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FALL 2021 EDITION

MODERN MASONRY, FEATURING

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OF LATTER  
DAY SAINTS**  
WAVERLEY WEST



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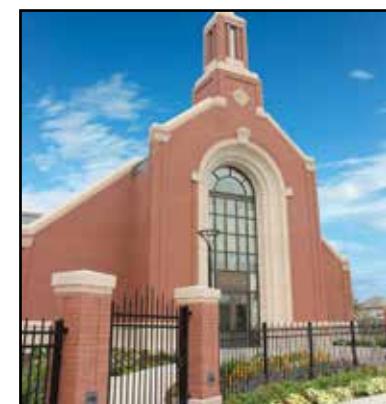
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# CONTENTS

## On the Cover



9

Church Tradition Continue  
 Heritage and beauty greet  
 a growing and modern  
 neighbourhood

## Features



7

Building a strong foundation  
 for an industry



14

Ecole Templeton School  
 Timeless beauty & craftsmanship  
 meet sustainability requirements in  
 new school



24

Restoration  
 How the past is preserved for  
 future generations



27

Adhered Veneers  
 Form & function offer the  
 right solutions



28

A new reality: when availability and  
 sky high inflation impact projects.  
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 & schedules predictable.

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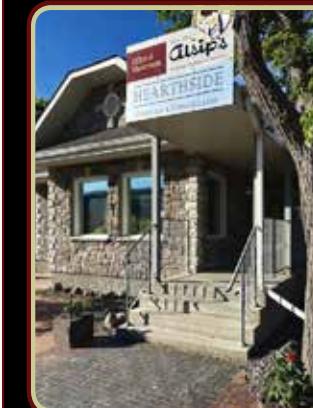


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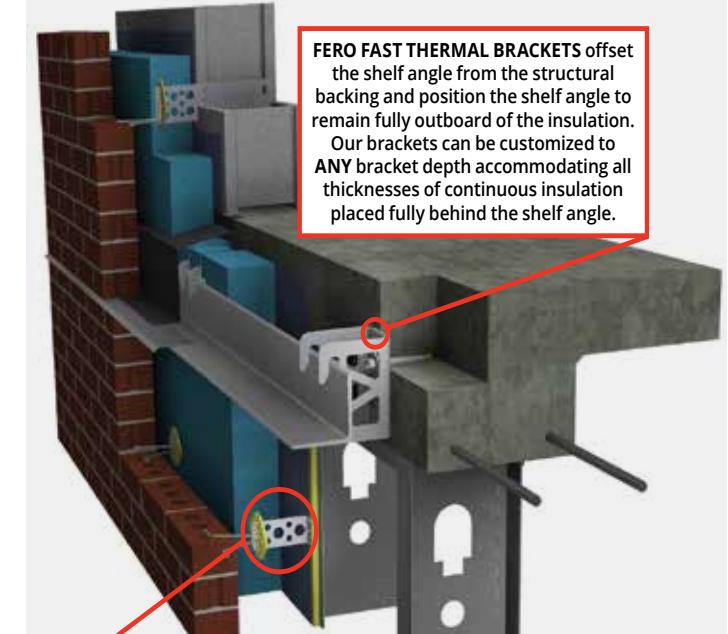
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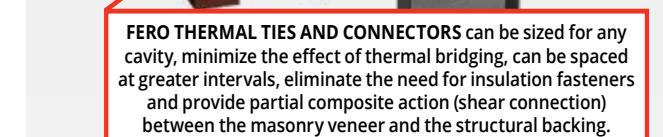
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## INDUSTRY INNOVATORS, BUILDERS, TITANS & MENTORS

# HARRY LAARVELD: A MASONRY INDUSTRY ACTIVIST AND HERO

**H**arry Laarveld, laughingly, recalls his first day in the masonry industry. "I came to work thinking I was quite somebody, with a tool bag and a level and the whole bit. My old boss, at the time, had put a twenty-yard pile of sand, a wheelbarrow and a shovel and he made me move the whole pile down about 50 yards by myself. It knocked me right off my day. That was my first experience. It was a character builder. After that it was less of, I can do this, and I can do that."

Laarveld began his career in Holland, where he attended a technical vocational high school for two years, learning the bricklaying and 2 years working 36 hours on the job each week. After this he received his Red Seal in Bricklaying.

Originally, he had applied to become a carpenter and take a carpentry course. However, destiny had different plans for him. The school where he applied had a full Carpentry class and no one enrolled in the Bricklaying class. The school convinced him to give Bricklaying a try. Since, he had always known that he wanted to go into a trade, he felt he would give it a try and that is where his love for the Bricklaying trade began.

He got recruited by Manitoba Masonry Contractors Association (MMCA), who toured through Holland, Italy, and Germany. MMCA were recruiting bricklayers that were already working as masons. They invited him and other masons to come to Canada. He is one of very few who came to Canada and stayed in the industry. Some went to other types of jobs and others returned to Europe.

He came to Canada in 1969 and worked for several contractors. "As an immigrant, you always have it in your mind that the opportunity for your own business is always there, but it took me 14 years before I started my own business. In 1983, I decided I would take the plunge because I really wasn't happy with the contractor that I was working for at the time," says Laarveld describing how he started his business.

His new company was called "H and J Masonry", which stood for Harry and Josie. Josie is his wife of over 50 years.

When he took on a new partner, they decided to change the name of business out of fairness to his partner.

"He (the new partner) was European, and I was Canadian and so it became Euro-Can," he explains.

When his partner decided it was time to move on, Harry and he ended their business relationship amicably and it again became a family business, with his wife Josie and son Mark joining him in the business.

Laarveld says, "Everyone was amazed that even though Josie and I had been married thirty years (at the time) and worked together everyday, we had no marital arguments and stayed together. That was almost unheard of."

"Working as a fresh immigrant in a company, has helped me to connect with some of the people who came to Canada later on. In the 1990s and 2000s, we hired a lot of them (immigrants), and they have stuck around. I understood where they came from. I could understand some of their language. So, it was helpful for them and it helped us build as a company," he explains how he found common ground with newcomers to Canada.

