



Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates: A Global Leader in Construction Problem Solving

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE) is a firm of structural engineers, architects and material scientists dedicated to providing practical, innovative and technically sound solutions to problems in existing structures. Since its establishment in 1956, WJE has completed investigative, testing, and design projects involving virtually every type of construction material, structural system and architectural component. Thousands of clients, from individuals to large corporations and government agencies, rely on WJE professionals to deliver better solutions to their construction-related problems.

With more than 650 employees in 29 offices in the United States, and an office in London, England, WJE has the resources to respond globally to virtually any problem, and expertise in all aspects of construction technology. Their resources combine state-of-the-art laboratory and testing facilities, and knowledge sharing systems. WJE is recognized as a global leader in construction problem solving through its professional expertise, outstanding technical ability, and reputation for quick response to clients' needs.

WJE has been a member of the MIM for 23 years. "We find that the greatest benefit of being a member of the MIM is the knowledge sharing among the membership," said Christopher Sass, associate principal at WJE and retired president of the MIM's Board of Trustees. "Whether it be a mason contractor; brick, concrete masonry, stone, mortar or cement producer; accessory supplier; architect or engineer, all members have the same goal in mind—to improve masonry construction. Because all members share their knowledge and expertise, members cannot help but constantly gain additional knowledge."

Christopher suggests new MIM members get involved. For example, attending the MIM Golf Outing provides the opportunity to meet like-minded people and build relationships. Members can also gain valuable knowledge by becoming a part of the MIM Generic Wall Design committee and learning from others who have either been designing masonry walls and structures, or those who supply the materials or construct the buildings. He added, "By embracing new technology, the MIM is reaching and connecting more people. Each member brings valuable experience and expertise to the MIM."

Over the years, we have seen the masonry industry falter as other materials gained favor, and then excel once again as a preferred building solution—becoming more relevant each year as designers cope with sustainability, durability, efficiency, and economics. Christopher concluded, “Masonry is a building material that is understood on a simple level. Even if someone doesn’t know the intricacies of masonry construction, they understand that it involves humans placing each masonry unit to create warm, inviting, long-lasting buildings. Having seen the masonry industry respond and evolve to new challenges without sacrificing the best aspects of masonry has been exciting.”