



Profiles in Architecture

October 2018 Edition

Why Masonry?
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Sage Creek Performing Arts Center

Carlsbad, California



ARCHITECT:
Rachlin Partners
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STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
R.M. Byrd & Associates, Inc.
GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Erickson-Hall Construction Co.
MASONRY CONTRACTOR:
Haxton Masonry, Inc.
BLOCK PRODUCER:
ORCO Block & Hardscape
OWNER:
Carlsbad Unified School District
©PHOTOGRAPHY:
Tom Bonner Photography -
Exteriors and Audience Chamber
Chipper Hatter - Lobby



ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: As part of a design competition, Rachlin Partners offered a striking design for the new Sage Creek High School Performing Arts Center: a 16,500 square-foot facility housing an array of programs, including Choir and Instrumental Music, Musical Theatre, Drama and Dance. The facility also supports lectures and concerts by visiting artists.

Guests enter the center through an arrival plaza leading to a spacious two-story lobby designed to provide ample room for queuing into the Audience Chamber. The space can accommodate groups of more than 200 people for pre- or post-performance gatherings.

At ground-level, the Audience Chamber is entered via light and sound-lock vestibules at either end of the Lobby, providing convenient entrée to Orchestra and Parterre seating. The Audience Chamber is designed to seat 340-plus occupants with consideration given to sight lines and acoustics that allow a more intimate experience, thereby improving student attentiveness.

The entry façade is comprised of perforated metal panels that are suspended in front of a structural glazed curtain wall to control the amount of sunlight cascading into the building. While the screens present a striking modern aesthetic, they also offer a unique opportunity to provide large-scale projected signage for event advertising, as well as school identification.

WHY MASONRY? The Sage Creek Performing Arts Center utilizes concrete masonry units (CMUs) in multi-color earth tones which create a pattern designed to mirror the site's surrounding environment. The incorporation of CMUs into the project's program was also based on Carlsbad Unified School District's functional and aesthetic design criteria. As part of a heavily trafficked site, located on the Sage Creek High School campus, building materials have to withstand the rigors of everyday school use. Concrete masonry units have the advantage of being low maintenance, while also providing durability and sound mitigation. These qualities ensure that students and the community will enjoy the Performing Arts Center for many years to come.