"The biggest change (since I started) was the emergence of other building products. They took a big bite out of the pie in the construction industry. We had to learn how to adapt and become much better at promoting ourselves. Which in the past was not necessary because it was known that we were quote unquote 'the best around'. But once you have to start proving that everyday, you have to work a lot harder."

Another difference that he identified was the change in safety regulations, which in turn resulted in far fewer injuries and accidents on job sites. While he says it was long overdue, he explains, like any change, it is not always easily accepted by everybody.

While he retired officially from his company about seven years ago, Laarveld is still extremely active as a construction activist. His youngest son, Mark, now runs the business.

He has been an active volunteer on numerous industry associations over the years.

This is his philosophy on getting involved as a volunteer, "To be truthful, and I think that

it is the same with everything that you do as a

volunteer, it was entirely self-serving. The more

active that you become in the industry, the more

people that you get to know, the better that

you get at what you are doing. You know, you

are learning everyday, but not necessarily from

the books, but you are learning from your peers.

You have ongoing discussions and out of market

discussions where the competitiveness is not an

issue and people are not afraid to share ideas."

"I really love being active in the industry and in the industry associations especially as it has given me the opportunity to help drive some change. The apprenticeship program comes to mind. I served on the trade advisory committee

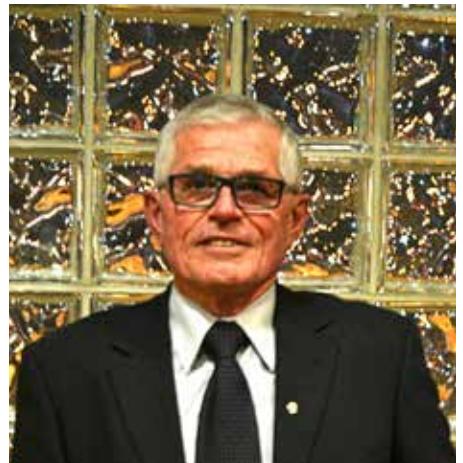
for six years and we were able to strengthen the

(apprenticeship) curriculum and rewrite some

of the curriculum to make it more applicable to

today's users. On a national level, I have been

involved with the Canadian Masonry Contractors



Association (CMCA) and even sat as President of the association. The most exciting part was sitting on the Editorial Committee while CMCA created two apprenticeship training books that are now being used nationally. It was a great experience," he states, as he describes his participation on industry associations.

"It helps you drive your agenda a little bit. My motto always was if you're not at the table, you're not going to be heard!" explains Laarveld.

He still actively participates in the Winnipeg Construction Association and CSA Standards Committee.

However, he is no longer active with MMCA, MMI, and the Trade Advisory. He considers himself more of a guest at CMCA.

His greatest accomplishments were bringing back all the industry players around the table, after the industry had become very fractured in Manitoba during the 1980s and 1990s.

"On every job, there was a fight, and there was no cohesiveness in the industry overall," he explains.

He is proud of being a part of getting people to come back to the table and creating some easy-to-follow agreements that were put in place. This resulted in MMI becoming financially sound again and starting to reinvest some of those finances back into the industry.

"I feel that that was one of my greatest local accomplishments."

"Because of my local involvement, I was able to advocate on a national level for the province (Manitoba) and get national dollars and get national initiatives rolling out to the province." This he feels is his greatest national accomplishment.

Laarveld is very humble, but attributes his success to his family, "I can't stress enough the importance and valuable contribution of my wife, Josie, and our family. Josie is a person known to the industry players by her first name and she really participated in everything that I did. In business, some days can be frustrating, and it is so good to have someone there who understands what you are doing and backs you up. My family's involvement in the business, I can not stress enough was the light of my life."



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# THE CHURCH OF LATTER DAY SAINTS WAVERLEY WEST



**B**uildings tell stories. A mason's workmanship is an essential part of how those stories are told and how they are preserved. The recent construction of the Church of Latter Day Saints - Waverley West, in Winnipeg, is a prime example of how masons regularly make decisions that affect the heritage and longevity of modern architecture.

When approaching any project, masons exercise an architectural standard that is rooted in the integrity of that structure. Decisions on location, foundation, the types of materials used, the design methods implemented, and the methods of completion all sit at the forefront of keeping a building standing for as long as possible. That same architectural standard was used in the construction of the Church of Latter Day Saints.

When speaking with Konstantinos (Gus) Kotoulas of Alpha Masonry, who worked on the Church of Latter Day Saints, he described the extensive process that went into selecting the right brick masonry materials for the project. There were various considerations, such as a Brazilian limestone, considered for its texture and colour and even a potential import of stones from Turkey, but those were ultimately not the right choice for the job. He clarified that the Church of Latter-Day Saints was primarily constructed with clay brick and Indian limestone. To really understand the intention behind the longevity of a natural stone like Indiana limestone, one can think about the construction

of the Empire State Building in New York, which is built from the same material, and completed in 1931. Indiana limestone is built to last. The density of the stone and its performance in harsh climate, makes it a particular favourite for promoting longevity.

(Gus) Konstantinos also shed some light on how technique plays a role in preserving the heritage of the Church of Latter Day Saints for generations to come. Specifically, the use of bigger panels and stones, clipped back with stainless steel anchors while minimize future restoration efforts. It is important to keep restoration in mind during the construction process as well. (Gus) Konstantinos says Indiana limestone is easy to match when making repairs. It minimizes costs and preserves the lovely design and age of the brick.

Masons aim to build buildings that are sustainable and have the ease of maintenance and they are being commissioned more frequently for architectural needs. Wood structures might be favourable for some structures, but cost-wise, masonry is comparable. Additionally, it is cheaper to insure than wood and the increased effort to build in an environmentally sustainable manner is attractive.

