ARCHITECTS are always challenged with providing strong and durable, yet economical buildings. This is especially true when the building being designed represents fire safety for the community. Designing the new East Providence Fire Station was no different. Architects from The Providence Partnership selected brick, stone and cement stucco masonry as the materials of choice for the exterior veneer because of their strength, durability, and reputation as the safest building materials in the industry.

The architects incorporated all three materials into a unified design. Cast stone masonry was used to form the base of the building, and a cast stone sill was designed to create a transition from the stone...
units to the brick veneer. The brick veneer was comprised of a running bond with a header accent band and a projecting band course. The headers were aligned with the brick head joints. Brick piers and cement stucco were also used as design elements to provide aesthetic appeal. Tall brick piers with stone bases were built to support the high bay structure housing the fire trucks, and decorative columns and cast stone walls were designed to support the canopies at the station entrances. Loadbearing concrete masonry walls and piers were used to support the roof trusses and provide shear resistance for the large open truck bays.

Composite Wall Piers were constructed of 4” brick and 8” insulated, solid grouted CMU. The CMU were laid in an interlocking pattern and reinforced with #6 bars. Steel channels were grouted into the ends of the CMU to protect the piers from possible collision damage. The masonry piers provided the necessary mass to support the structure above the sectional overhead doors, while providing aesthetic relief to the North and South elevations. Matching precast caps covered the buttresses.

The architects worked with structural engineer,
EAST PROVIDENCE FIRE STATION

Figure 2 - Composite Wall Piers

Galvanized Steel Channel

4” Brick

8” Solid Grouted CMU with Insulated Cores and #6 Reinforcing Bars

Joint Reinforcement & Ties 8” o.c. (not shown for clarity)

Sloped Reinforced Concrete Buttress and Precast Cap

David Odeh of Odeh Engineers, to assist in keeping down building costs. David and Mike Spino of Spino Brothers Mason Contractors worked closely with DePasquale Builders to ensure a quality masonry project.

Masonry was the natural choice for the East Providence Fire Station, as it not only meets the necessary structural requirements, but provides durability and fire resistance as well.