

Loving Your Local Mason

What masons want but are often afraid to ask

Donald Harvey, PE, dharvey@ana-usa.com



1

Copyright Materials

This presentation is protected by US and International Copyright laws. Reproduction, distribution, display and use of the presentation without written permission of the speaker is prohibited.



© Atkinson-Noland & Assoc. 2021

2

Learning Objectives

After completing this webinar, attendees should have a better understanding of the following:

1. What types of detailing and drawings are most beneficial to masons
2. Where bar congestion is most problematic
3. Why coordination between masons and other trades can be problematic

Outline – Loving Your Local Mason

- Detailing
- Bar Congestion
- Different Materials and Trades
- Other Stuff

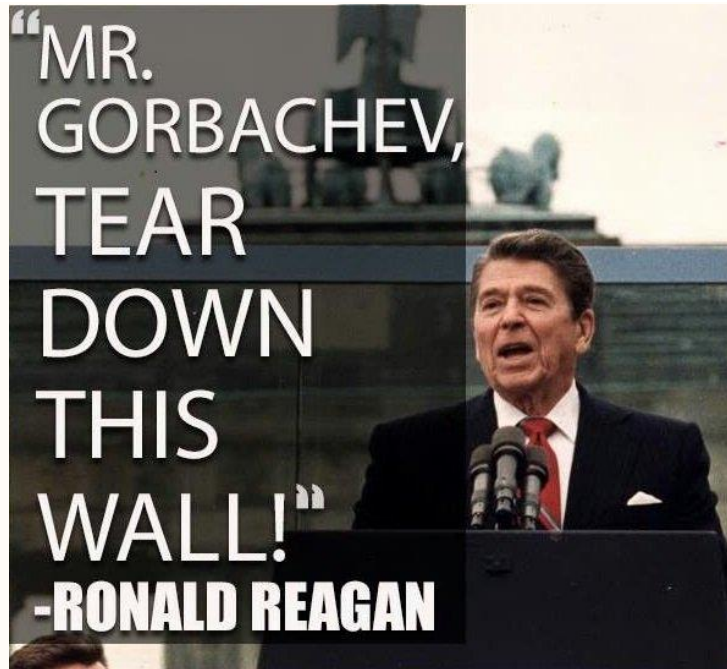


Are big, strong masons really afraid of ME?!