The Church of Latter Day Saints Waverley West is one worth visiting, if not for the worship, at the very least, for the architecture. The labour that went into the design and execution of the structure will, without a doubt, have the longevity that is associated with Masonry.



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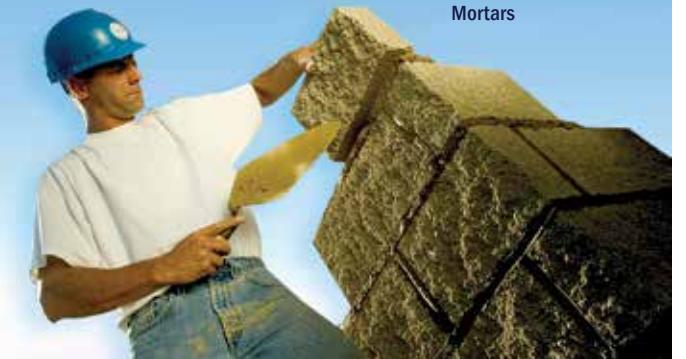
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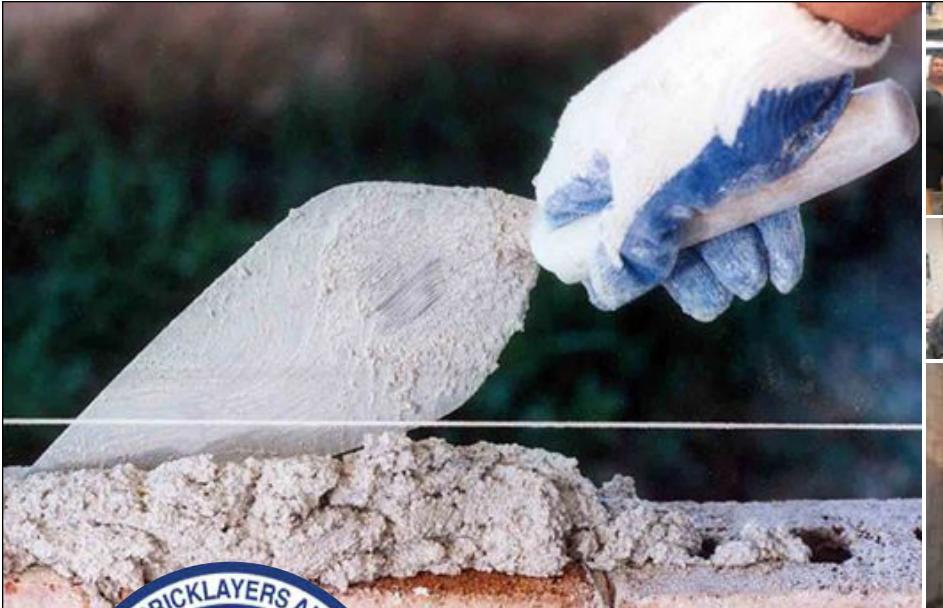
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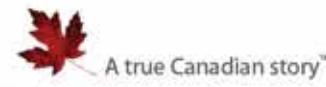
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**Firm Profile:**

*LM Architectural Group (LMAG), originally founded as Libling Michener and Associates in 1954, is an architectural partnership comprised of David Kressock, Mike Isbister, Matthew Bowering, Corey Greenham, Shelly Slobodzian and Jon Trenholm as Principals. 2019 marked the 65th anniversary of LM Architectural Group providing Client centered architectural and interior design services nationally and internationally. As a integrated design office, we are committed to Client service and design excellence. Our project experience, advocacy of the participatory design process and continual staff development ensures client satisfaction, opportunities for achievement, and continued growth. As a team of professionals, we believe in listening to and working with our clients, creatively interpreting their requirements while providing strong leadership, guidance and sound recommendations.*

**Personal Bio:**

*Jon Trenholm is the Principal responsible for our firm's Education Studio, with over 16 years of experience in the professional, 13 of them with LMAG. Jon has spent the major of his career in the educational sector overseeing all programming, planning and design aspects of project development. He is a LEED accredited Architect and active member of the Association for Learning Environments (A4LE).*

**Project Focus Overview:****École Templeton New K-5 Dual Track School**

*Scope: 55,300 s.f.*

*Completed: 2020*

*Client: Seven Oaks School Division  
Winnipeg, MB*

*As part of a Provincial mandate to promptly and efficiently deliver a number of new school facilities across Manitoba, this 55,300 s.f. facility provides new education, recreation and associate child care space to the fastest growing school division in the Province over the past decade. Planned for an initial enrollment of 450 but designed to accommodate up to 600 students, the new school forms part of an overall redevelopment of an existing site that will anchor a broader precinct community development in the Leila North Area. Oriented primarily east to west, the school entrance is framed and buffered by recreational and administrative space, providing an active visual connection to the drop off and pick up area, further to facilitating a completely south facing exterior play space for all ages. Highlighted by double height academic commons and associated support space core, the school is organized into three 'houses', each containing five classrooms, support space and related breakout space. This approach reflects a divisional focus on providing a number of informal, project based areas throughout the school for both individual study and communal student interaction.*



# ÉCOLE TEMPLETON SCHOOL

For over thirty years, LMAG | ESP has had the good fortune of working collaboratively with a number of school divisions and community groups covering a wide geographical area within Manitoba and North Western Ontario. They approach each project guided by years of direct experience and driven by an enthusiasm of what can be explored and achieved through an integrated design process. They understand that today's students demand more from the environments in which they work and play. This means providing well equipped, flexible, and engaging spaces for students, faculty and the public to prepare future generations for the realities and requirements of the working world.

Sustainable design and environmental stewardship form a core component of our LMAG | ESP guiding principles. They believe that all projects offer opportunities for leadership and partnership in the improvement of our environment; whether they are facilitating projects through a designated delivery method (LEED, Green Globes etc.) or simply ensuring sound sustainable design practice, environmental responsibility is an integral part of our everyday practice.

