



## NPR Visits The Flynn Center

*"This is the Harvard of bricklaying."*

NPR's *All Things Considered* visited The Flynn Center in December and found craftsmanship alive and well, thanks to dedicated instructors like Local 1 MVD's Melvin Moore. To hear "A Master Bricklayer Preserves His Craft," [click here](#).



## BAC/IMI International Apprentices Contest Coming this Fall

BAC craftsmanship will also be on display this September, when apprentices in all the crafts - brick, tile, terrazzo, stone, marble, plaster, cement, and restoration - compete for top honors at The Flynn Center.



## New Design Software Has Masonry Taking Off - and Up

*"It is a powerful tool."*

Masonry design software launched late last year is already paying off with scores of masonry projects underway and on the boards. Some of the biggest gains are coming from mid-rise construction, where masonry design is much more practical. { [more](#) }



## BAC/IMI Training Venture Boosts Rochester Careers, Membership

When Rochester NY officials searched for meaningful work options for inner city residents, the IMI apprenticeship program offered a great second chance, and gained some motivated members. "It's something that I can always be proud of," says one. { [more](#) }



## New Products and Opportunities on the Local Level

Last fall's New Products Expo at The Flynn Center introduced hundreds of architects, engineers, contractors and construction managers to promising products and systems, plus the critical ingredient: skilled training. Now, IMI is making the connection with local designers and contractors. { [more](#) }



## A Greener Future for Masonry Contractors

"Green collar jobs" are this year's buzzword, and IMI is making sure that union contractors are well-positioned to get the work. { [more](#) }

### FLYNN CENTER PROFILES

Local 4 IN/KY PCC Apprentices Tina Mudge, Michael Bivens, Ronald Gallet  
The Flynn Center's PCC upgrade training works out so well for Local 4 IN/KY that it is now a mandatory part of their apprenticeship. Participants say it boosts their confidence and their marketability. { [more](#) }



## IMI News Continued

### New Design Software Has Masonry Taking Off - and Up

Developed in partnership with Bentley Systems, Ryan Biggs Associates and the National Concrete Masonry Association, the software makes masonry design truly competitive with steel and concrete. "It is a powerful tool," says Marc Steinhobel, P.E., SECB from Desai/Nasr Consulting Engineers in West Bloomfield, MI. His firm, which has already used it for several loadbearing mid-rise buildings, is a proponent because masonry design "has many structural and architectural benefits that add value to our clients' projects," he says.

IMI offers seminars and in-house training to help firms understand and appreciate the software's potential. One eager Wisconsin engineer jumped right in by designing an 80,000-s.f. medical facility. Designers say they appreciate having their first choice of materials, even on projects with atypical conditions.

In the field, designers appreciate the software even more. When a steel shortage threatened to seriously delay one Detroit middle school project, the software let the engineer quickly redesign it all as loadbearing masonry, and get right back on schedule.

For the seminar schedule, go to [www.imiweb.org](http://www.imiweb.org). To see how the software can benefit your project, call 800-IMI-0988.



The software let designers of this 128,000-s.f. Zaragon Place project in Ann Arbor have their first material choice - masonry.

### BAC/IMI Training Venture Boosts Rochester Careers, Membership

Having already removed its high school degree requirement to address changing demographics, BAC Local 3 NY was in a good position to participate in the city's PRIME (Providing Real Incentives to Maintain Employment) initiative, which paid for 50 people to experience a week at the Local 3 training center. By the end, most had joined up, with the city covering initiation fees. On some projects, the state is even kicking in with financial incentives for employers.

This latest venture has given the local its largest apprentice class ever, and something more. "If you have an opportunity to change, you have a bit of hope," says President Eugene Caccamise. "For once, somebody's giving them a chance, and they are running with it." He notes that in addition to gaining new workers, the program is also helping the community see unions in a new light.

Participant Frank Minigan credits the Local 3 instructors and a rich curriculum that covers all the BAC crafts plus critical skills like blueprint reading and welding. "It's not just a trade," he says.