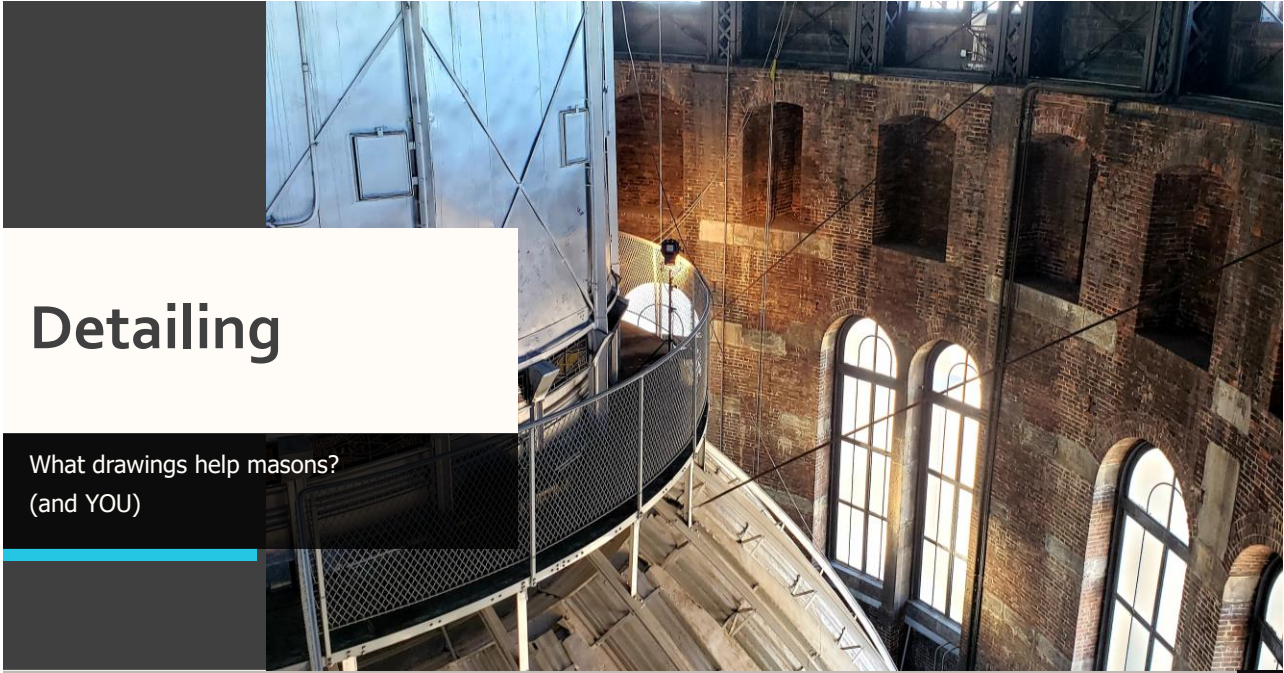


Why?

5



6



Detailing

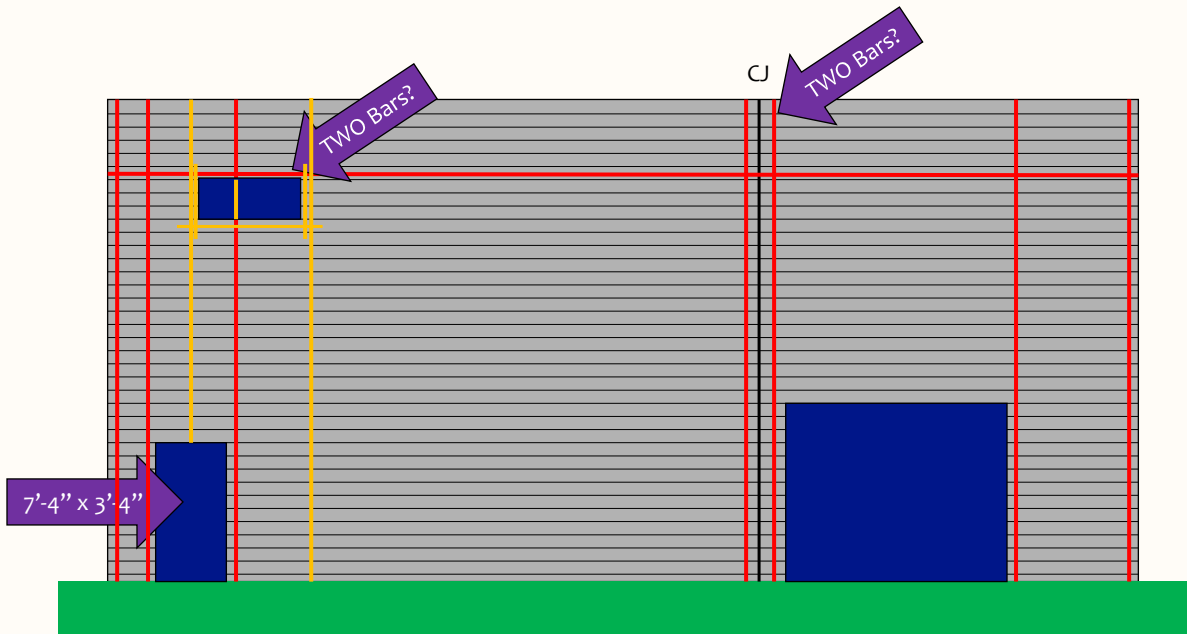
What drawings help masons?
(and YOU)

Detailing

- What is often provided:
 - Plan view or section with typical reinforcing (or note)
 - Corner note
 - Bond beam note
 - Shear wall schedule
 - Lintel Schedule (if present)
 - Joint spacing (often text only)
 - Reinforcing adjacent to joints (usually note)
 - Jamb reinforcing (often a note or isolated detail)

Potential Conflicts:

- Bond Beams and Lintels and Shear Reinforcing
- Vertical Bars and Corner Verticals and Joint Verticals



