AWCI’s Pinnacle Award
James Mark Cassidy

The winner of AWCI’s most prestigious award this year is James Mark Cassidy, owner and president of Cassidy Brothers, Inc., Rosemont, Ill.

Cassidy and his company joined AWCI in the early 1970s, and he has remained an active, contributing member ever since. In addition to serving on several AWCI committees, he also was AWCI 1993-1994 president.

The award presentation was made during the Awards Presentation Brunch at AWCI 1998 Annual Convention. Those at the brunch were treated to a video biography of the award winner. Except for some minor edits, the text that follows is the script that accompanied the video, which was produced by Edge City Productions, Inc., New York City

He was born in the summer of 1942 in Illinois. Throughout his childhood, he would witness decades of great leaders, progress and growth. He would watch his father and uncle build a company in 1949, a company that would one day be the most successful of its kind.

The oldest of six, he grew up with a sense of family, responsibility and dedication. And with these principles instilled in him, this zealous and studious child would follow in his father’s footsteps and rise to excellence.

After graduating from high school at 16, he entered St. Mary’s College of Winona in 1959. He earned his degree in English while working on the labor force with his father’s company during the summers.

After college graduation, he spent a year with the National Guard. He came home in 1964 to begin a remarkable career.

He worked as a plasterer, learning the ropes and getting his hands dirty with his father in the field. He climbed from journeyman plasterer to estimator, constructing a future and building on his career.

His aggressive work ethic and leadership qualities helped launch the company into new areas of the industry. With this combination of hard work and keen business skills, he was able to expand the company’s potential.

In 1971, he became a partner with his father, and the company would prosper over the next decade. In 1973, Cassidy Brothers completed the interior plastering for the Sears Tower.

In 1993, Cassidy served as president of AWCI. But he also helped promote the advancement of the industry by serving as president of the Gypsum Drywall Contractors of Northern Illinois/Chicagoland, president of the Construction Employees Association and chairman of the Joint Conference Board of Cook County. He also established and today helps direct the Chicagoland Construction Safety Council.

He also serves his community by supporting and raising funds for Holy Family Medical Center, the Maryland School for the Blind and the Baltimore Association for Retarded Citizens. He was named Holy Family Hospital’s Man of the Year in 1991.

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AWCI's President's Award

John “Brad” Wagner

AWCI's President's Award recognizes good deeds and contributions to the wall and ceiling industry, to the construction industry in general and/or to our society. This award is given to a deserving individual or company and only when brought to the attention of the AWCI president.

AWCI's 1998 President's Award winner is John "Brad" Wagner of John Wagner and Associates, Concord Calif.

The President Award was presented in April at the Awards Presentation Brunch during AWCI's 1998 Annual Convention. Here are the remarks made by AWCI President R. Gabe Reitter II:

After graduating from college in the early 1950s, John “Brad” Wagner started his career working with Rigidized Metals, and then began work as an independent rep selling the first pneumatic nail machine. In 1954 he began working for Hilti selling concrete nailing tools. He soon moved to California. By 1964, he had started his own business and developed his first patented product—the Ollie Anchor.

In 1967, John Wagner Associates was incorporated and, the name “Drivall” was trademarked for his screw fasteners.

In 1969, Wagner developed the first magnetic hammer for concrete nail applications. The first 4,000 rpm screwgun was pioneered with his assistance in 1971. The Streaker and Scavenger Head were patented in 1976. Today, the Streaker sharp, pointed screw is acknowledged as the accepted drywall screw, and the Scavenger head is still recognized as a state-of-the-art fastener.

His other interests sparked some diversity in John Wagner Associates. As an amateur and award-winning photographer, he developed a $9 million-a-year division called Impact, which prints photographic postcards. Another interest, hand-warmer products manufactured in Japan, has become a $6 million a year division called Grabber Hand, Body and Foot Warmers.

In 1989, Wagner assisted in establishing a joint venture in the United States for manufacturing drywall screws.

Just last year, Wagner spent much of his energy and expertise improving the Grabber collated screw system-Super Drive 55. Today, he works closely with the residential light-gauge steel industry to improve screw fasteners, collated systems and steel stud framing tables.

Through John Wagner Associates, he has donated seven classic cars to the annual Foundation of the Wall and Ceiling Industry auction. The cars have generated in excess of $125,000.

