



Fishbeck: On the Forefront of the Latest Masonry Developments and Industry Practices

Fishbeck is a professional architectural/engineering, civil engineering, environmental and construction services consulting firm with more than 520 people serving government agencies and private organizations. From the humble beginnings in 1953 in Lansing, Michigan, when Mr. Fishbeck started a one-man civil engineering firm in his home, Fishbeck has experienced continued growth—expanding its headquarters in Grand Rapids and branches offering services in Novi, Detroit, McComb County, Ann Arbor, Kalamazoo and Traverse City, Michigan; Toledo, Dayton, Cincinnati, and Columbus, Ohio; and Indianapolis, Indiana

Fishbeck's projects range from large commercial, healthcare, retail, higher education and water processing projects to smaller feasibility, planning, and regulatory studies. Their architectural/engineering division has full in-house design capabilities with architects and structural, mechanical and electrical engineers working in synergy and in teams. Fishbeck's Construction Management division offers construction management services and is an important component of the company's Integrated Design Services. Their projects and services are enhanced by the support of civil engineering, surveyors, stormwater/drainage experts and landscape architects. The environmental division with its chemists, biologists, chemical engineers, air quality experts, compliance/regulatory specialists, geologists, hydrogeologists, certified safety professionals and wetland experts offers another layer of full services and complete integration with the AEC industry.

Many of Fishbeck's projects, including architecture, water/wastewater process and structural engineering, rely heavily on masonry as the appropriate material of choice for our designs. "Fishbeck has been a member of MIM for many years," said Ylli Bodinaku, A.I.A., senior project manager and architect for Fishbeck. "We have received great benefits such as training for new architects and engineers on designing with masonry and specific technical assistance. Being involved with the MIM has allowed us to be at the forefront of the latest masonry developments and industry practices."

Ylli became acquainted with the MIM through our *Lunch and Learn* presentations. Creating a personal relationship with the MIM leadership and other members opened him to unmatched professional expertise and resources. "I had the privilege to collaborate and learn from the best AEC experts," he added.

Ylli believes that as the industry is always changing, masonry is changing too with great advancements, exciting new products and design possibilities. Codes and requirements are catching up with the new advancements as well. "It seems the recent market changes impacting steel and wood are here to stay

for the foreseeable future,” he said. “Putting this into perspective with the masonry industry advancements and the momentum the masonry industry is getting, we as architects and engineers can benefit tremendously from membership with MIM and their other sister masonry organizations. We have some of the best experts on the national level in our MIM house and they are always there to help.”

Ylli is excited to see the MIM’s membership grow and forge strong relationships with the AEC community. “Building trust and alignment can ensure a bright future for our build community with more exceptional designs and long-lasting, sustainable buildings.”