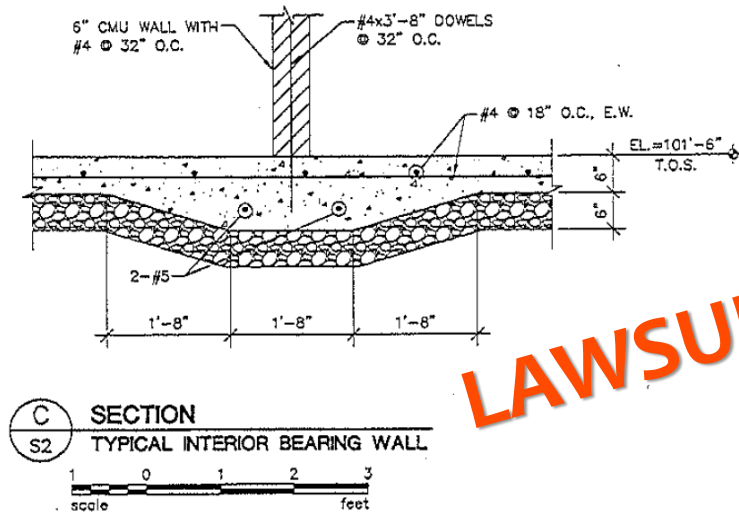
How can your design address all of these potential conflicts?

Hint: I just showed you...



Image courtesy of Larsen Structural Design of Fort Collins, Colorado

Detailing: Adequate Detail



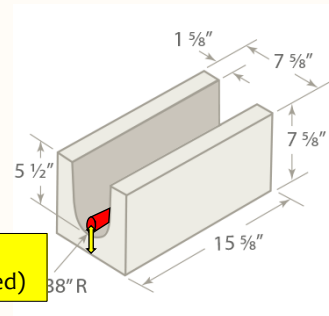
Detailing

Include important engineering information

on your drawings!

(When is the last time you saw a mason carrying around a Spec Book?)

- What about partition walls?
- Ambiguous language: "Grout all cells solid" (just the cells shown to be grouted on the drawings or every cell in the structure?)
- Lintel **section** details



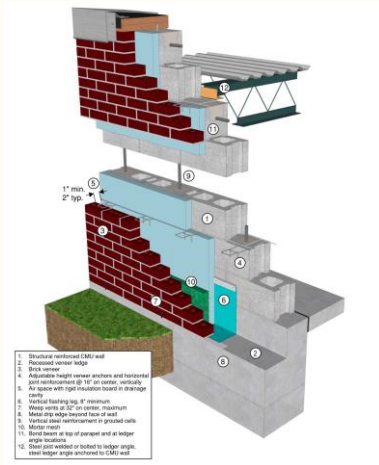
2 3/8" MINIMUM
(With 1 #4 bar centered)

Detailing

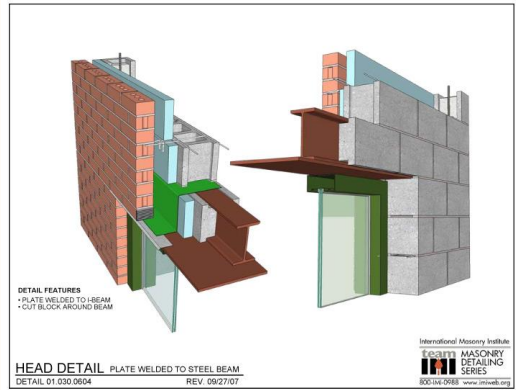
- f'_m – masonry design compressive strength
 - 2013 Code Update – What are you using?
 - 2000 psi block (minimum)
 - Type N mortar (minimum/recommended)
 - **$f'_m = 1740$ psi (minimum)**
 - Grout strength $\geq f'_m$
- Reinforcement
 - Size
 - Location - in plan, elevation, section
 - Location – "d" distance within wall thickness
- Control joint **location**, not just spacing

Detailing: Use Resources

www.rmimi.org/top-10-masonry-wall-systems/



www.imiweb.org



National Council of Structural Engineers Associations | www.ncsea.com



15



Bar Congestion

Those dots are not dots!

National Council of Structural Engineers Associations | www.ncsea.com



16

Bar Congestion: Manageable Reinforcing

- Survey on bar size and spacing

Bar Size	Spacing (inches on center)
#3	8
#4	16
#5	24
#6	32
#7	48

All of these combinations provide 0.15 to 0.165 square inches of steel per foot.

