

CMU

Profiles in Architecture

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Why Masonry?
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Inside this issue:

Temple City High School Classroom Building	2
Stanislaus County Re-Entry & Alternatives to Custody Training (REACT) Center	3
San Diego Residence	4
San Juan	5
Clark County School District Vegas Verdes Elementary School	6
John Glenn High School Sports Fields	7
2022 CMACN/AIACA Design Awards	8
CMACN Producer Members	8

John Glenn High School Sports Fields

Norwalk, California



ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District recently tackled the renovation of athletic fields that were ill-suited to serve students' needs. Of those facilities, the John Glenn High School fields allowed for limited practice during fall and winter, and could not support varsity games, which were played at another nearby high school.

With the transformation complete, the project resulted in a new synthetic turf football field, baseball field, softball field, and three practice fields. The football field now features 2,500-seat-capacity bleachers that will accommodate athletic events and other school-related activities. Students will also enjoy a new track with nine lanes and ample lighting, allowing varsity home games and night use of the fields.

The new, centrally located Concession Building contains a warming kitchen/concession area that can be accessed from both sides of the building for both home and visiting teams. In addition, the building contains team rooms, storage rooms, and restrooms that will support current and future needs. Designed as a long, linear facility, the building sits at the junction of the football, baseball, softball, and soccer fields, allowing all sports easy access to the facility.

WHY MASONRY? Concrete masonry units (CMUs) were primarily selected in the construction of the Concession Building for their durability, versatility, and design aesthetic. As one of the strongest materials available, CMUs are not susceptible to rotting, mold, or damage from pests, making them ideal for permanent facilities. School colors, like the bright white CMUs on the Concession Building's exterior, create a modern aesthetic that, when paired with the red angular plaster walls, link the building to the existing campus. In conjunction with steel framing, CMUs were also used as a component in the building's structural system.

The new facilities will enhance opportunities for extracurricular activities and serve as a community hub, where students and the community can come together to celebrate Eagles' pride.

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