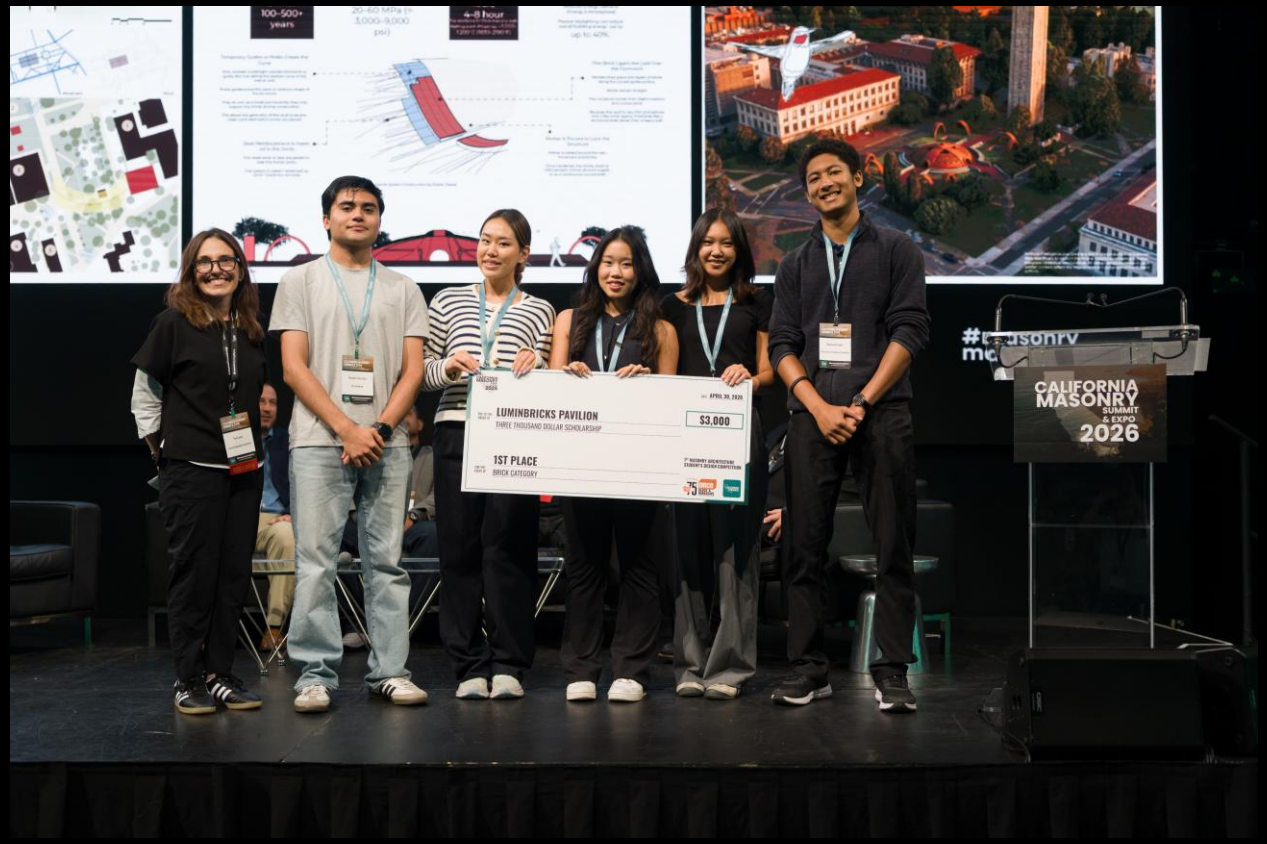
LUMINBRICKS PAVILION

1st Place
Brick

UC Berkeley

$3,000 SCHOLARSHIP



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