Bar Congestion: Manageable Reinforcing

- Survey on bar size and spacing

Bar Size	Spacing (inches on center)	Preferred Masons	
#3	8	0%	
#4	16	0%	
#5	24	78%	
#6	32	22%	Second Choice for Most
#7	48	0%	Laps and Weight

Consider using the same bar size for lintels and bond beams to avoid confusion on site.
OR odds/evens

What Masons Want: Constructible Drawings

Two #6 vertical bars plus a #6 dowel is TOO MUCH!

- Congestion!
- MSJC Section 3.3.3 (cont.) *Reinforcement requirements and details*
 - Reinforcement area $\leq 4\%$ of cell area ($\leq 8\%$ @ splice location)



USE ONE BAR CENTERED IN THE CELL

... or carry a weapon when you visit the jobsite ...

Bar Congestion

- One Bar: Other Advantages
8" CMU, 1740 psi f'_m

Bar No.	Lap Length, inches
3	21
4	37
5	58
6	109
7	149
8	224
9	286



Bar at face shell – cover = 1.25"

What f'_m are you using?
Have you updated your lap tables?

Bar No.	Lap Length, inches
3	12
4	13
5	21
6	40
7	55
8	85
9	110



Bar centered in cell

Multiple Bars in a Single Cell: (In)efficiency Analysis

- Two scenarios for a 23'-0" wall:

	One #5 Bar Centered in Cell	Two #5 Bars One at Each Face
Lap Length	21"	58"
Capacity	5800 ft-lb	9700 ft-lb 69% Increase
Weight of Rebar Used	33 lb.	98 lb. 197% Increase!!!

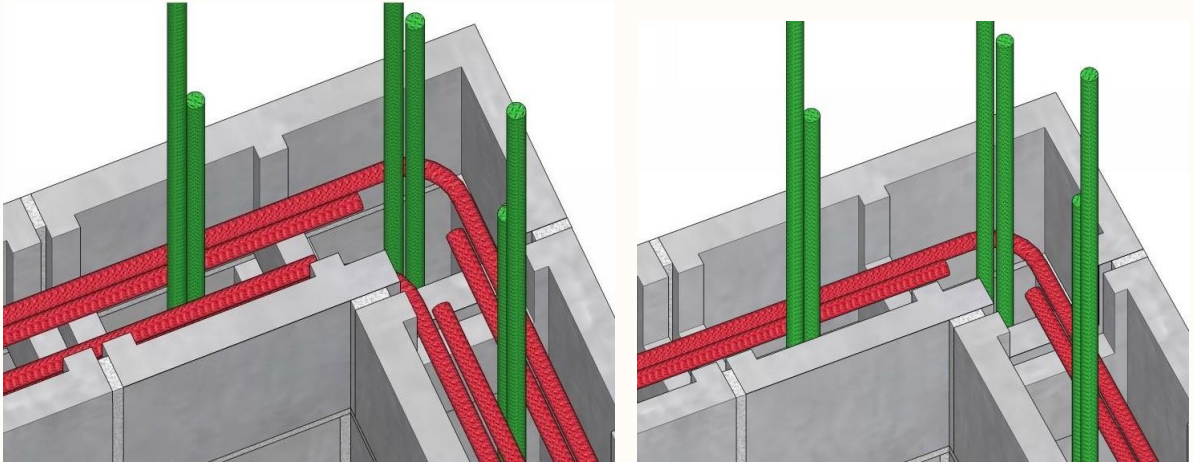
Efficient
Placement?

Bar Congestion

- "Reinforce all masonry walls with 2 - #5 in horizontal bond beams @ 4'-0" O.C."
- Use 1 – bar bond beams wherever possible
- Bond beams at 4'-0" O.C. necessary?



Bar Congestion



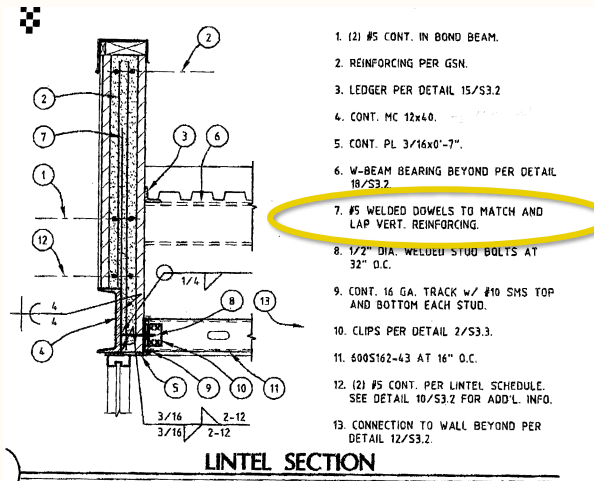
Different Materials and Trades

Everyone plays nicely together... right?



