

**DEPARTMENT OF
MOTOR VEHICLES
FIELD OFFICE REPLACEMENT
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA**

ARCHITECT:

S.I.M. Architects

7591 N. Ingram Avenue, Suite 101
Fresno, CA 93711

John H. Smith, AIA

Principal-in-Charge

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

Advanced Structural Design, Inc.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

Durham Construction

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:

Stoney Masonry, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCERS:

Basalite Concrete Products, LLC

Trenwyth Industries, Inc. (an Oldcastle Company)

OWNER:

State of California, Department of General Services

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Paul Mullins, Mullins Studio



ARCHITECT'S COMMENTARY: With the Central Valley being one of the most productive agricultural areas in the world, an agrarian theme was selected as the design influence of the new Department of Motor Vehicles facility. The tall, round metal silo at the entry was a direct interpretation of granaries dotting the San Joaquin Valley. The "art wall" at the front entry patio is a representation of the farmlands from high above. The stainless steel ribbon meandering through is a depiction of the San Joaquin River.

The interiors continue with the agriculture feel, with the teller overhead light and sign structure resembling the rolling irrigation systems used on valley farms. The Terrazzo flooring patterns are interpretations of row crops and the urban fabric colliding. Much to the credit of the State of California's stance on sustainability and responsible design, this project will not only be LEED® certified Gold, but it will also be a Zero-Net-Energy facility, meaning it will produce as much energy as it uses.

WHY MASONRY? Concrete masonry units (CMUs) were chosen for this project for several reasons. The performance and ease of maintenance was one of the most critical. The raw, heavy material gives the building a substantial look that will only get better over time. In addition to the standard concrete masonry products typically used on a project like this, special laminated block and ground face block were used to create the "valley floor" art piece at the front patio.

The fact that most of the materials that make up the CMU were locally mined helps with LEED® requirements. Another big advantage that CMU exterior walls provided was the reduction in construction time. While the steel structure was still being fabricated in the shop, the concrete masonry walls were being constructed. By the time the steel was ready for installation, the CMU walls were almost complete.

