

JBC

MASONRY INNOVATION COMPETITION

BRIEF



INTERNATIONAL
MASONRY
INSTITUTE





TIMELINE

REGISTRATION OPENS: January 15, 2026

SUBMISSION OPENS: February 15, 2026

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: July 31, 2026 (11:59 p.m. EST)

WINNERS NOTIFIED: September 2026

WINNERS ANNOUNCED: October 2026

KEY INFORMATION

LANGUAGE: English

LOCATION: United States and Canada

PRIZES: See Details (page 7)

COMPETITION WEBSITE: imiweb.org/jbcaward

SUBMISSION WEBSITE: jbc.awardsplatform.com

OFFICIAL RULES: imiweb.org/jbc-competition-official-rules

QUESTIONS: jbcaward@imiweb.org

ABOUT JOAN B. CALAMBOKIDIS

Joan B. Calambokidis served as President of the International Masonry Institute from 1995-2017.

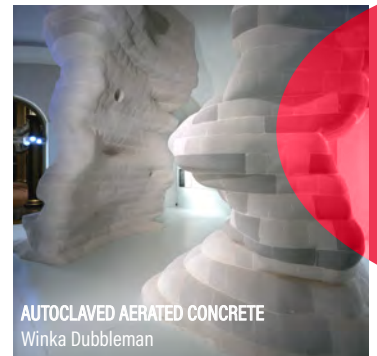
The JBC Masonry Innovation Competition was founded in 2018 to honor Joan's legacy of masonry innovation, including groundbreaking advancements in training, education, research, and technical development.

Joan's leadership was instrumental in creating IMI's renowned training programs for craftworkers, contractors, and design professionals. Her vision for training has helped to bring an unprecedented level of skill, quality, and craft to masonry construction projects across the U.S. and Canada. Joan also led the development of IMI's International Training Center, a multi-building, state-of-the-art facility in Maryland that has educated thousands of craftworkers and design professionals since its opening in 2007.

During Joan's tenure, IMI helped curate *Masonry Variations* in 2003, a National Building Museum exhibit co-sponsored by the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (BAC) and IMI. The exhibit featured innovative works by four architects, demonstrating the versatility of stone, terrazzo, brick, and autoclaved aerated concrete. The installations explored the relationship between material, technology, and collaboration.

Joan was also responsible for the creation of *Masonry Camp*, a nationally-recognized IMI program dedicated to building collaboration between designers and craftworkers.

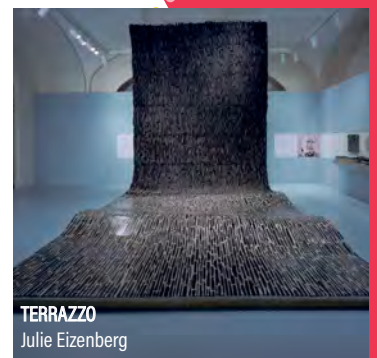
Through the JBC Masonry Innovation Competition, IMI honors and carries on the tradition of innovation that Joan established in the masonry industry.



AUTOCLAVED AERATED CONCRETE
Winka Dubbleman



STONE
Jeanne Gang



TERRAZZO
Julie Eizenberg



BRICK
Carlos Jimenez

OVERVIEW

INNOVATION IN MASONRY:

Any solution that adds value, usefulness, appreciation, and relevance to masonry design and construction, whether an improvement of an existing system or a groundbreaking proposal.

THE CHALLENGE

The International Masonry Institute's (IMI's) JBC Masonry Innovation Competition wants your ideas for transformative masonry design. We're challenging practicing and aspiring architects and engineers to advance the future of masonry design and construction.

Your ideas have the power to tackle today's biggest challenges — from climate resilience and sustainability to community health and well-being, affordability, accessibility, and social equity. We want to see your bold new concepts that show how masonry can solve challenges and better our built environment. We're also looking for ideas that have the potential to change the way we design and build with masonry and create growth opportunities for our industry.

Your solution can focus on innovations in:

- Materials/material science
- Construction methods or processes
- Design approaches
- Business models
- Aesthetic or functional uses of masonry

Whether your concept improves an existing system or proposes something groundbreaking, it should demonstrate value, relevance, and constructibility.

SUBMISSION SCOPE

We welcome imagined, proposed, or completed projects of any scale or program — from schools and hospitals to public spaces and housing. Model your ideas in BIM and use BIM for Masonry (BIM-M) tools to bring your vision to life.