Different Materials and Trades

- Welding and Embedded Steel



Potential Conflicts:

- Schedule/coordination
- Tolerances
- Cutting and Soaps

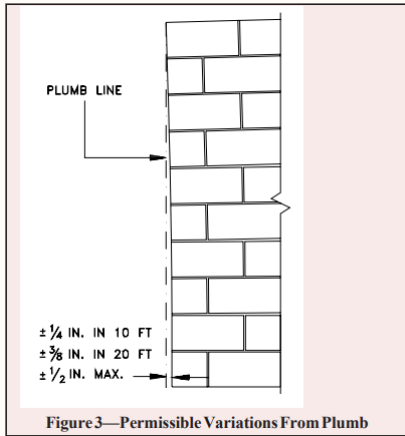
Different Trades

- Welding / Embedded Steel Framing
- Different Trade – Coordination/Delay
- How does it affect masonry installation
- Soaping around framing
- Bottom Line: **Avoid if possible!**
- **USE MASONRY LINTELS!**
 - Also helps with thermal bridging and compatibility
 - Virtually ANY span is possible

SO MANY CUTS!



Other Trades – Wood?



Tolerances for Wood Framing?

27

Other Stuff

Bonus Content!

BONUS

28

Other Stuff: Local Materials

- Know your local materials (don't be afraid to ask)
 - Grout 2000 psi or 3000 psi?
 - Block **lightweight or normal weight**
 - L.W. 28-35 lb. vs. N.W. over 44 lb.!
 - Minimum 20% increase in cost.
 - Worse fire resistance
 - What about water resistance?
 - Typical block compressive strength
 - Self-consolidating grout availability
 - Low-alkali cement?
 - Preblended vs. site-batched mortar
 - Site-batched mortar generally has higher strength per type ... Why?
 - Low-lift vs. High-Lift Grouting?



NOT YOUR JOB!

Other Stuff: Testing

- What do Type S and N mortar stand for?
- **You should want WEAK mortar!**
- Mortar cube testing is NOT REQUIRED and USUALLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE!





Other Stuff: Testing

- Most “Low Breaks” are due to lab error in our experience.
- NO TESTING is required for unit strength method.
- Read Appendix X1 of ASTM C270, where Type N is the RECOMMENDED mortar for load-bearing walls!



Don't OVER-test!

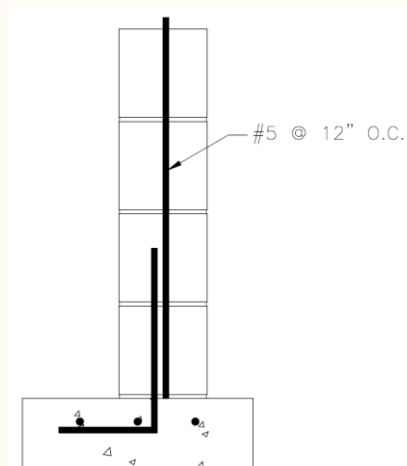


How many bolts
did you test on
your last project?

Other Stuff: Modular Construction

What's wrong with this detail?

- Don't rely on your concrete experience
- Reinf. has to follow modular layout
 - **8" module**



Other Stuff: Unit Strength

“Recalibration” of concrete masonry unit strength tables

- Provides greater assembly compressive strength f'_m
- Why?
 - Old tables based on highly variable test data: 1950’s – 1980’s
 - ASTM C1314 – unified prism testing beginning in 2000
 - Current data statistically more consistent



From NCMA Research Report

2013 MS602

- Unit Strength Table 2: Concrete Masonry

2011

Net area compressive strength of concrete masonry units, lb/in. ² (MPa)		Net area compressive strength of masonry ^A , lb/in. ² (MPa)
Type M or S Mortar	Type N Mortar	
---	1,900 (13.10)	1,350 (9.31)
1,900 (13.10)	2,150 (14.82)	1,500 (10.34)
2,800 (19.31)	3,050 (21.03)	2,000 (13.79)
3,750 (25.86)	4,050 (27.92)	2,500 (17.24)
4,800 (33.10)	5,250 (36.20)	3,000 (20.69)

^A For units less than 4 in. (102 mm) in height, 85% of the values listed.

