

Masonry Design and Detailing for Architects and Contractors Fifth Edition

By Christine Beall, NCARB, CCS

Don't let the title discourage you, this is an excellent reference for structural engineers. Structural masonry is rarely designed without consideration of the non-structural aspects. This text fills the bill because it consolidates the basics of masonry construction and industry standards into one text. One disadvantage is the code references address the 1995 edition of the Masonry Standards Joint Committee; however, that does not diminish the value of the general masonry data.

As in previous editions of the text, the author provides excellent graphics. This book is valuable for the standard details alone. However, don't expect to learn how to design structural masonry.

Specific items very useful to structural engineers include:

- mortars,
- wall systems,
- anchors and ties, and installation and workmanship.

The book compiles information that is readily available from many sources. But, if you want to have one well written text that gives the basics and more, this is an excellent one. ■

Masonry Instant Answers

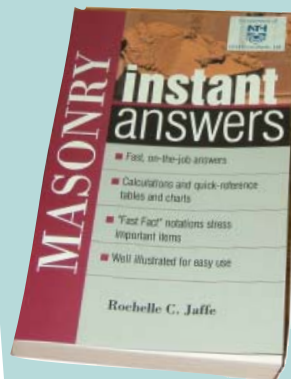
By Rochelle C. Jaffe

Published by McGraw-Hill
Available from The Masonry Society and bookstores

The author is both a licensed architect and a licensed structural engineer. With 20 years of experience in masonry, she has compiled an excellent resource for engineers and inspectors.

The book is 5 x 7 format, which is convenient for taking right to job sites. While most of the information is available from numerous sources, having it all in one location will be a benefit to all users. There are numerous tables and charts.

Throughout the book, there are "fastfacts". These highlight a specific aspect of masonry. For instance, did you know that prisms should be constructed and sealed in plastic bags for curing? I particularly liked the chapters on Masonry Construction During Weather Extremes and Temporary Wall Bracing. ■



Both masonry books were reviewed by David Biggs.

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