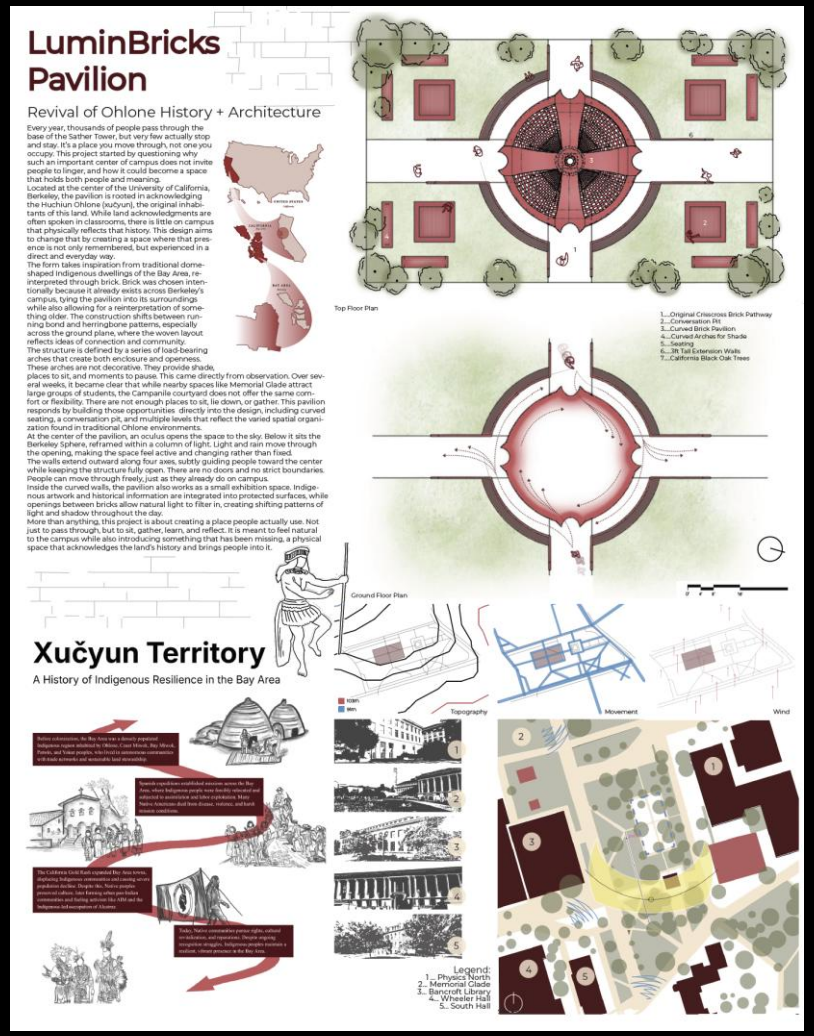
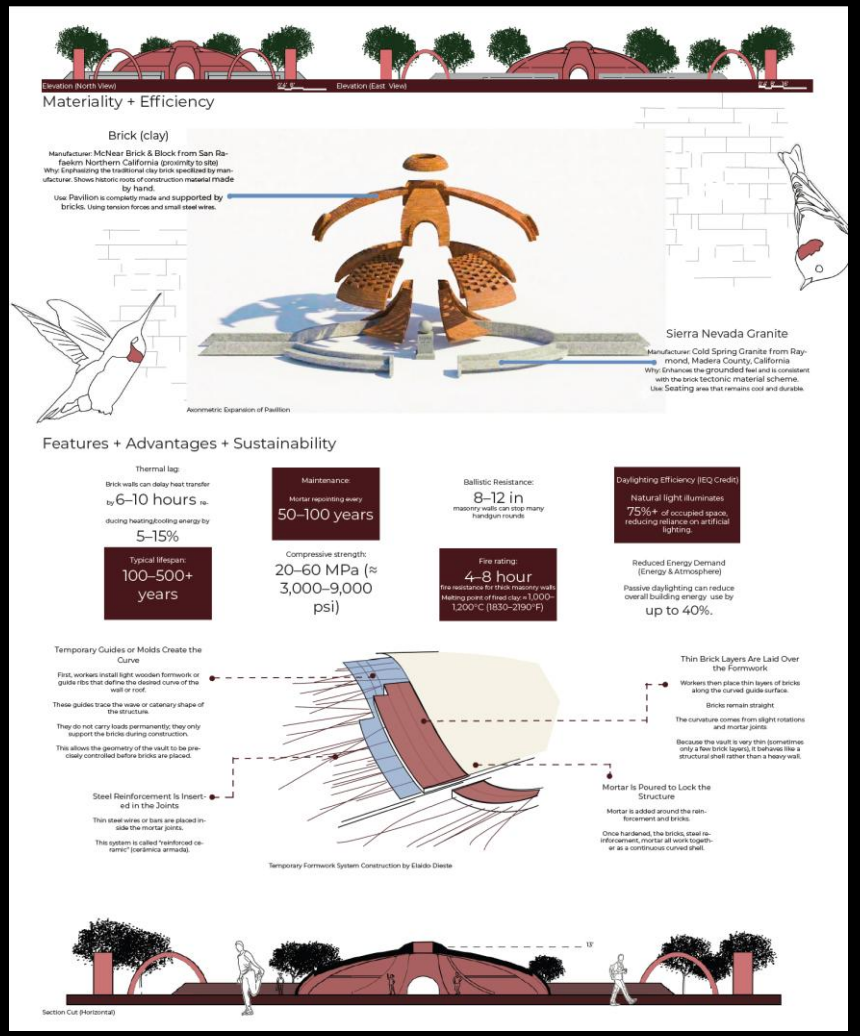
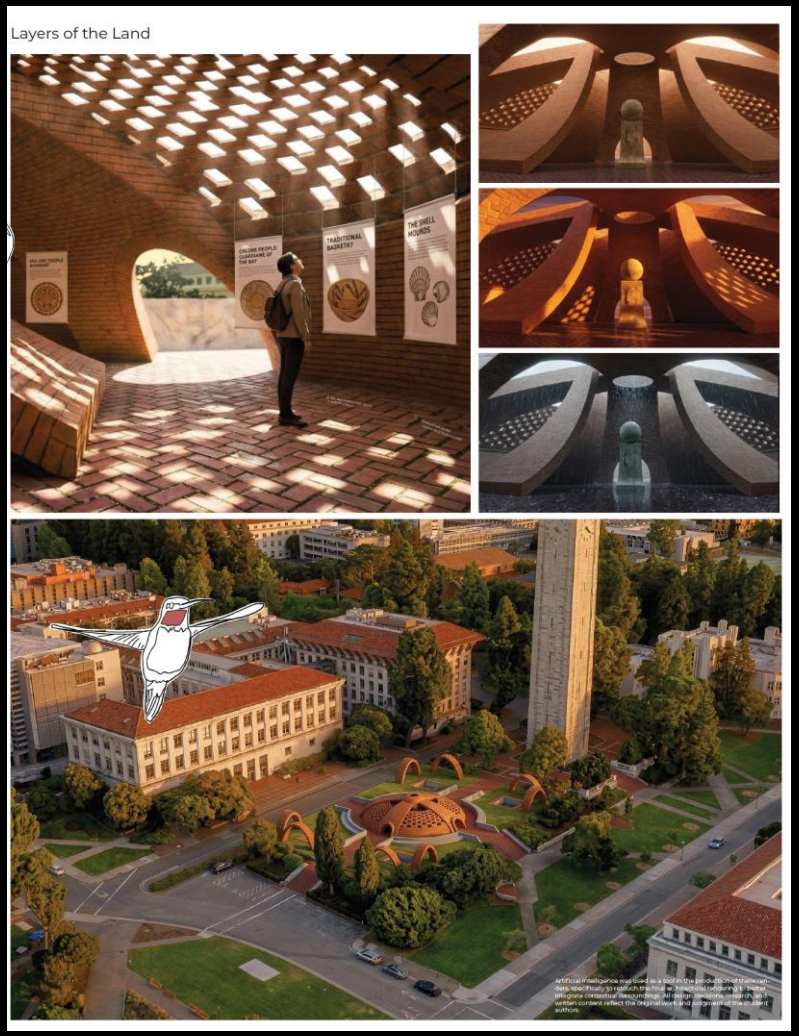
LUMINBRICKS PAVILION