2013

Net area compressive strength of concrete masonry, psi (MPa)	Net area compressive strength of concrete masonry units, psi (MPa)	
	Type M or S mortar	Type N mortar
1,700 (11.72)	---	1,900 (13.10)
1,900 (13.10)	1,900 (13.10)	2,350 (14.82)
2,000 (13.79)	2,000 (13.79)	2,650 (18.27)
2,250 (15.51)	2,600 (17.93)	3,400 (23.44)
2,500 (17.24)	3,250 (22.41)	4,350 (28.96)
2,750 (18.96)	3,900 (26.89)	----
3,000 (20.69)	4,500 (31.03)	----

¹For units of less than 4 in. (102 mm) nominal height, use 85 percent of the values listed.

Use Mockups & Include Structure

- Mockups
- Mockups SHOULD BE for Engineers, too!
- MSJC Spec, 1.6 D, Sample Panels:
 - “Retain sample panels at the job site until Work has been accepted”
- Do not destroy it until all contracts have been paid



DON'T put control joints at openings!

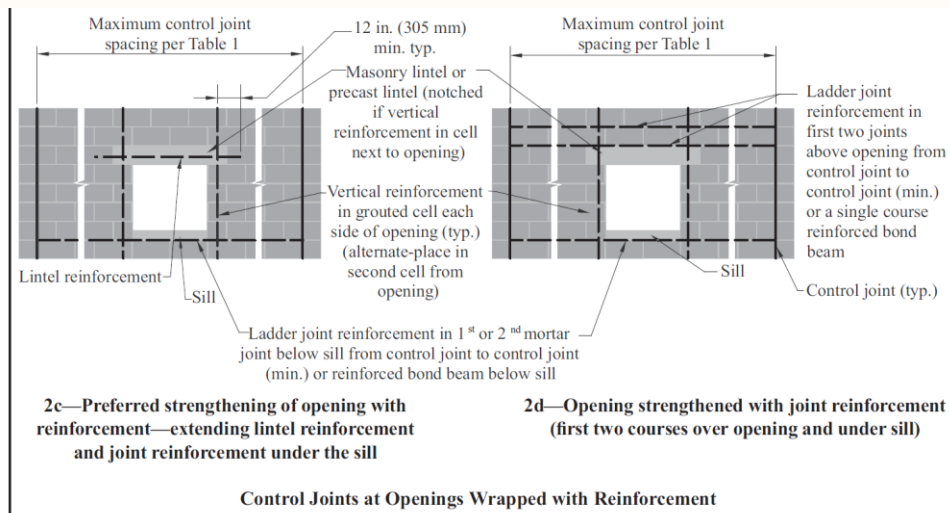


Figure 2—Control Joints at Openings

OR don't put in control joints AT ALL?!

- Go to ncma.org
- Find "TEK 10-03 CONTROL JOINTS FOR CONCRETE MASONRY WALLS – ALTERNATIVE ENGINEERED METHOD"
- Makes sense for walls with lots of openings.

Table 3—Maximum Spacing of Horizontal Reinforcement to Meet the Criteria $A_s > 0.002A_n$ ¹

Wall thickness, in. (mm)	Maximum spacing of horizontal reinforcement, in. (mm)		
	Reinforcement size		
	No. 6 (M19)	No. 5 (M16)	No.4 (M13)
UngROUTED or partially grouted walls			
6 (152)	48 (1219)	48 (1219)	32 (813)
8 (203)	48 (1219)	40 (1016)	24 (610)
10 (254)	48 (1219)	32 (813)	16 (406)
12 (305)	48 (1219)	24 (610)	8 (203)
Fully grouted walls			
6 (152)	32 (813)	24 (610)	16 (406)
8 (203)	24 (610)	16 (406)	8 (203)
10 (254)	16 (406)	16 (406)	8 (203)
12 (305)	16 (406)	8 (203)	8 (203)

1. A_n includes cross-sectional area of grout in bond beams



Donald Harvey, PE

dharvey@ana-usa.com

www.ana-usa.com