Beyond design and project delivery models, LMAG | ESP diligently research the products and materials they specify, ensuring their production, supply and installation is consistent with the overall approach to sustainability. The brick and stone masonry typically specified for the majority of their work are carefully selected through conversations, questions and review with local and regional suppliers. These materials also bring a "hand crafted" and timeless quality to each project, through their fabrication, installation and aesthetic. Further to this, on behalf of their Clients, they select the material itself for its inherent properties, installation and durability. In regards to stone masonry, LMAG | ESP is fortunate to have a source of very unique limestone close at hand. Tyndall stone, formed over 450 million years ago in this area, provides a beautiful, regional material that can be sculpted, sawn, cut and stacked as part of the built work.

Following a highly competitive procurement process, LMAG was retained in the spring of 2018 to design two new elementary schools in the northwest area of Winnipeg. École Templeton serves as a recent and notable example of Manitoba's commitment to high quality educational facilities and new facility

construction, reflecting the Province's focus on sustainability, durability and livability. Design standards and guidelines have been diligently established by the Provincial Department that oversees all new school construction, and this served as a framework for the approach to the school's design, layout and detailing.

With the facility oriented primarily east to west along a major collector route, the school's entrance is framed and buffered by recreational and administrative space, providing an active visual connection to the drop off and pick up area, further to facilitating a completely south facing exterior play space for all ages. Highlighted by double height academic commons and associated support space core, the school is organized into three academic 'houses', each containing five classrooms, support space and related breakout space.

## CUNHA MASONRY: GENERATIONS OF INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Family owned and operated, Cunha Masonry Inc. has over four generations of knowledge and experience in the masonry industry. Helder Cunha, son of a European stone mason, immigrated to Canada with his family as a child. His father taught him the art and later started his career with Copetti Masonry. Helder went through his apprenticeship and eventually moved up to senior management. Years later he purchased Tri-Star Masonry and successfully ran it for 30 years. While doing so he passed on his knowledge and expertise in the trade to his son Christopher and daughter A. Adilia... Together they started Cunha Masonry Inc. and have been operating for over a decade

Cunha Masonry Inc. is now one of the largest masonry companies in Manitoba. Focusing on new commercial construction in Winnipeg and specializing in structural masonry high rises, educational facilities and large scale government projects. Our philosophy is and has always been to give clients the best possible product on time and on budget.

The exterior material palette is anchored of an earthen brick from Hebron, in a Norman size and Velour finish, which provides a depth and richness to the building envelope along the base of its perimeter. This finish is complimented by a mixture of sawn finish and split faced tyndall stone, laid in a random ashlar pattern of 90mm and 190mm high stone work. The base of the building is inherently robust, addressing both durability and maintenance concerns while aesthetically pleasing.

Both brick and stone masonry, given the options available concerning size, colour, finish and layout, allows for a level of exploration and expression, specifically in the case of primary educational facilities. For École Templeton, this includes aspects such as:

- Contrasting brick colour and pattern to define school focal points
- Textural/surface variation to modify daylight levels and provide visual depth to areas of the façade
- Custom stone inserts, carefully coordinated and cut, reflecting the School's and Division's identity
- Hand selected fossilized stone display panels, prominently displayed for child viewing, study and interaction
- A full scale wall section mock-up, centrally located within the school in the student commons, educating both students and staff on the composition and construction of the typical exterior wall assembly.

From an educational perspective, the features of École Templeton, serve to frame discussions and interaction with students. The fossilized panels can prompt a discussion concerning geological history and geography. The mock-up of the typical building envelope condition allows for a discussion on materials and construction. It is rewarding to watch the progression from build to education as a way of experiencing exceptional masonry.



## AMBER GATES APARTMENTS

25 Dylan Marshall Gate  
 Category: Multi Family Residential  
 Featured 1 - Glen-Gery  
 Features 2 - Ebonite Velour Utility  
 Int/Exterior: Exterior  
 Builder- WRE Development Ltd.  
 Contractor- LD Builders  
 Mason: Chubz Masonry  
 Supplier: Alsip's Building Products and Services

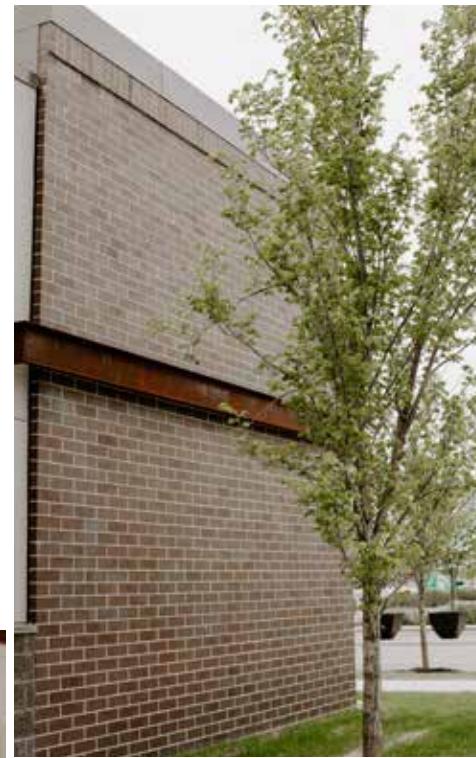


## FRANKIES RESTAURANT

Season - Sterling Lyon  
 Category: Commercial  
 Featured 1: Thin adhered Stone  
 Featured 2: Thin adhered Brick  
 Int/Exterior: Interior  
 Mason: Eurocan Enterprises Limited  
 Designer: Denis Turco Architect  
 Contractor: Fabca Projects Ltd.  
 Supplier: Alsip's Building Products & Services