1st Place – Brick







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2nd Place
Concrete Block

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BLOCK TO BREATHE

2nd Place
Concrete Block

University of Southern California (USC)

$2,000 SCHOLARSHIP


1ST MASONRY ARCHITECTURE STUDENT'S DESIGN COMPETITION

CALIFORNIA MASONRY COUNCIL

2nd PLACE

CONCRETE BLOCK CATEGORY

PROJECT: **BLOCK TO BREATHE**

Naomi Pavisporn Phenphrueksakun

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AIA, DBIA, WELL AP
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2026 President, AIA, Pasadena & Foothill

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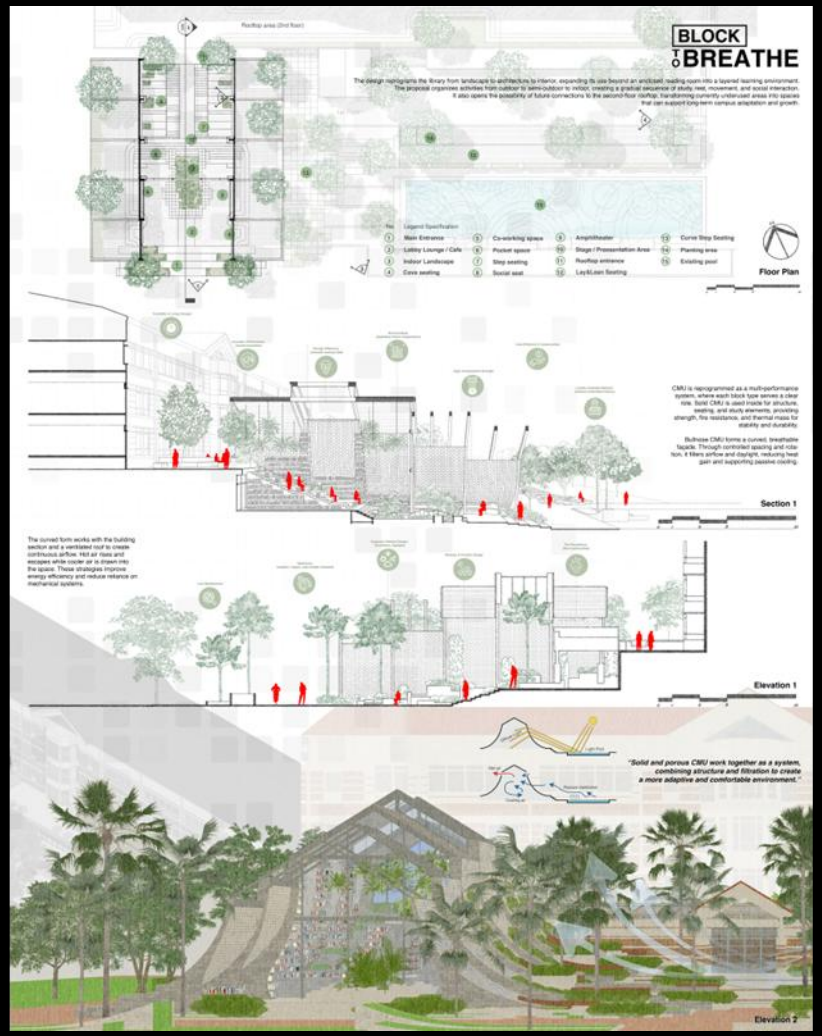
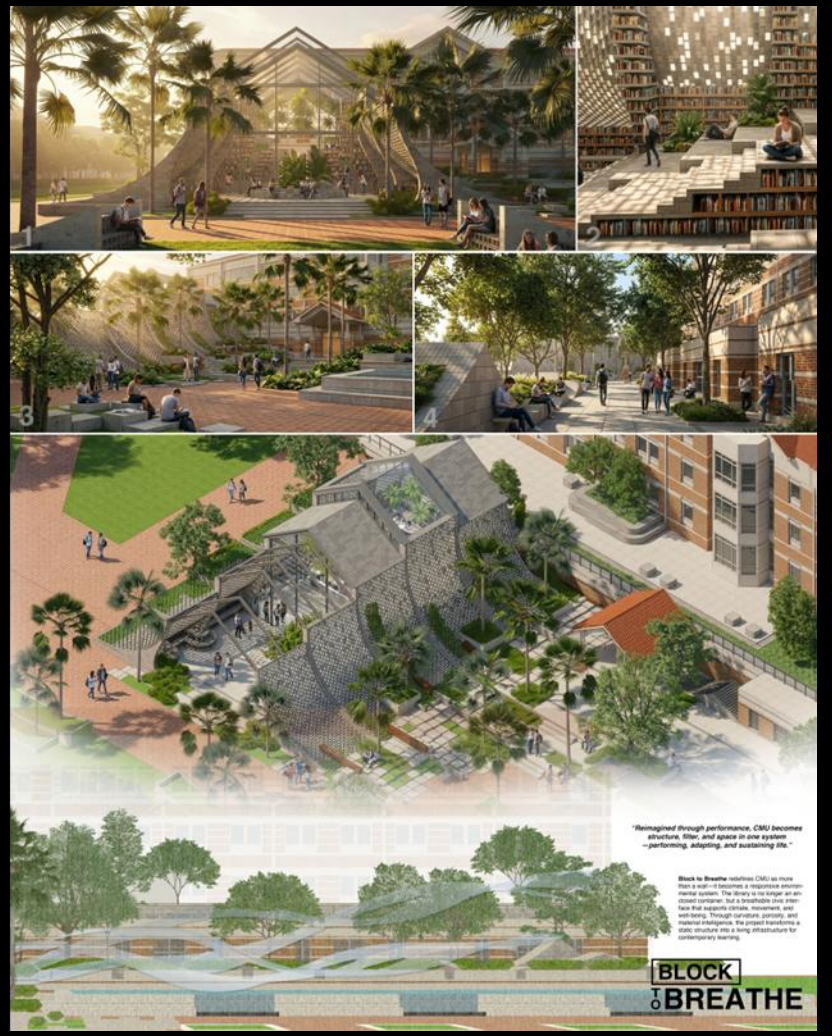
BLOCK TO BREATHE

