

GOLDEN TROWEL AWARD NOMINATIONS

FORMAL REGULATIONS

VISIT [TEXASMASONRYCOUNCIL.ORG/GOLDENTROWELENTRIES/](https://texasmasonrycouncil.org/goldentrowelentries/)



25301 Borough Park Dr. | Ste. 116
The Woodlands, TX | 77380

info@texasmasonrycouncil.org



Golden Trowel Awards

Our Purpose

The Texas Masonry Council (TMC) sponsors the Golden Trowel Award Competition annually in conjunction with the Statewide Convention. Quality masonry projects in Texas are the result of strong creative vision and skilled execution—a timeless relationship between Architect and Mason. The purpose of the Golden Trowel Award is to recognize the outstanding design of Architects and the skilled craftsmanship of the Mason Contractors, while celebrating the legacy of their partnership.

Cornerstone Christian School (San Antonio)

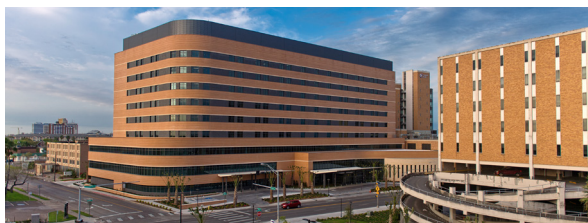
Rudd & Adams Masonry took home the 2019 People's Choice Award during the live polling Golden Trowel Awards celebration in 2019.



Join the Legacy

Each year the TMC celebrates architects, mason contractors, general contractors, manufacturers, and suppliers with Golden Trowel Awards to honor their important role in completing a successful project.

Now more than ever it is critical for the masonry industry to maintain and create new partnerships within the design and construction industry. Not only does the Golden Trowel Award celebrate the architects and contractors that our members work with on a daily basis, but TMC also recognizes the critical role that state and local officials, and the communities play in developing quality, lasting masonry construction. This year, TMC will be giving recognition and awards to the local school districts, schools, and outstanding teachers who are facilitating successful careers in masonry and on-the-job training for our industry's future workforce.



This Document

- Eligibility Requirements
- Submission Procedures
- Project Award Categories (10)
- Judging Procedures / Criterion

Eligibility Requirements

All Golden Trowel Nominations must meet the following requirements to be considered complete and eligible for judging.

- Any project completed two (2) years prior to the local competition is eligible to be entered.
- Brick, block, stone and/or any other masonry product must be the dominant building material.
- A TMC masonry contractor must have completed the work on the project.
- Projects may only be entered twice over a two-year period.
- A project can only be submitted into one category and in one regional chapter within the same year.
- Only projects within the State of Texas may be eligible.
- Projects must be designed by an architect or engineer with the exception of Residential (single-family), Hardscape/Landscape or Restoration categories.
- Architects may not submit their projects directly. Any masonry association member, on behalf of an architect, may submit a project for the first level of competition, subject to observance of local association rules. Architects who have projects outside local chapter regions may submit directly to the closest local chapter as long as they join that association.

Regional Association / Affiliation

Entries must first be submitted into one of the following associations regional competition: Houston-Associated Masonry Contractors of Houston, Dallas/Ft. Worth-United Masonry Contractors Association, Austin/Central Texas-Central Texas Masonry Contractors Association, San Antonio/South Texas-San Antonio Masonry Contractors Association

If a masonry contractor is located outside of the four major regions, and is not affiliated with any of the above-listed chapters, the applicant may submit a project directly to the TMC to compete in a 5th category for non-affiliated TMC members. Submissions will be judged according to the rules and procedures herewith.

Good Standing

Winning contractors from each category at the regional level will proceed to the TMC state level competition. Winners at the regional level must be members in good standing with TMC by June 1 of the competition year. In the event that a regional contractor is not a member of TMC by June 1, the honorable mention project at the regional level will be submitted provided they are members of TMC by June 1 of the competition year. If the winner or honorable mention contractors at the regional level are not members of TMC, then the chapter may submit another project for that category as long as the contractor is a member of TMC, in good standing by June 1.