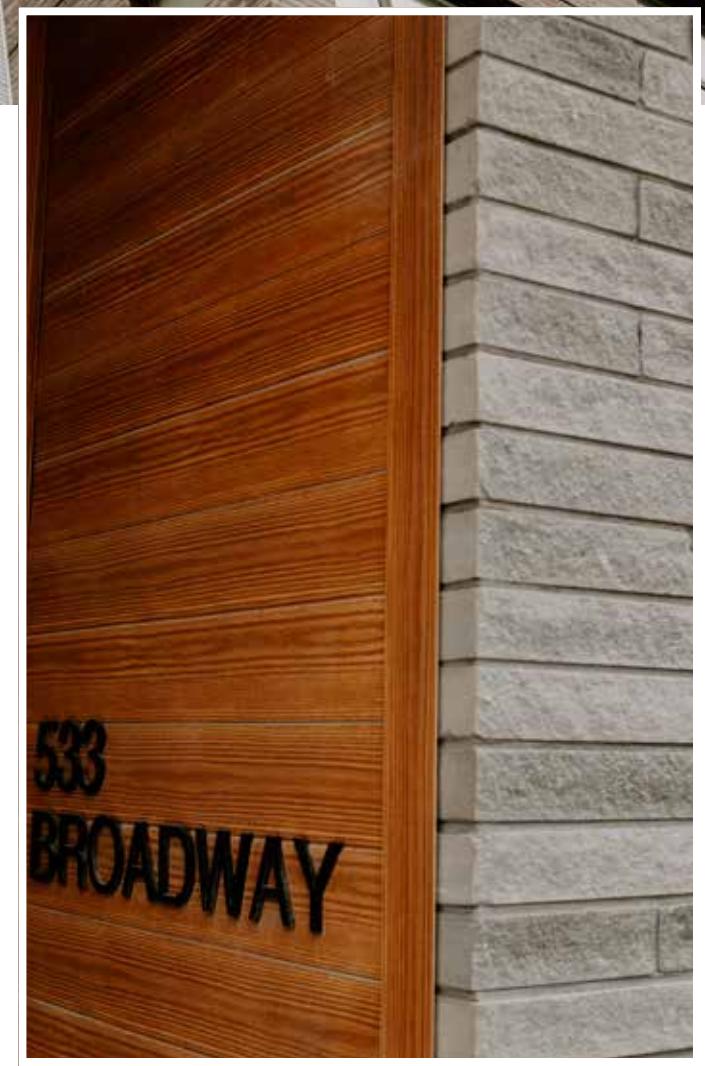
# SEASONS OF TUXEDO - EXTERIOR

Season - Sterling Lyon  
 Category: Commercial  
 Featured 1: Brick  
 Featured 2: Structural Block  
 Int/Exterior: Exterior  
 Mason: Alpha Masonry  
 Designer: Number Ten Arch Grp  
 Contractor: Premium Projects  
 Supplier: Brick-Alston Brick Supply Incorporated  
 Block-Expocrete



## WESTBROADWAY COMMONS

175 Colony  
 Category: Multi Family  
 Featured 1: Contemporary Brick  
 Featured 2: Structural Block  
 Int/Exterior: Exterior  
 Mason: Cunha Masonry  
 Designer: Number Ten Architectural Group  
 Contractor: Bockstael Construction  
 Supplier: Brick-Brock White Construction Materials  
 Block-Expocrete





## WAG INNUIT ART GALLERY

Exchange district  
Category: Institution  
Featured 1: Bethel White Granite Brick  
Int/Exterior: Exterior  
Mason: Alpha Masonry  
Designer: Michael Maltzan Architecture/Cibinel Architects  
Contractor: PCL Constructors



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Category: Institution  
Featured 1: Brick & Glazed Brick  
Featured 2: Tyndall Stone  
Int/Exterior: Exterior/Interior  
Mason: Alpha Masonry  
Designer: LM Architectural Group  
Contractor: Bockstael Construction  
Supplier: Brick-Alston Brick Supply Inc.  
Tyndal stone-Gillis Quarries Ltd.

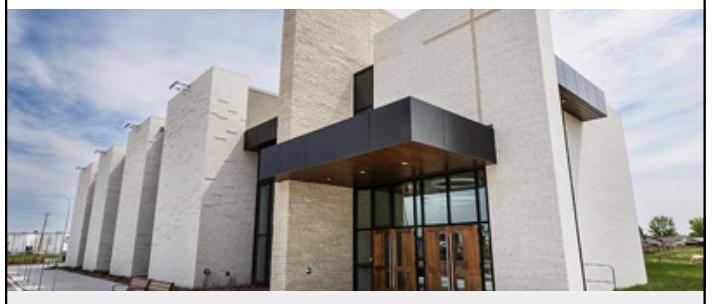




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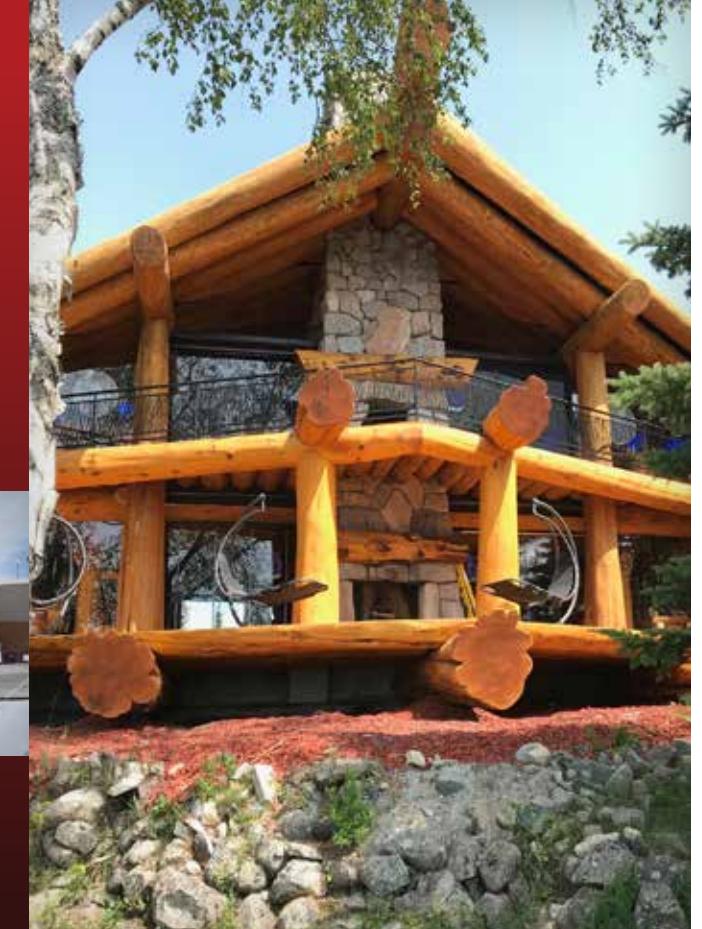