2nd Place – Concrete Block





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2nd Place
Brick

Congratulations!

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EUCALYPTUS LANE

2nd Place
Brick

Cal Poly Pomona

$2,000 SCHOLARSHIP


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2nd PLACE

BRICK CATEGORY

PROJECT: EUCALYPTUS LANE

Isabelle Braganza

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Arturo Pinal — Executive Director California Masonry Council


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2nd PLACE

BRICK CATEGORY

PROJECT: EUCALYPTUS LANE

Maggie Tyson

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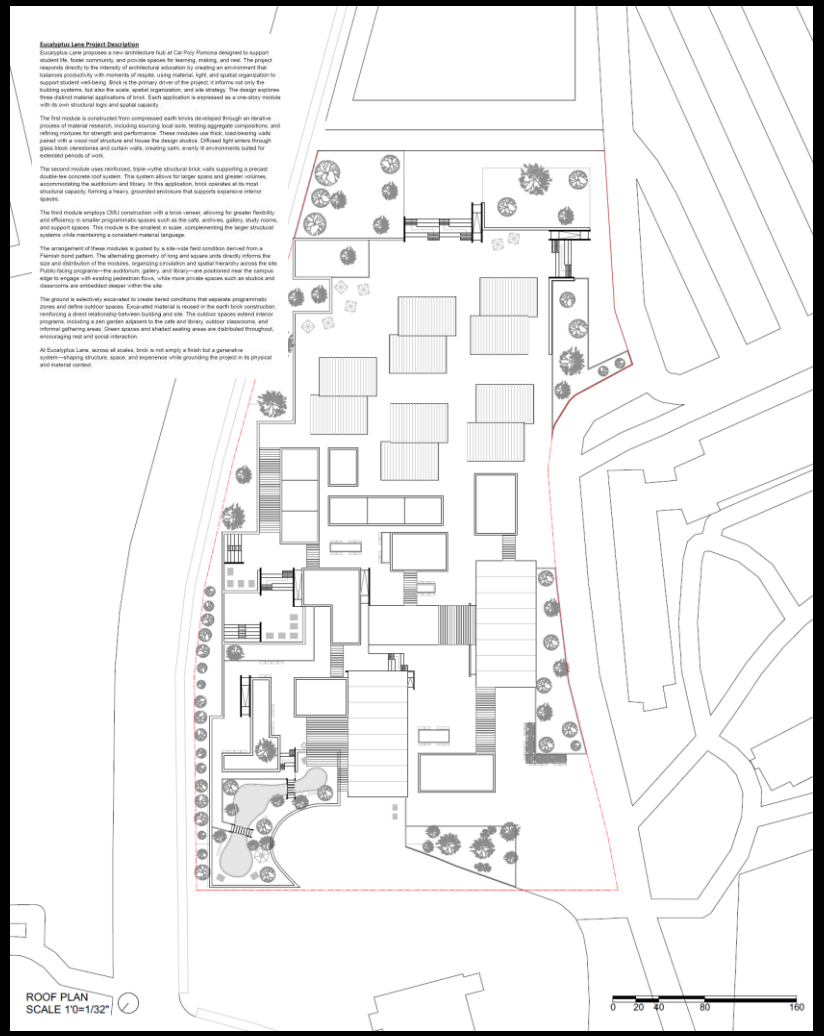
EUCALYPTUS LANE