WHY IMI?

At IMI, we know that great design and skilled craft go hand in hand. As a labor-management partnership, IMI has long fought for economic and social justice by bringing workers and employers together to ensure fair pay, good benefits, and safer jobsites for all.

IMI and IMTEF's state-of-the-art training prepares BAC craftworkers and contractors to meet the demands of complex, high-performance masonry construction.

Together with innovative architects and engineers, we can create a better built world for everyone. Show us your innovative solutions!

MASONRY MATERIALS:

- Brick
- Concrete Block
- Tile
- Marble
- Terrazzo
- Stone
- Plaster
- Rainscreen

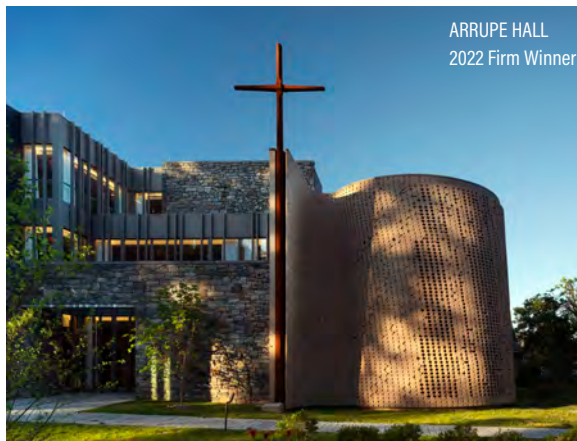
WHO CAN ENTER

ARCHITECTS

ENGINEERS

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

**ARCHITECTURAL/
ENGINEERING
FIRMS**



ARRUPE HALL
2022 Firm Winner



GUSTO 501
2020 Firm Winner



LAKEWOOD FIRE STATION
2022 Young Architect Winner

ENTRY CATEGORIES

There are three entry categories:

STUDENTS

Undergraduate or graduate students enrolled in an accredited design, architecture, or engineering school.

YOUNG ARCHITECTS/ENGINEERS

Any architects or engineers under the age of 40.

A/E FIRMS, INDIVIDUAL ARCHITECTS/ ENGINEERS, & CROSS-CATEGORY

Architecture/engineering firms, architects, and engineers age 40 and over, and cross-category teams.

Multidisciplinary teams are encouraged in all categories to help facilitate a well-conceived solution, but individual entries are also permitted. There are no restrictions on team size.

Each team or individual may only submit one entry.



Winner



SHEDDING WATER
2022 Student Winner



SPATIAL MASONRY
2020 Young Architect/Engineer Winner

[View past winners at imiweb.org/jbcawards.](https://imiweb.org/jbcawards)

PRIZES

Monetary awards will be provided to 1st place winners in each of the three entry categories. In addition to monetary prizes, winners will receive special publicity opportunities, including the opportunity to present their designs on IMI's popular webinar series, which regularly draws hundreds of attendees across the country. Winners will also be highlighted in digital publications and honored during an awards ceremony.

STUDENTS CATEGORY

\$5,000 awarded to student(s). An additional **\$5,000** awarded to the specific school program in which the student(s) is enrolled. If student team members are from different programs, colleges or universities, the \$5,000 award will be split among the different programs, colleges, or universities.

YOUNG ARCHITECTS/ ENGINEERS CATEGORY (UNDER 40)

\$10,000

A/E FIRMS, INDIVIDUAL ARCHITECTS/ENGINEERS, & CROSS-CATEGORY

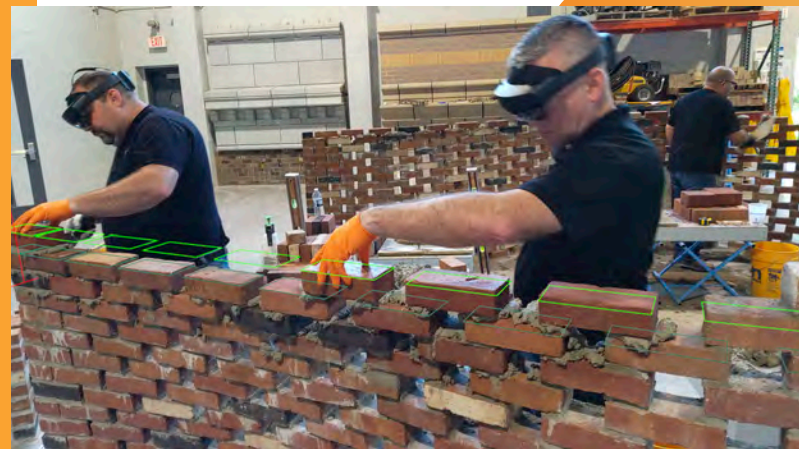
\$10,000

HONORABLE MENTION

Honorable mentions may also be awarded in each of the three categories, with recognition to include special publication and promotion opportunities.