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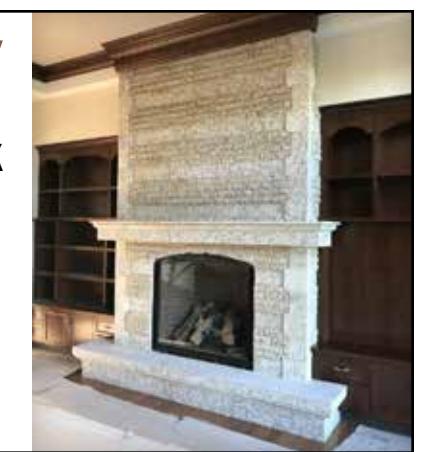


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# HISTORICAL MASONRY RESTORATION: A GENERAL DISCUSSION



**I**t is very easy to take for granted the many historical masonry buildings that grace Manitoba's skyline and beyond. Landmarks such as the Saint Boniface Cathedral, Manitoba Legislative Building, and Canadian Pacific Railway Station, to name a few, do an excellent job at preserving history and heritage. Despite being built over 100 years ago, these structures, among many others, have stood the test of time, withstanding harsh weather conditions, natural wear and tear and modernization. It is not an automatic process, however. Manitoban masons have been instrumental in the restoration and preservation of various historical sites across the province, while recognizing the importance of this work.

Historical masonry restoration is first and foremost, important to connecting the past and cultivating the future. It is a way for members of the community to make sense of how things were done before, how they are done now, and why things have changed, if change has happened. Historical masonry restoration is therefore a form of storytelling and it is difficult to tell a story if the facts are always changing. That is why it is important to restore as opposed to destroy.

Masons engage in several different techniques to contribute to the restoration of masonry historical buildings, keeping the authenticity to the stories historical sites tell. Murray Alston (aka Mr. Brick) of Alston Brick Supply Inc. in Winnipeg, shares that brick matching is an integral part of the masonry restoration process. Older buildings are generally built with masonry materials that may not exist today and even when a similar material does exist, the processes that were implemented back then have likely been refined, taking some of the design features or details that made the building so unique with them. Mr. Brick explains that because of that, brick matching is a very exacting process, requiring careful attention to detail, which engages three basic elements: colour, texture, and size. In any given restoration project, any one of these elements may be more important than the other as each project has its own unique characteristics and requirements. For example, when working on older restoration projects, think 100 years or



more, unit size may be the most important element to consider because of matching existing brick coursing heights and existing mortar joints, which varies depending on the age of the building. In other situations, colour or texture may be the most important element to consider. In preserving the history of the building, it is important to find the best possible brick match options taking into consideration all three elements, based on the specific requirements of each project.

Education is another benefit of restoration projects. Yes, learning about the significance of masonry historical buildings is important, but it is also an educational experience for builders as well. Architects can study past techniques and designs and make informed decisions on how to improve future sites that will be considered historic 100 years from now. During the brick matching process, sometimes knowing where the brick came from and how it was manufactured may be helpful. Nina Widmer, of Widmer Castings Inc., can relate to Mr. Brick's sentiments. She has worked on the replication of ornamental units in historical masonry buildings in Manitoba and origins provide useful information on how she colour-matches. Ms. Widmer has worked with various materials including concrete, fiberglass, resin, and plaster in her masonry restoration projects, but there can be limitations.

One of the most common challenges that masons face while working on masonry historical restoration projects is finding the balance between history and modernization. These challenges show their faces, for example, when it is difficult to find the

original methods of production. When Mr. Brick encounters these kinds of situations, he matches with what is closest and most harmonious to the existing brick. Sometimes a modern approach is unavoidable when doing historic masonry restorations, but masons are always thinking about the integrity of the history the building possesses and they make sound product, design, and technical choices that will contribute to preservation of the history and the sustainability of the structure so they can remain for another 100 years.

There will always be limitations when the goal is to keep something from the past in the future, but it also speaks to another benefit of historic masonry restoration—it creates an opportunity to be more environmentally conscious. Rehabilitation of older masonry buildings reduces the waste of materials and in the process, masons can incorporate masonry materials that will make the structure more durable, reducing the need for frequent maintenance.

Finally, historical restoration is great for Manitoba's economy. The longer the buildings remain, the more pull there is for tourism. It also helps to create jobs and it builds a sense of pride in the community. Nina was fortunate enough to work on the two phases of the exterior restoration of the Union Tower and she says when she passes it, she feels a sense of pride. That is ultimately what historical restoration and preservation is about—keeping something around that both community members and builders can be proud of. Some can say "look where I come from!" and others can say, "Look what I help to keep around!"



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# ADHERED STONE VENEERS

Preservation is an essential part of masonry work. Masons are always looking for unique techniques, methods, and materials that will contribute to the longevity of their work and reduce restoration efforts for the sake of authenticity. One way that they have been able to do that is using veneers. Veneers are walls that consist of single non-structural external layer of masonry usually made of brick or stone, real natural or manufactured. While veneers made of natural stone and clay brick have proven, through historic buildings and structures that have been standing for hundreds of years, that they can last for a long time, the thin adhered veneers have also demonstrated similar longevity and has risen in popularity.