2nd Place – Brick



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3rd Place
Concrete Block

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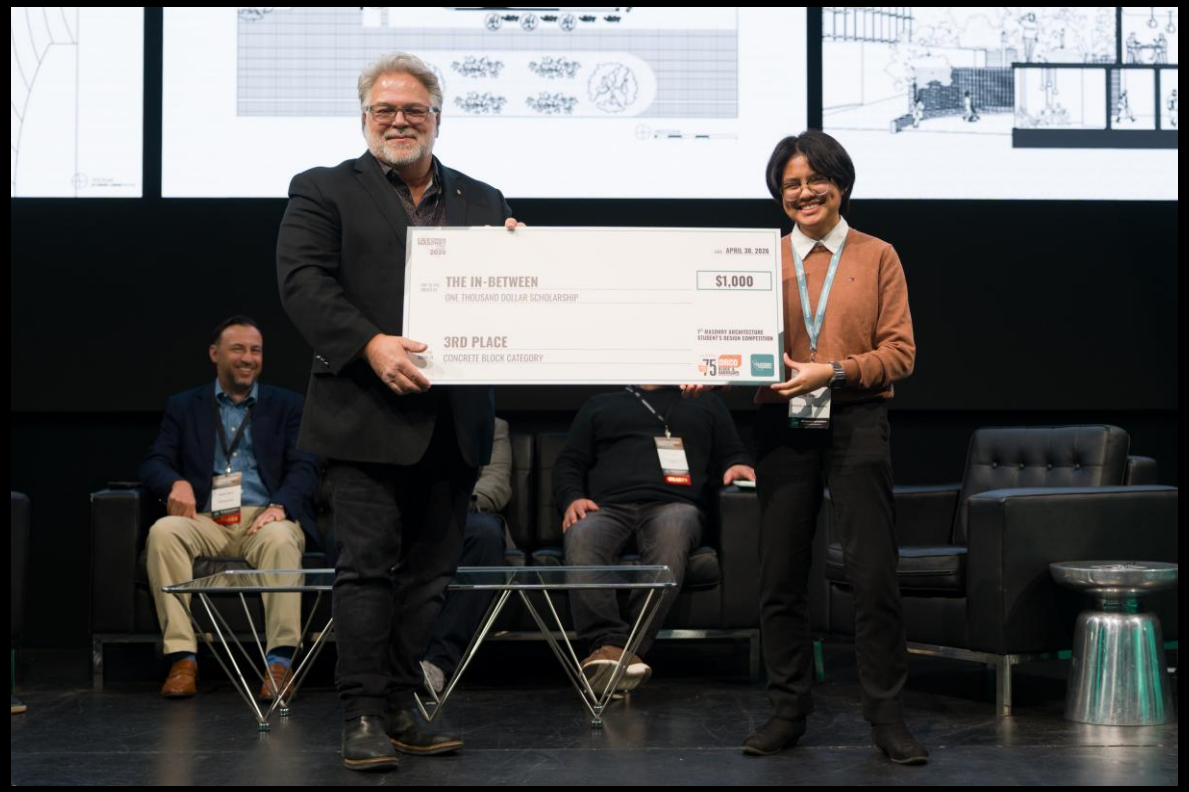
THE IN-BETWEEN

3rd Place
Concrete Block

UC Berkeley



$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP


1ST MASONRY ARCHITECTURE STUDENT'S DESIGN COMPETITION
3RD PLACE
CONCRETE BLOCK CATEGORY
PROJECT: THE IN-BETWEEN
Nancy Lan Banh
JURY MEMBERS


1ST MASONRY ARCHITECTURE STUDENT'S DESIGN COMPETITION
3RD PLACE
CONCRETE BLOCK CATEGORY
PROJECT: THE IN-BETWEEN
Rubi Hernandez
JURY MEMBERS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3RD PLACE
CONCRETE BLOCK CATEGORY
PROJECT: THE IN-BETWEEN
Lisa Zheng
JURY MEMBERS


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3RD PLACE
CONCRETE BLOCK CATEGORY
PROJECT: THE IN-BETWEEN
Jet Tesoro
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THE IN-BETWEEN

3rd Place – Concrete Block

PROJECT DESCRIPTION-

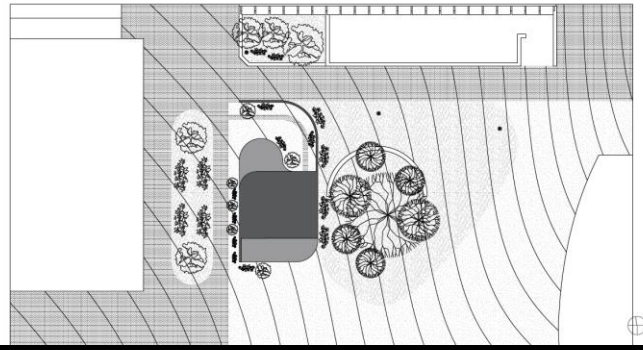
At the University of California, Berkeley's College of Environmental Design, hard working students put in long hours meeting deadlines and creating the future built environment. These students need a comprehensive study space that goes beyond the normative hours of Bauer-Wurster Hall to accommodate their ongoing work. Our project, The In-Between, proposes a 24-hour lounge dedicated to undergraduate and graduate students for their idea development. Located south of the existing college, this site is optimal for both the sun path of the region and its proximity to the main building.

Organized as an open and cohesive space, it allows users to work both collaboratively and independently, accommodating a range of specific needs. This project emphasizes comfort, accessibility, and convenience that the existing college currently lacks.

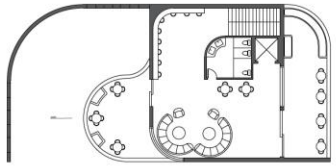
Taking advantage of the sun path and orientation of our site, we explored different materials within the scope of masonry. Intrigued by the idea of a 'perforated facade', we created specific moments where the sun is able to shine through the holes of the brick wall, casting a diffused light throughout the space. This proposal integrates brick and glass, balancing the quality of light and thermal comfort present within the different pockets of working space. This is highly significant considering the insulation issues present within Bauer-Wurster Hall. These bricks are sourced from Pacific Clay Products, a local producer of masonry in Riverside County, CA. Its lighter appearance reflects sunlight, ensuring less heat absorption throughout the day. This acts as a natural cooling system, allowing for daylight to diffuse into the space through this 'perforated facade'. The use of brick and glass creates interesting visuals as the space is produced by juxtaposing material changes between transparent and solid. These contrasting visual conditions speak to the nature of the form as it creates moments that become private and public space for the users.

Designed as an annexed space to Bauer-Wurster Hall, this structure provides a comfortably lit lounge space that overlooks a pleasant view of the surrounding landscape and pedestrian traffic. The In-Between provides an alternative place that breaks away from the traditional work space, supporting a productive and welcoming environment for students.

