



Crafts and Collaboration at Masonry Camp

When young architects and masons start their careers, they rarely see the whole picture of how a building goes from design to reality. IMI Masonry Camp shows them how vital both professions are, and how collaboration makes it work. They also get to appreciate the skills involved in all the BAC crafts, under the tutelage of ace instructors at The Flynn Center. { [more](#) }



Bentley Software & Seminars Broaden Masonry's Appeal

"What a win/win for our firm." Masonry design options just got richer and easier, thanks to new structural masonry design software from IMI. To educate and inspire designers, IMI is holding special seminars around the country, beginning next month. { [more](#) }

Instructor Certification Program Turns Members into Skilled Teachers

A lot is demanded of participants in the Instructor Certification Program (ICP), but they get a lot out of it, too: skills in teaching, organization and communication, plus the latest industry news, and above all, confidence. { [more](#) }



BAC Trainee Profiles | IMI New Jersey's Thomas Feeney named BAC "Outstanding Instructor"

"I am honored to receive this prestigious award among many qualified instructors."

Thomas Feeney, an instructor at the New Jersey Administrative District Council's Local 5 NJ / IMI Training Center, has earned BAC's highest teaching honor, the John B. Scola Outstanding Instructor Award. { [more](#) }



IMI Toolkit

The versatile "IMI Toolkit" has one-page answers and ideas for designers, contractors and others.



Detail of the Month | Control Joint - 03.802A

Control Joints -03.802A,B,C | Designers have to understand how walls move. These details show how proper control joint detailing can prevent cracking. [Click here](#) for more details.

Looking Ahead

September 22-24

September 23

September 25

New Products Expo - Demonstrations of new products and systems, plus strategies for capturing those markets
Bentley Structural Masonry Seminar
Contractor College

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IMI News Continued

Crafts and Collaboration at Masonry Camp

The week-long Masonry Camp starts with hands-on craft experience, in brick, tile, stone, plaster, terrazzo, and PCC/restoration. For Jason Meyering from OWP/P Architects, that led to “a greater appreciation for the intense training, skill and talent of masonry craftworkers.” It is just as exciting for working masons, who often ask to return for more training and career options through IMI.

New this year was a special studio session for BAC members that helped them understand the architects’ job. Featured speakers were Carlos Jimenez from Houston and Mark Robbins, Dean of Syracuse University’s School of Architecture.

Things get interesting when teams of architects and masons hit the design studio to get ideas for their design/build challenge. At first, “it was like we were speaking different languages,” says Warren Bath from Steed Hammond Paul. But eventually, they start thinking like a team. “It gave me an opportunity to understand how much work is involved in designing and transferring those ideas to drawings that the trades can work with,” says Juan Salazar from Local 1 NY.

Next comes the architects’ turn to enter a new world, as the teams build an element of the design. “Being able to step into the world of the craftworker is invaluable,” says Jason Brown from K. Norman Berry Associates. Jaewon Chang from JCJ Architecture in New York says he was “really inspired by their attitudes and professionalism.”

In fact, the architects say the experience of working alongside masons had a profound effect, and many believe it should be required in their profession. “It will change how I design buildings and what materials I use,” says Jamie Bucci from SWBR Architects.



“These guys take so much pride in their work. They are the truest of craftsmen.”

Eric Goeken, Holabird & Root

Ultimately, both professions got a lasting lesson on the value of collaboration. “It has shown me how important working together is for the future of our industry,” says David Lesko of Local 7 NY/NJ. For Jennifer Lee from Robert A.M. Stern Architects, collaboration means more potential for innovation, “which you can achieve with the architects’ ideas and the craftsmen’s skills.”

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Bentley Software & Seminars Broaden Masonry’s Appeal

Developed in partnership with Bentley Systems, Ryan Biggs Associates and the National Concrete Masonry Association, the software efficiently performs a whole building analysis of both load bearing masonry buildings and the new “hybrid” concept of masonry/steel design. That whole building approach allows for easier and faster engineering design of masonry buildings, including irregular configurations, wall openings, multi-story structures, structural infill panels, and more.



The seminars, which offer professional education credits, combine lectures and demonstrations to make designers comfortable using the software, and to show them how load bearing masonry and hybrid solutions offer attractive alternatives to structural steel.

“When we used this software, our preliminary design time went from four weeks to four days, and we got a more detailed analysis of the building,” says David Biggs, PE. “What a win-win for our firm.”



Instructor Certification Program Turns Members into Skilled Teachers

Now in its third decade, ICP covers all the BAC crafts - brick, tile, terrazzo, stone, marble, cement, plaster, and restoration. Instructors who gather for the annual event get to experience all those crafts, as well as catch up on new developments, materials and standards. The latest offerings in 2008 are flashing and the BAC Code of Conduct.

“ICP is a motivator.”

To be certified, participants spend 200 hours taking courses in three main categories: professional teaching; technical skills; and new materials and practices. They must demonstrate course mastery and present a training portfolio.

Going back to school can be daunting at first, yet many report that they benefited the most from the hardest classes, like lesson planning and public speaking.

It benefits the members, too, says Local 3 MA Executive Vice President Richard Forcione. “It helps instructors become better teachers, and that helps apprentices and even journeymen, when we do cross training. It’s an excellent source of learning, and it has been very effective.”



New Jersey Administrative District Council Director Richard Tolson notices that when instructors come back, “they are invigorated to pass things on. It keeps members up to date and keeps them fresh.” He credits the certification process with helping instructor Tom Feeny capture BAC’s Instructor of the Year title (see below.)

ICP even comes in handy as an organizing tool, says Tolson. “It opens members’ eyes to other opportunities. ICP is a motivator.”



BAC Trainee Profiles | IMI New Jersey’s Thomas Feeny named BAC “Outstanding Instructor”

Feeny, who teaches bricklaying and related training, is a 2006 ICP graduate, and a BAC member since 1980. He started his teaching career in 1986, and became a pre-job bricklaying instructor in 2003. Between ICP training, and the experience that he and his fellow instructors gain, “we compliment each other in our efforts to mold the bricklayers of the future,” he says.

Since then, he has distinguished himself with a passionate and innovative approach to teaching. The “Keys to Success” program he developed helps new entrants gain valuable job skills such as work ethic, punctuality, communication skills, and bricklayer etiquette. It is now offered for foremen, as well.

Feeny also helped develop a formalized competency test for both apprentices and journeymen, and the center boasts a 90% retention rate for its pre-job apprentices. He has served as a judge of SkillsUSA VICA contest at the Bordentown center since 2004, and he was a brick judge for the 2007 BAC/IMI International Apprentice Contest.



Feeny also helps market union masonry, through public events and hands-on demonstrations, where his enthusiastic interaction with students and designers broadcasts union dedication and craftsmanship.