There are two main types of stone veneers that masons use when considering work on any project, natural and manufactured. Natural adhered stone veneers are full-bed and are mechanically fastened. As a result, they do not touch the wall behind them. On the other hand, thin stone adhered veneers are affixed to the wall by a chemical bond typically with metal lath and polymer modified mortar. Being able to distinguish between these types is important to understanding why thin adhered veneers have risen in popularity in recent years. Full bed stone veneers are usually heavy because of the incorporation of real stones. They are also solid and four inches (90mm) thick. When you compare that to the thin adhered stone veneer at approximately one inch (25mm), the lighter weight makes it a more attractive option for some installations. Additionally, because of the presumed simplified technique that is associated with thin adhered veneers, homeowners are also drawn to it as a D.I.Y. option. By extension, the implication is that it also costs less to install. While some of these factors are true, David Bauer of B & M Masonry in Manitoba, says especially where people want to take on the job themselves, the results vary from person to person.

David explains that if people want thin adhered veneers to last like we know it can, it is best to leave the job to the professionals because the technique and installation is truly the determining factor in preservation. Masons take note of how the wall is prepared when attempting to execute the best installation of adhered veneers. This can include the wood sheathing, the vapour barrier, metal lath, scratch coat and the proper type of mortar. David shared that in his experience, if the mortar is too wet or too dry, not mixed for long enough, or not applied properly, you can compromise the longevity of the structure. What he has seen happen is the individuals who take on thin adhered veneer as a D.I.Y. project experience failure at a high rate and ultimately have to contact a mason to get the technique done correctly.

Thin adhered stone veneers continue to become a larger part of the masonry industry for professionals as well for various reasons. They are more cost effective to manufacture, ship/transport and sell. Additionally, they take up less space and weight, which is especially attractive for builders who, as a result, no longer need stronger foundations to facilitate the heavy stones. It gives them an opportunity to build better. David has been fortunate to work on a 12-million dollar cottage in Manitoba that includes manufactured thin adhered veneers both inside and outside of the building. His endorsement of thin adhered veneers is a personal one. David's parents bought a home and installed thin adhered veneers 52 years ago and the home is still standing and in exceptional condition today.

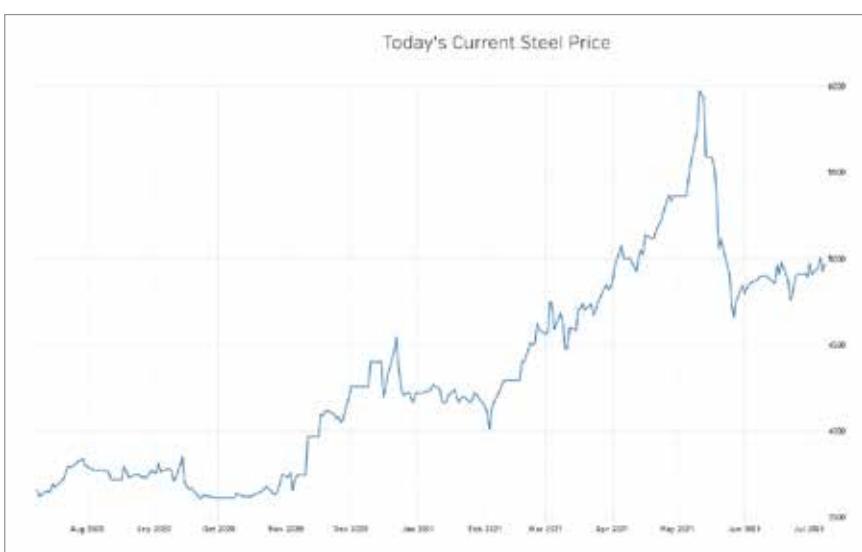


# THE RISING COSTS OF STEEL AND LUMBER ARE REDIRECTING BUSINESS TO MASONRY

The global pandemic has affected many people, personally and professionally, since it came in like a wrecking ball in early 2020. Some of the damage is obvious. The unemployment rate went up, aviation took a big hit, and buying and selling is all about negotiation now more than ever. Damage that is perhaps less obvious and important to the masonry industry is the rising cost of construction materials. As a result of COVID-19, steel and lumber prices have increased materially, making purchase too expensive to sustain economically. This uptick, while creating gaping holes in various industries that rely heavily on these materials, has made the construction industry take notice of the value and dependability of masonry in the marketplace.

According to CBC News, the price of steel has doubled in the last six months. To put the numbers into context, economist, Peter Wang of University of Toronto says that steel has gone from \$700 US per tonne to about \$1,300 US. Many global providers of steel have had to minimize or halt production for various pandemic-related reasons. Presently, China is producing 59 percent of the world's steel, but they are not exporting it because they are using it to build their own infrastructures. Lumber has not been safe from the fire either. Where thousand board feet cost \$550 before COVID-19 hit, the same amount now costs more than \$1,400. As a result, supply and demand is suffering, forcing industries relying on construction staples to turn to alternative materials for buildings and multiple architectural ventures.

One such shift masonry has taken a front-row seat to is the move from steel and lumber to concrete. Lee Hotas of Expocrete Concrete Products says there has been a noticeable change. "Larger projects are switching to concrete blocks," he explains. While concrete products have seen a slight uptick during the pandemic, Lee says there has been no real fluctuation. He further elaborates that as a manufacturer, they are absorbing the pricing to remain competitive and gain market share. "The low single digit increase concrete has experienced is nothing compared to the triple digit increase of wood and steel." For masonry, the rising costs of steel and lumber are good for business. There are no shortages



of products and by making the switch; companies can see the benefits directly from building masonry. For Lee, it gives companies an opportunity to take advantage of the entire family of masonry and masonry related products, to enjoy the inherent benefits of the products, such as fire resistance, thermal mass, durability and of great importance in today's market, stability and availability.

It is unclear how the steel and lumber markets will recover from the pandemic as trends are still erratic. Masons and masonry suppliers are happy to continue being a reliable and stable provider of solutions for today's construction market, providing alternatives that are long lasting without compromising quality.