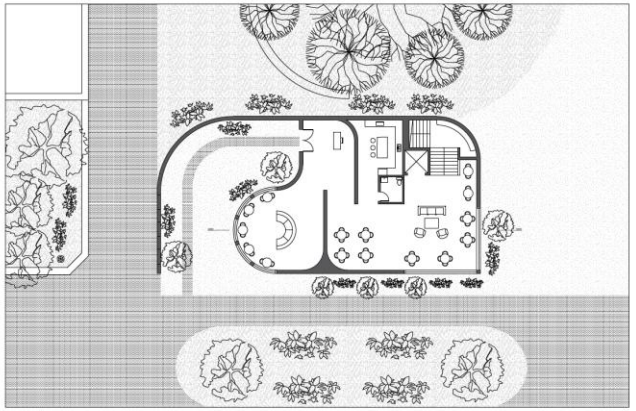
RENDERS



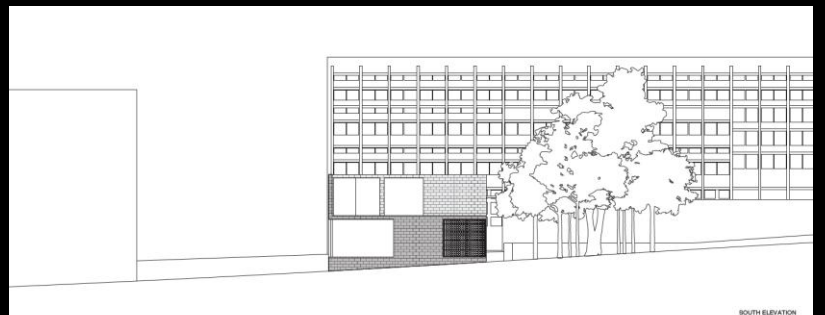
SITE PLAN



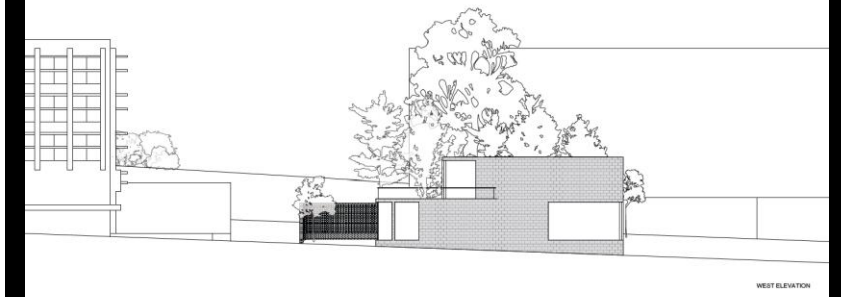
SECOND FLOOR



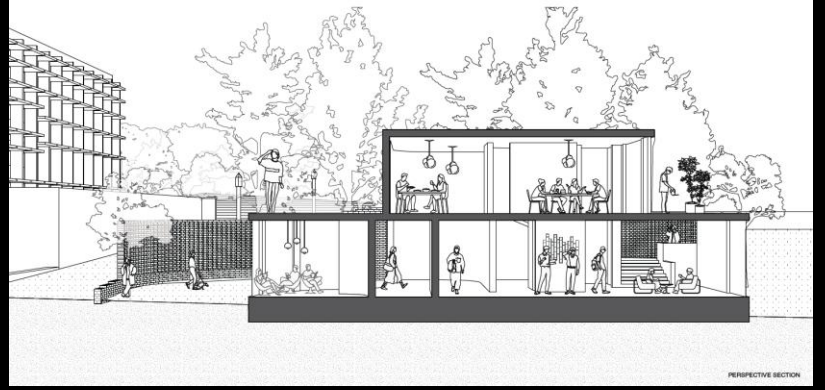
FIRST FLOOR



SOUTH ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION



PERSPECTIVE SECTION

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Honor Mention
Concrete Block

