

Masonry Showcase

MCAA joins forces with two other groups at the Chicago Construct America trade show extravaganza.

The Mason Contractors Association of America's annual trade show will join forces with two other co-located exhibitions – Construction Specifications Institute and Total Facility Management – at Chicago's McCormick Place, April 19-22. Operating under the Construct America banner for the first time, Masonry Showcase will include close to 100 exhibitors featuring the latest products and services, 15 technical programs designed to enhance efficiency and profitability, and several competition events.

MCAA's annual meeting will be held from 2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19, followed by the presentation of the association's "International Excellence in Masonry Awards."

Show and conference

Construct America will have about 800 companies spread across the three shows. Admission to one provides access to all three. The show is open from 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20; 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. on Thursday; and 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on Friday.

Wednesday and Thursday educational programs are presented in the morning and do not conflict with the show hours. Friday sessions are in the afternoon near the conclusion of Construct America. Topics scheduled include "Masonry Aspects of the World Trade Center Disaster," "Preventing Mold Growth & Moisture Problems in Masonry Construction," "Role of Masonry in Sustainability," "Extending the Life of Masonry Buildings and Use of Movement Joints," "Technique for Installing Thin Veneer Stone," "Secure Construction with Concrete Masonry," and "Thin Stone."

Three competitions

Masonry Showcase will offer three spirited events for

contractor/architect teams, apprentices, and masons.

"Masonry: It Makes a Village" is a new two-day competition that pairs an architect and contractor to create a village structure with a predetermined number of brick, CMUs, and cultured stone. The design-build competition will stress the creativity, flexibility, and imagination of constructing with masonry products

The "International Skills Challenge Competition"

showcases the training of first, second, and third year apprentices. The contest focuses attention on careers in masonry.

The "Fastest Trowel Competition" determines who can lay the most block, with the best accuracy, in a designated time frame. Masons from around the country are expected to compete for cash prizes.

Having fun

In addition to an exciting business program, there are also planned events that highlight famous Chicago sites and sounds. City highlights, neighborhoods, and architectural tours are planned.

Masonry Showcase concludes with a visit to the Second City comedy club.

For more information about the event, visit www.masonryshowcase.com.



The "International Skills Challenge Competition" allows apprentices the opportunity to showcase their abilities.



The "Fastest Trowel Competition" is a block laying contest that will attract masons from around the country.