## CBC News Resource

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/steel-china-tariffs-windsor-construction-business-covid-1.6000074>



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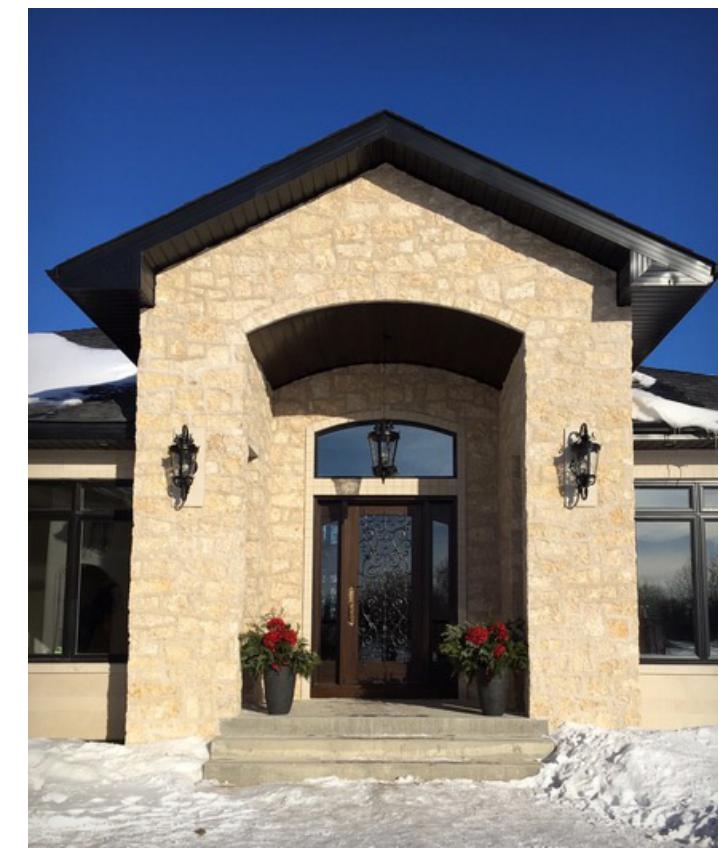
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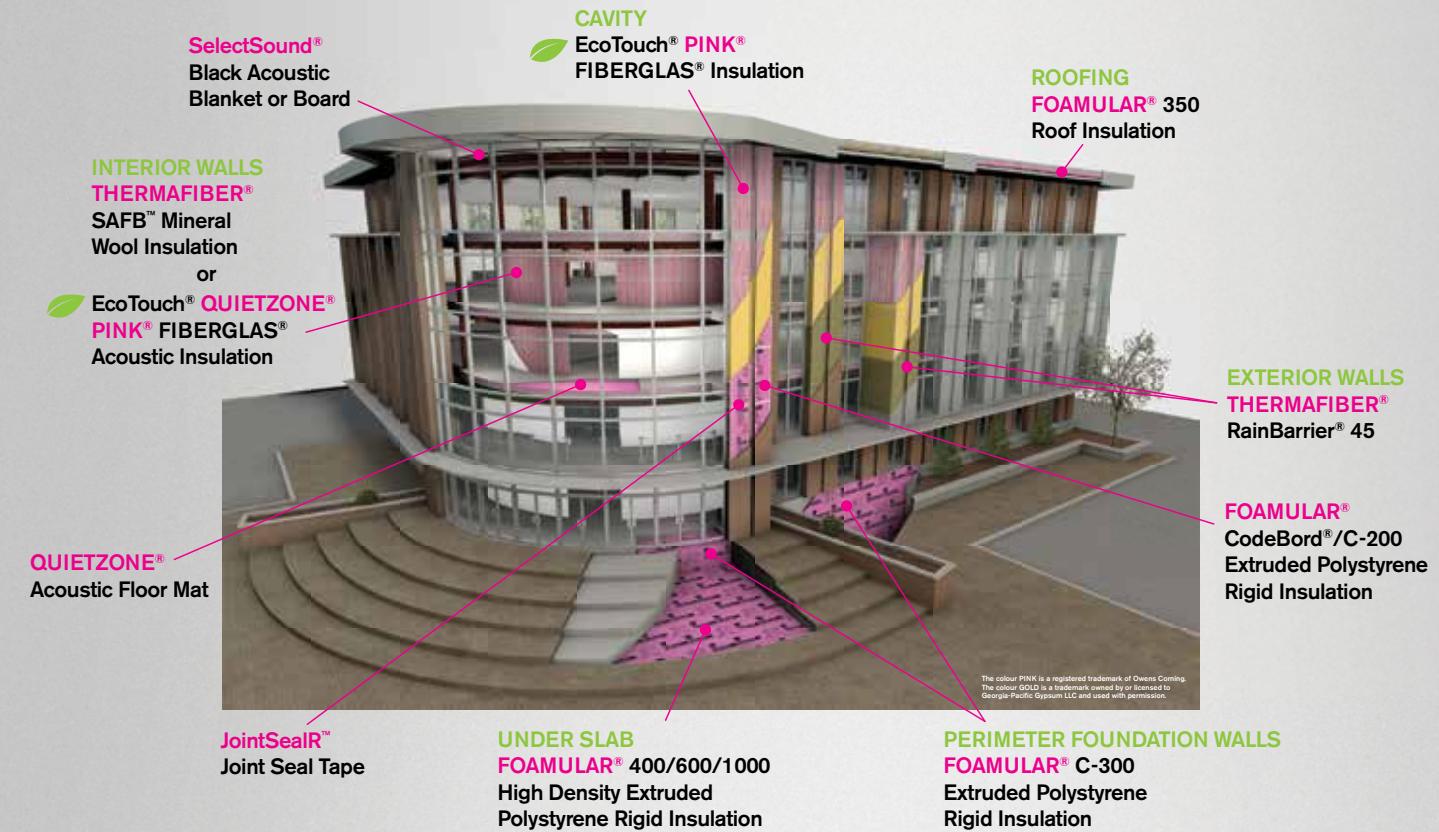
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