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FLIP

Honor Mention
Concrete Block

UC Berkeley

$500 SCHOLARSHIP


1ST MASONRY ARCHITECTURE STUDENT'S DESIGN COMPETITION

CALIFORNIA MASONRY COUNCIL

HONOR MENTION

CONCRETE BLOCK CATEGORY

PROJECT: FLIP

Zhouxinyue Deng

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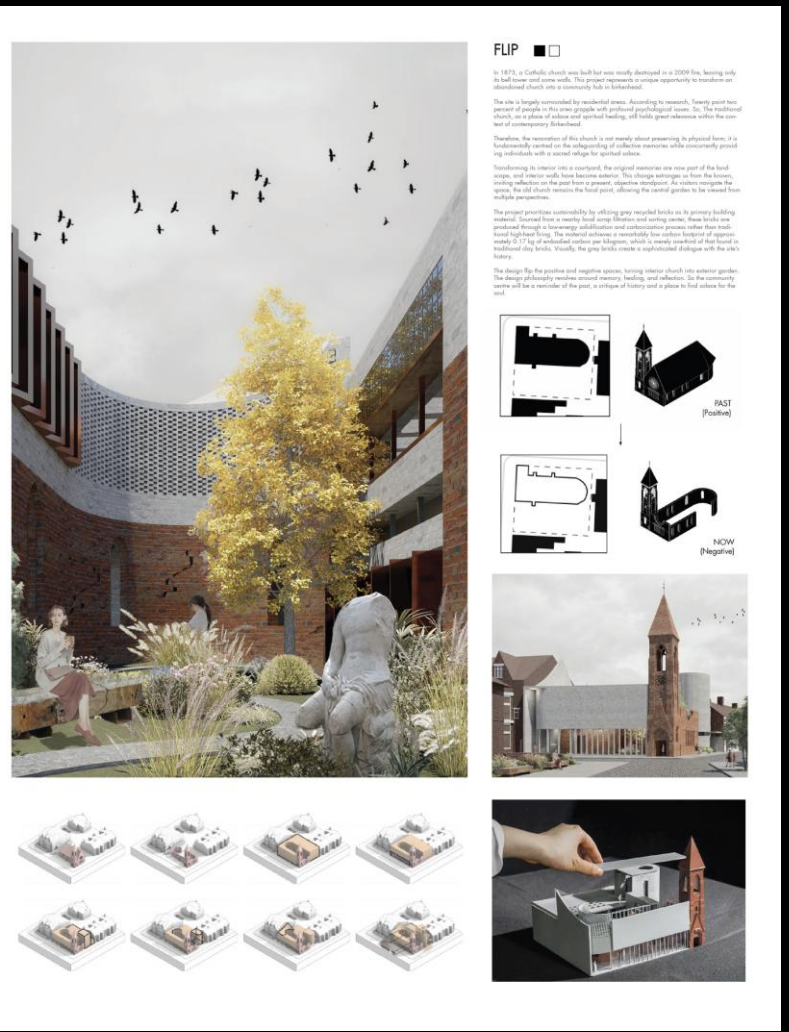
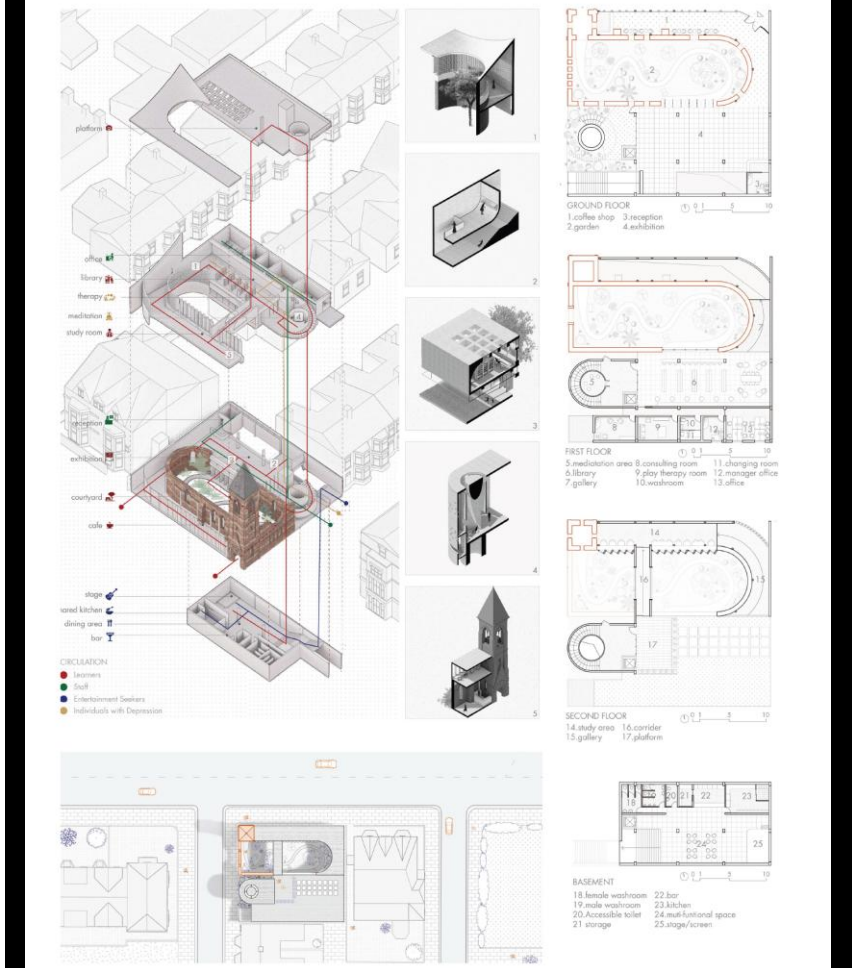
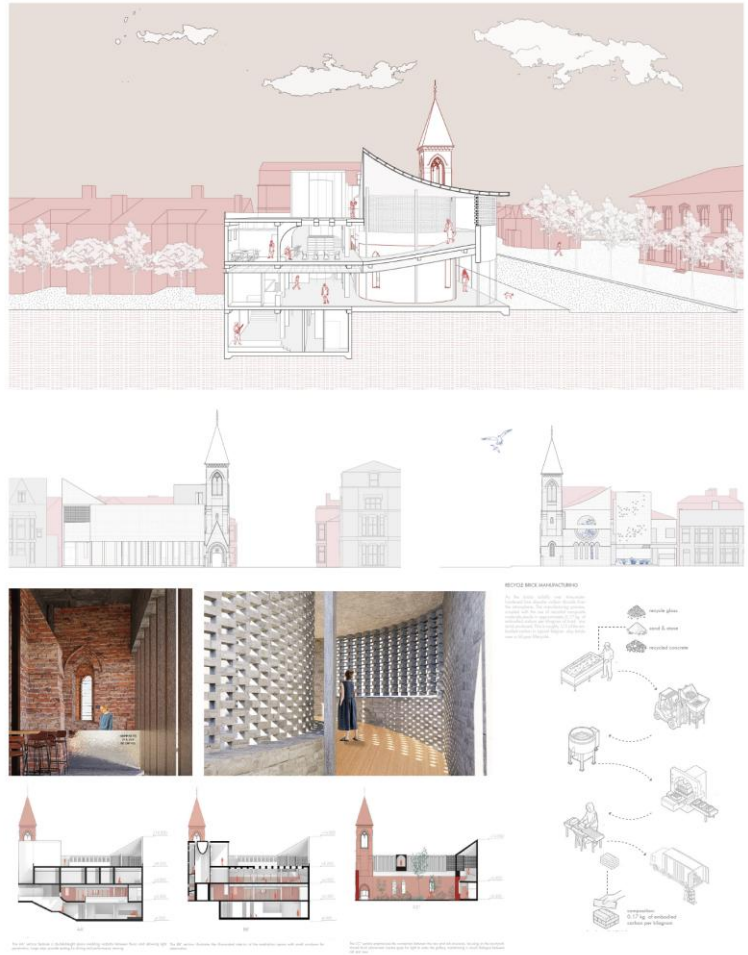
FLIP

Honor Mention - Concrete Block







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Honor Mention
Brick

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MARQUEZ CHARTER ELEMENTARY

Weaving Community with Earthen Threads

Honor Mention - Brick

Cal Poly Pomona

$500 SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations!

