



Early Involvement Saves Headaches and Dollars

The MidMichigan Medical Center (MMC)—Alpena project is currently under construction, with an expected ribbon-cutting ceremony in March 2022. The new patient tower and hospital facility uses multiple masonry materials throughout the entire façade, highlighting the flexibility that architects have when selecting materials for their projects. The project also utilizes loadbearing concrete masonry unit (CMU) construction as part of the structural system. Constructable wall sections and integration with other systems have been crucial to the success of the project. When completed, the three-story \$63.5 million, 97,500 square foot structure will offer 42 patient rooms, 19 prep/recovery rooms, a 10-bed critical care unit, six operating rooms, and other important patient care facilities to the Alpena region.

The success of this complex project is the result of a collaboration by multiple AEC industry leaders. Three Rivers Corporation of Midland, Michigan, served as architect of record for the MMC Alpena project and partnered with Grand Rapids-based Fishbeck during the design development and construction document phases of the project. Hord Coplan Macht, based in Baltimore, Maryland, was the design architect.

Ylli Bodinaku, project manager for Fishbeck, sought early feedback and involvement from the Masonry Institute of Michigan (MIM) and industry partners as to the best practices for facilitating this construction. Previous MIM executive director, Dan Zechmeister, and current executive director, Phil Ledent, as well as industry partners such as Superior Precast and Belden Brick and Supply met with the Fishbeck team to review wall sections and assist with development of the construction documents. Prior to the MMC Alpena project, Superior Materials and the MIM fostered the relationship with the partnership between Fishbeck and Three Rivers Corporation through support of the Cardiovascular Diagnostic and Testing Facility (CVDT) project. Also known as the Orchard Building, the CVDT facility is a three-story, 170,700 square foot structure on the Mid-Michigan Medical Center's Midland campus, and houses a cardio rehab gym; imaging services; cardio, neurology, general surgery, urology and pulmonology clinics; and a three-story healing garden.

The result truly demonstrates the benefit of having industry partners and soliciting input early in the design process. Wesley Kohn, lead architect with Three Rivers Corporation, shared, “The entirety of the west façade contained numerous complicated details and due largely to our rigorous coordination throughout the design process this difficult façade was erected without any issues, major or minor.” Kohn added that working with the project general contractor, Miron Construction, of Neenah, Wisconsin, was collaborative throughout the project, resulting in the avoidance of issues during construction. “I recall minimal discussions [with Miron] and zero RFIs involving the façade.”

The MIM is proud to have numerous members involved with the MMMC Alpena project, including:

- Fishbeck: Architect and Structural Engineer
- Leidal & Hart Mason Contractors: Masonry Contractor
- Belden Brick & Supply: Masonry Supplier
- Superior Precast: Masonry Supplier
- St. Mary’s Cement: Cement Supplier
- Lafarge Holcim: Cement Supplier
- MASONPRO: Masonry Accessories Supplier
- Dailey Engineering, Inc.: Wall Bracing Engineer