Inaugural winners with Joan B. Calambokidis, from left: Anh Nguyen, Shawn Chinudomsub, Joan B. Calambokidis, Erin Hunt, and Leslie Forehand.



MASONRY AR
2024 Firm/Multi-disciplinary Winner

HOW TO ENTER

REGISTRATION

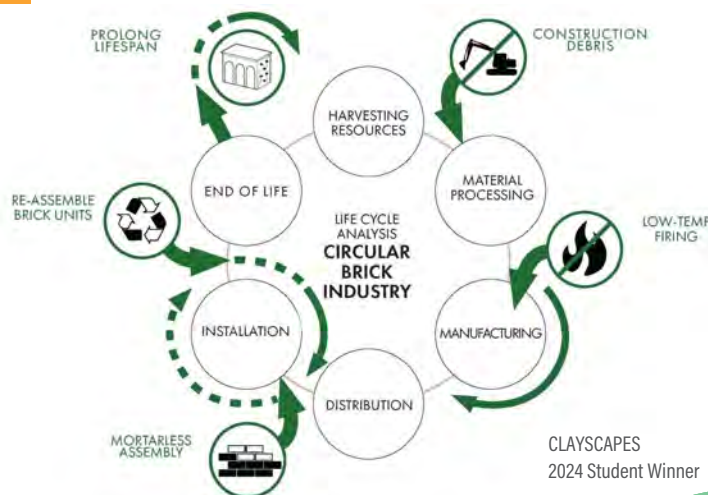
To enter the competition, register an account at jbc.awardsplatform.com.

The process is quick and easy: only basic contact information is collected and there is no cost to register. If entering as a team, please choose a team lead to register an account.

After registering, you will receive an email asking to confirm your account by clicking the provided link. Confirm your account to complete registration.

SUBMISSION

The online entry and submission system will open on February 15, 2026 and is accessible at jbc.awardsplatform.com. Through the system, you can start and save your entry in-progress and return at any time using the login created during registration.



DEADLINE

Completed entries must be submitted by July 31, 2026 (11:59 p.m. EST). The submission system will automatically stop accepting entries after this time, and no extensions will be granted.

DELIVERABLES

Submit the following deliverables through the online submission system at jbc.awardsplatform.com.

- **Two digital presentation boards** depicting your project. Include plans, sections, details, BIM images, 3D images, and any other information needed to explain your design solution. Digital boards should be landscape-oriented at 24"(h) X 36"(w) and saved as JPEGs at 150 dpi resolution in RGB mode.
- **A project statement** (1200 words max) that explains how your concept rethinks the innovative potential of masonry and addresses program requirements outlined in the competition brief.
- **Technology used in your solution**, as requested on the entry form. We encourage you to use BIM for Masonry tools to develop your concept. Get more information and links to BIM-M resources in the "Designing Your Solution" section below.
- **Contact information**, as requested on the entry form.
- **For student category entrants only:** Proof of enrollment in a design, architecture, or engineering program.

Please submit all information you consider necessary to explain your solution above and beyond the required deliverables, including, but not limited to, video, images, written, or multimedia content.

All entries must be submitted in English.

DESIGNING YOUR SOLUTION

BIM FOR MASONRY (BIM-M)

BIM for Masonry (BIM-M) brings masonry materials and systems to popular BIM software, making it easier for architects, engineers, and BIM users to incorporate masonry into their designs.

We highly encourage you to download and use one or more of the following BIM-M tools to assist in modeling your solution.

IMI MASONRY CONTENT PACK

The IMI Masonry Content Pack is a free public library of contract-document-ready assets for Revit hosted in Nexus Suite by CTC Software. Our comprehensive pack of 2D and 3D content, includes:

- Clay brick units, walls, and bonding patterns
- Concrete masonry units, walls, bond beams, and vertical grouted cells
- Rainscreen wall systems (terra cotta, porcelain tile, and slate)
- Masonry anchors and accessories to model virtual mockups at LOD 400
- Structural masonry details and Forse/IMI Insight PDFs

IMI's masonry library can be found in Nexus under the Manufacturers tab in the Architecture discipline. Public libraries like IMI are free even after the 30 day trial.