MARQUEZ CHARTER ELEMENTARY

Honor Mention - Brick

MARQUEZ CHARTER ELEMENTARY

Weaving Community with Earthen Threads

The Palisades fire of January 2025 tore through the Palisades neighborhood in Los Angeles County, claiming 12 civilian lives and over 6,800 buildings, homes, and structures. Marquez Charter Elementary was one of them.

This project is a sustainable, radically accessible design for a new campus, where the community can heal and grow for years to come.

The design focuses on creating continuity throughout the site, leveraging walls of compressed earth blocks (unfired brick) as unifying elements, because of their capacity for both beauty and long-term safety.

Existing Conditions Diagram.

SITE RESEARCH

Our emphasis on continuity emerged from a careful examination of pre-existing conditions; the steep topography splits the site into 3 platforms, sloping 8-11 feet along their length, and dropping 13 feet between platforms.

This, in combination with the small student body and large square footage made the original campus feel fragmented, and necessitated separate circulation options for able-bodied vs. disabled students.

MATERIALITY/CONSTRUCTION

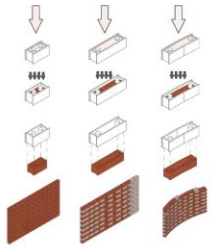
After comparing research across material types, we chose 8" x 16" x 8" Compressed Earth Blocks as our modular component for the design, as they were the best option between sustainability, structural stability, and fire resistance.

Block Type	Dimensions (in)	Carbon Footprint (kgCO2/kg)	Normalized Energy Consumption (MJ/kg)	Compressive Strength (psi)	Fire Rating
CMU	8" x 16" x 8"	0.15 - 0.5	0.6-2.0	2,500	2-4 Hours
Brick	7 5/8" x 3 5/8" x 15 5/8"	0.2 - 0.48	0.5-5.0	2,500	1-4 Hours
CEB	8" x 16" x 8"	0.06 - 0.202	0.15-0.5	1500	2-4 Hours

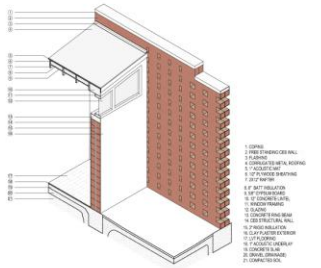
Sample Research- Comparative Material Properties

Production would be done by the Auram Press 3000 by DwellEarth equipped with a custom mold. Dirt from the site, and locally sourced clay and sand would be utilized.

Recycled concrete will act as a binding agent to further reduce carbon footprint, and maximize strength. The CEB blocks, as our base modules, now act as the origin and catalyst for the entire design, with the organizing geometry and spatial considerations emerging from the structural properties and dimensions of an individual block.



CEB Construction & Assembly Process Diagram

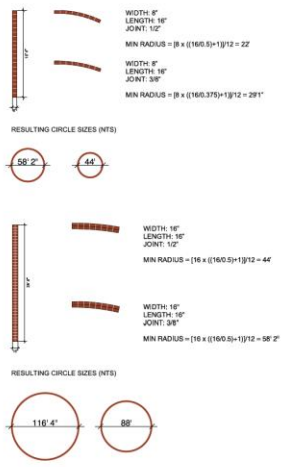


Construction Detail Axonometric

SCHEMATIC DESIGN

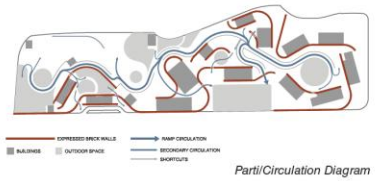
Utilizing the slenderness ratio of a CEB wall, maximum heights were determined and utilized to calculate the smallest possible radius for a circular arrangement of blocks. These circles, with tangents, allow us to create a series of ramps with enough length for 1:20, accessible slopes.

These ramps blend into the topography and serve as the single, ubiquitous circulation option for all users, solving the site's fragmentation. Programmatically, we maintained the previous campus's use of three distinct zones, with classrooms at the top, followed by shared amenities in the middle, and a kindergarten campus/play spaces at the bottom.

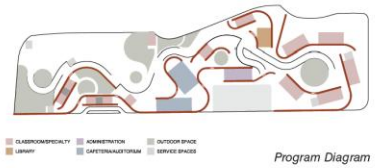


Structural/Geometric Calculations

Base Geometry Diagram



Parti/Circulation Diagram



Program Diagram

DEVELOPED DESIGN

Site Plan & Section

Library Elevation

Upper-Grade Classrooms Elevation

Exterior Render

Interior Render

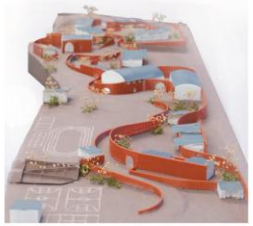
Auditorium Section

Kindergarten Section

SPATIAL EFFECT

Utilizing porosity within the walls as a strategy, as well as a natural material palette of wood and plaster for finishes and interior, we were able to lessen the spatial "heaviness" associated with block construction. This, in combination with varied roof types and strategic daylighting creates beautiful spaces for communal learning.

1/8"-1'0 Model Photo



1/32"-1'0 Model Photo

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