DEADLINES



Award Submittal Packages

Refer to the TMC website at www.texasmasonrycouncil.org for region-specific deadlines.

TMC Annual Convention

August 26-28, 2026

Presentation of Awards

August 28, 2026



Brazos Masonry Inc. took home the 2019 Golden Trowel Award for restoration of St. Austin Catholic Church.

Submission Requirements

Step 1: Upload Photos.

Visit <https://texasmasonrycouncil.org/goldentrowelentries/>

Photo Requirements:

Please upload at least six (6) images, but no more than ten (10). Image files must be in .JPEG format and not exceed 25 MB each. Please include the name of your project in the photo name. NO CD's or Flash Drives will be accepted. If possible, please identify the primary image to be used in published materials.

The following photos should be included:

- Overall View of Structure.
- Elevations of the exterior.
- Special Masonry Details: stone, granite, limestone, marble, other raw materials.
- If restoration category, include at least one image of the building/structure prior to restoration.

Step 2: Complete Form.

Begin the Online Golden Trowel Nomination Form.

No hand-written entries will be accepted, all entries must be submitted via the Google Form provided by the TMC and will be directly submitted for regional judging. Incomplete entries will not be accepted and will be returned to the submitting chapter Golden Trowel coordinator.

Nomination Form Sections:

- Project Information* (see Entry Categories)
- Project Description(s):
 - Short General Description (up to 250 words) for award presentation and marketing purposes (*mandatory*)
 - Additional Detailed Description (up to 2,000 words) for editorial features (*optional*)
- Applicant Information
- Architect Information
- General Contractor Information
- Regional Association Affiliation
- Regional Supplier Checklist
- Photo Confirmation / Form Completion

Judging Procedures & Criterion

Do you know someone who would give knowledgeable and unbiased critiques of masonry design and craftsmanship? Send TMC your jury recommendations.

The jury panel typically consists of at least four architects and four masonry contractors who have experience in the design and/or construction of both large and small scale developments. Candidates are not eligible to judge if they have a project competing in the current competition. Mason contractors and architects are chosen from across Texas to represent each region and a variety of professional experience/expertise.

A project nomination's identity will be kept confidential during the judging process to prevent any biases that may occur. Each project will be evaluated on a scale of 1 to 10 in five key areas:

- Design (Architects)
- Appropriate use of masonry (Architects)
- Craftsmanship (Contractors)
- Masonry difficulty (Contractors)
- Aesthetic Appeal (Architects & Contractors)



Golden Trowel Award Categories

Below are the ten award categories for which a project can classify for nomination.



Residential (Single Family):

Any residence or dwelling designed for occupation by single families, without restriction to square footage.

Residential (Multifamily):

Any residences or dwelling units designed for occupation by multiple families, i.e. apartments, condominiums, etc.

Government / Institutional:

Commercial buildings that are under the authority of state, city, school or hospital organization. Examples of this would be school administration buildings, churches, hospitals, city or state properties, etc.

Industrial / Commercial:

Structures that are built for the purpose of retail, office, hotel, or warehouse/industrial function.

Education Facility (College / University):

Construction of any building (whether a residence facility, classroom, stadium, etc.) on a college or university campus.

Education Facility (K - 12):

Construction of any education building whether public or private, for the purpose of educating youth.

Hardscape / Landscape:

Construction that involves privacy fencing, entrances to parks, shopping or housing areas, plazas, retaining walls, etc. However, this does not include any occupiable space. This would be any masonry project that for the most part, is decorative and designed to enhance the environment.

Restoration:

Restoration includes any work to rehabilitate and/or renovate previously constructed masonry buildings. Before and after pictures must be provided with Nomination Form.

Block:

Any project (in any category) that involves the use of block, whether it be architectural block units or otherwise. At least 65% of the project must be block.

Everyday Excellence:

Any developments of \$500,000 or less in value (of the masonry contract). The nominations will be selected from among projects of a similar scale, size, and project type.

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The Everyday
Excellence Category
encourages diversity
& competition among
masonry contractors
of all sizes from all
regions.