



Saving Time and Money with Masonry

Xtreme Mason Contractors is passionate about taking projects that are designed as poured walls, steel buildings, wood framed and tilt up wall construction and converting them to masonry. A mid-sized commercial and industrial mason contractor serving the Mid-Michigan area, Xtreme shows clients that masonry is affordable, resilient and one of the most sustainable products around.

One project of which Xtreme is very proud is the Greater Lansing Food Bank. Xtreme was chosen by the food bank and the general contractor, Kesler Construction, once they understood the benefits of masonry as the best solution for zero delays, resiliency and cost savings.

Saving money was a priority for the food bank. Originally, the entire building was going to be a steel structure or tilt up wall. Xtreme budgeted the office area with a decorative split face CMU, eliminated all steel lintels and converted the warehouse to eight-foot-tall decorative CMU walls in place of poured walls. The MIM was instrumental in performing a preliminary structural design to highlight the economy of masonry, and also in working with the architect to meet the *Michigan Energy Code*. The MIM assisted by helping with COMcheck results, and using Direct Design Software for the structural design. Direct Design Software is available through NCMA here: <https://ncma.org/software/direct-design/>.

“Our client has been very pleased with the results,” according to Jim Conklin, operations manager at Xtreme. “They wholeheartedly agree that masonry was the better choice thanks to the ease of construction, elimination of the steel lintels and creation of a more attractive finished product compared to poured or tilt up walls.”

As a three-year member of the MIM, Xtreme was able to leverage their membership and raise awareness of the project’s successful completion—leading to a new client and project building a mechanic shop.

Xtreme values and regularly accesses the many resources that the MIM makes available to its members. A favorite quote of Jim's sums up the company's philosophy on learning. "If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you. If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you!" - Zig Ziglar

The MIM was fortunate enough to have numerous members involved with the Lansing Food Bank project, including:

- Xtreme Mason Contractors: Masonry Contractor
- Consumers Concrete: Concrete Masonry Unit (CMU) Supplier
- MASONPRO: Masonry Accessories Supplier
- Dailey Engineering, Inc.: Wall Bracing Engineer
- St. Mary's Cement: Cement Supplier