"It's a whole career avenue, and it's something that I can always be proud of."



### New Products and Opportunities on the Local Level

The BAC Local 3 MA/ME/NH Training Center hosted the first regional New Products Expo, featuring Arriscraft's ARRIS clip and the Redland Thin Brick Clip systems, with a second expo on StoneLite™ natural stone wall panels. Contractors say the sessions made them more comfortable bidding and pursuing the work.

For Bryant College in Rhode Island, IMI worked with the manufacturer of StoneLite™, plus the architect and contractor Grande Masonry to design the support system. That resulted in Grande winning the whole package, including air barrier, insulation, Z-clips, channels and stone installation, with plenty of BAC manhours. A New Products Expo April 6 in Connecticut will open even more doors.

In the Midwest, where channel-anchored masonry facades are getting a lot of attention for their energy-efficiency, sustainability, moisture resistance and modern looks, IMI is providing technical assistance on projects, and educational seminars to spread the word. For a Beloit food processing complex, BAC craftworkers installed channel-anchored terra cotta cladding. Upcoming jobs at the University of Wisconsin/Madison will include project-specific training and technical support. Other new BAC work includes glass fiber reinforced concrete and prefabricated masonry wall panels.



## A Greener Future for Masonry Contractors

Green courses offered through IMI Contractor College include LEED, sustainability, energy efficiency, material specification, and construction practices. The courses apply to all types of masonry contractors.

For architects, IMI offers several seminars that help them meet sustainability requirements of the American Institute of Architects. As the issue of energy performance heats up, IMI is working on modeling systems that support masonry's contribution.



### FLYNN CENTER PROFILES

#### Local 4 IN/KY PCC Apprentices Tina Mudge, Michael Bivens, Ronald Gallet

Even for final year PCC apprentices Tina Mudge, Mike Bivens and Ronnie Gallet, there is plenty to cover during the two weeks of PCC upgrading. The expansive setup includes all the tools and equipment needed to learn the basics, plus more specialized topics like rigging, pointing, patching and scaffolding.

Another plus is that it is tailored to fit each student. "It's targeted to what I need for the card," says Mudge, who visited the center last year for the basics. When some jobs required her to replace bricks, she wanted to improve those skills. "That will help me a lot when I get back," she says.



For Bivens, who also works in brick and block, the course gave him "enough to get started. If you know what to do, it makes you more sure of yourself," he says.

The apprentices also get a three-day course in Jahn historical restoration materials, which are used on stone, brick, marble and terra cotta. The manufacturer requires a strict certification process for anyone buying or using it, and IMI offers both training and certification. An added bonus is that the materials are considered "green," which also helps their employers.

Bivens credits his employer for getting him into PCC by pushing him to take on more responsibility after laboring for fifteen years. "He threw me a life preserver," he says. For Mudge, a mother of four whose jobs included kindergarten teacher, a friend in the trade convinced her to try it, because she liked working outside and being active. Gallet had a "great gig" with Northwest Airlines, but after several airlines folded, he realized that "it's just not the industry to be in." Originally, he planned to try PCC "for a couple of weeks," but discovered he had a knack for it, and today enjoys caulking and waterproofing work.



The Flynn Center scaffolding station gives Gallet (left) and Bivens realistic experience.

All three had a fast-paced apprenticeship working on several major PCC projects in Indianapolis. Those have just ended, but they are optimistic that their skills will make them more marketable. They also appreciate the advantage that the training gives Local 4 overall, now that a major open shop training center has opened in the area. "It shows them and the contractors what we can do," says Bivens.

### IMI TOOL KIT

The IMI Tool Kit offers best practices and answers to common questions, plus more about IMI services and programs. Access the IMI TOOL KIT online at [www.imiweb.org](http://www.imiweb.org).



### What Does IMI Do?

Members of Chicago District Council 1 grace the cover of ASTM International's Masonry Standards for the Building Industry: 6th Edition. Photo by Scott Conwell, IMI.



To see the full list of IMI services & programs and video, [click here](#).