[Access IMI's Masonry Content Pack in Nexus Suite](#)

3DIQ'S MASONRY IQ SOFTWARE

Masonry IQ is a smart masonry tool inside Revit that improves modeling productivity with features that allow users to:

- Study modularity
- Generate coursed wall sections
- See cuts at openings
- Place bond beams
- Generate sweeps
- View properly bonded corners
- Explore masonry patterns

[Connect with 3DIQ](#)

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The following criteria will be used to judge submissions:

- **INNOVATION (45%):** The idea provides a groundbreaking proposal for positioning masonry. The idea generates added value or usefulness, improvement, or increases masonry's relevance.
- **EXECUTION OF IDEA (30%):** The idea is clearly communicated and understood.
- **CREATIVITY (25%):** The solution shows original thinking.



ABOUT IMI

The International Masonry Institute (IMI) works to promote and advance the union masonry industry. As the labor-management partnership of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (BAC) and its signatory contractors, IMI is committed to growing the market share of work for union contracting companies and their employees.

Above all, we stand for quality construction, safety, and skilled labor. That's why IMI facilitates state-of-the-art training for BAC signatory contractors and their employees.

We also offer free education and assistance to architecture, engineering, and construction (AEC) professionals to help them design and build effectively with masonry.

Together, these services uniquely position IMI, BAC, and its signatory contractors to contribute to beautiful, long-lasting structures in communities across the U.S. and Canada.

OUR SERVICES FOR THE AEC COMMUNITY

IMI's team of experts provides free technical support for masonry design and construction projects, including:

- Plan and specification review
- Design and detailing assistance
- Constructibility mockups
- Jobsite visits
- AIA webinars and seminars
- Material assembly workshops

[See all the ways you can work with us.](#)

ADVANCING THE INDUSTRY

To advance the understanding and practical application of masonry materials, systems, and construction, IMI partners with leading universities, research institutions, and industry groups to examine important issues such as:

- Constructability
- Seismic design
- Impact resistance and storm shelter design
- Sustainability and resiliency
- Fire safety
- Codes and standards
- New and emerging products





WORKING WITH QUALIFIED INSTALLERS

IMI also represents qualified masonry contractors and installers who stay up-to-date on industry standards and techniques through rigorous training and education programs.

The International Masonry Training and Education Foundation (IMTEF) – IMI's partner organization – provides lifelong learning to BAC members through a grant from IMI. All BAC installers go through a multi-year registered apprenticeship program that combines classroom and hands-on learning with real-world experience, totaling over 8,500 hours of training. That translates to expert, quality installations on projects.

Additionally, we offer certifications that advance and verify installers' knowledge and ability in specialized skill areas. In fact, designers and specifiers can include [IMI certifications in project specifications](#) to guarantee a skilled workforce.

IMI is also the leading source of professional education for BAC signatory contractors, equipping them with the skills and knowledge to bid and build complete walls systems, from interior to exterior. BAC signatory contractors have expertise in new building construction and restoration, focusing on an array of materials and systems:

- | | | |
|----------|---------------|-------------------------|
| ▪ Brick | ▪ Cement | ▪ Terrazzo |
| ▪ Block | ▪ Plaster | ▪ Mosaic |
| ▪ Stone | ▪ Terra cotta | ▪ Rainscreen |
| ▪ Marble | ▪ Tile | ▪ Air and Vapor Barrier |



THE UNION DIFFERENCE

Our contractors design and build with communities – and the people who live and work in them – in mind. BAC signatory contractors are committed to providing middle class jobs, paying fair wages, and providing excellent healthcare, retirement benefits, and paid leave.

Plus, organized workplaces are proven to be safer than their non-union counterparts. In fact, the labor movement has a long history of leading the way in protecting workers from injury, illness, and death on the job. Not only that, but construction unions like BAC are known for their innovation in safety, quality, and training. We take pride in what we do: building projects and landmarks that shape our communities.

THAT'S THE UNION DIFFERENCE.

IMI is a strategic partnership of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (BAC) and its signatory contractors.



CONTACT

Questions should be submitted via email to jbcaward@imiweb.org.