



MICHIGAN

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A Solid Case for Police HQ Boosts Manhours

Designers of the Michigan State Police HQ building in Lansing originally planned to go precast, but BAC Local 9 and IMI officials knew that masonry could offer a better design and cost savings. Underwriting a feasibility study using the IMI structural masonry design software to prove it resulted in a masonry structure built by signatory contractor Leidal & Hart Mason Contractors, Inc. and nearly 26,000 manhours for Local 9 members. The 150,000-square foot project had originally projected far fewer hours for veneer work, but, says Lansing Field Representative Jim Bitzer, *“We just kept pushing.”*



Promoting Structural Masonry and Skilled Craftworkers

As IMI educates designers on the advantages of structural masonry through in-house seminars, other selling points are IMI grout certification training and the value of skilled BAC craftworkers.

The combined efforts are paying off, with a high percentage of structural projects putting grout certification right in their specifications. *“This should be mandatory for every masonry project in Michigan,”* says engineer Ben Penhale, whose firm used it for the District Court building in Livonia. Switching the University of Michigan’s indoor practice facility from precast to 14,000 s.f. of structural masonry blends beautifully with the historic arena - and provided more than 27,500 BAC manhours, roughly twice as many as the original plan.

Structural masonry work can account for up to two-thirds of total manhours of a project, depending on design. IMI is now targeting construction managers and potential projects.



Connecting the Dots, from Details to Wall

For a seven-story load bearing residential building at Michigan Tech, IMI’s combined training and technical expertise went even further. Along with grout certification, structural detailing became part of on-the-job training, including sections of details built right from the blueprints. That kind of support is one reason why leading engineering firm Desai Nasar requires IMI grout certification on all projects.



INTERNATIONAL MASONRY INSTITUTE

UNION MASONRY CRAFTWORKERS, CONTRACTORS & CONSULTANTS

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IMI Training Boosts Marketability for Members...

To increase job prospects for BAC members, IMI offers a host of specialized training, often through train-the-trainer classes that give locals more flexibility. Several BAC Michigan instructors took advantage of **OSHA and MSHA** train-the-trainer classes at The Flynn Center, to help members meet the growing demand. Michigan members have also taken **pre-job** and **cross-training** courses in specialties, like terrazzo and stone and new products, to increase their employability.



...and Contractors

Visitors to Detroit’s new Metro Airport see skilled BAC craftsmanship everywhere they step. The terminal features tile and terrazzo work done by Artisan Tile, Inc., which used IMI training to expand its terrazzo capabilities to win work on this and other projects. *“They went to IMI and we put them to work,”* says owner Jennifer Panning.



Green is Good - for BAC Members and Contractors

With the push for sustainable design, IMI educates designers and construction managers on masonry’s contribution and the importance of skilled installation, and helps position BAC contractors for that work through the **Sustainable Masonry Certification Program**, developed under U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) guidelines. Topics such as construction waste management, building reuse tactics and building envelope and performance help make contractors a valuable part of a green building team. *To learn more, go to www.imiweb.org/greenmasonry.*



BAC Work on Durant Hotel Taps Growing Restoration Market

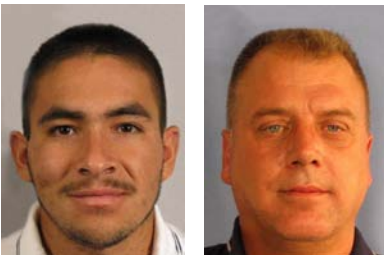
There is some good news from Flint. At the heart of recent redevelopment efforts is the Historic Durant Hotel. Built in 1920 and named for General Motors founder William C. Durant, it will include lofts, retail and parking.

From the start, the project team relied on IMI’s restoration expertise, which included building assessment technical guidance, plan review, and project specifications, plus help finding qualified BAC contractors. Masonry restoration work for the \$23 million project was awarded to the Chezcor Corporation this year, and the craftsmanship of BAC Local 1 and 9 members *“has been outstanding,”* says Project Superintendent Tom Olson.

Contractor College

Another selling point that sets BAC contractors apart is access to ongoing professional education. A Michigan session of IMI Contractor College on October 1 covered Contractor Prequalification, Safety Requirements, Movement Control and Flashing, and Masonry Engineering for Contractors.

The Michigan office also conducts Foreman Leadership classes throughout the year. For information, contact ploughney@imiweb.org, or (734) 944-7766.



BAC/IMI International Apprentice Contest

Congratulations to Local 1 MI apprentice Fausto Lopez (*pictured left*), who won Second Place/Brick in the International Apprentice Contest. For Contest coverage, go to www.bacweb.org.

Instructor Certification Program

Congratulations to Local 1 MI instructor James Ritchie (*pictured right*), who graduated from the IMI Instructor Certification Program this October at The Flynn Center.