In an additional show of support, John Wagner Associates became an AWCI Lifetime Member in 1996.
AWCI’s Excellence in Construction Quality Award

AWCI’s Excellence in Construction Quality Award is given to a team that consists of the contractors, manufacturers and suppliers/distributors who worked together on an outstanding wall and ceiling project.

The Winning Project

The winning project this year is The Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children, Northern California Unit.

The winning team is comprised of the project’s prime contractor, AWCI member Performance Contracting, Inc., N. Highlands, Calif; USG Interiors, Chicago, manufactured and supplied the acoustical ceiling materials, Parex Incorporated, Redan, Ga., manufactured the exterior finish; Grace Construction Products manufactured the cementitious fireproofing materials; National Gypsum Company, Charlotte, NC., made the gypsum wallboard; and Calply, Inc. of Pica Rivera, Calif, supplied the acoustical ceiling materials and the metal studs for this project.

The Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children, Northern California Unit, is a 280,000-square-foot, nine-story hospital facility. The facility, including a three-story parking structure, is complete with offices, operating rooms, patient rooms, laboratories, physical therapy centers and recreation areas, all surrounding the building’s focal point—an eight-story, 36-foot diameter atrium.

Performance Contracting’s scope of work in the construction of this building included installation of the following:

- All heavy and light-gauge metal framing of walls, ceilings and soffits.
- In excess of 1.5 million square feet of drywall and drywall finishing.
- Approximately 200,000 square feet of acoustical ceilings, with more than eight miles of shadow mold, over 5,000 square feet of linear wood ceilings, and miles of special trim.
- 30,000 bags of fireproofing material.
- All EIFS, lath and plaster.

The project’s design logistics—up to 20-foot slab-to-slab heights, dense overhead mechanical, radius configuration and eight-story atrium—challenged Performance Contracting’s mechanics and foremen to find innovative installation solutions without loss of efficiency.

Also contributing to the difficulty of the project were the more human factors of continual OSHPD inspections and educating out-of-state architects and construction managers on local regulations and environmental factors. Performance Contracting dealt with each challenge by anticipating questions, continually planning and adjusting to the needs and wants of the inspectors and the owner.

In the end, when the final punchlist was issued, only a few items were left for Performance Contracting to address; the company’s anticipatory planning strategy had succeeded.

Honorable Mentions

AWCI also named two honorable mention projects for excellence in construction quality.

The first project is the Mall at Tuttle Crossing in Columbus, Ohio.

The contractor on this job was South Texas & Lone Star Drywall, Inc., also...
of Columbus. The manufacturers who contributed to this job are Armstrong World Industries, Lancaster, Pa.; and United States Gypsum Co., Chicago. The AWCI-member suppliers on this project were Dietrich Industries, Pittsburgh; and United States Gypsum Co.

The Mall at Tuttle Crossing is a new up-scale 561,000-square-foot regional mall. South Texas & Lone Star Drywall, Inc. performed all the light-gauge metal framing, sheathing, insulation, interior drywall walls and ceilings, scaffolding, acoustic and metal ceilings, textured veneer plaster and glass reinforced gypsum and cement shapes.

The second project to receive an honorable mention is Bally’s Wild Wild West Casino.

Keenan, Hopkins Schmidt & Stowell Contractors, Inc., Orlando, Fla., was the contractor on this job, which used material made by Dryvit Systems, Inc., West Warwick, R.I.; Georgia-Pacific Corporation, Atlanta; and Marina/Ware Industries, South Plainfield, N.J.

KHS&S constructed all interior and exterior walls and the facades of this 210,000-square-foot facility, which includes a casino, restaurants and shopping area. Work included installing wood clapboard siding, ornamental iron work, railings, polyguard trim shapes, cornices, trim bands, thin brick work and some stucco. The project was completed in only six months, with crews often working two shifts, six days a week.
AWCI’s Excellence in Construction Safety Award

AWCI honored one of its member contractors for having a superior safety record. EL. Crane & Sons, Inc. of Fulton, Miss., was presented with AWCI’s first-ever Excellence in Construction Safety Award.

AWCI’s safety award was created to give national recognition to a contractor member who manages an effective safety program in a given year. More and more owners and specifiers are looking carefully at their contractors, and the general perception is that a firm that actively takes steps to control hazards in their operations is also better managed in other areas.

The winner is chosen on the basis of injury and health frequency rate data, experience modifier, safety statement and company safety-program information. EL. Crane & Sons had an experience modification rate of 1.37 in 1988 when it instituted its safety program. But in 1997, when it logged more than 1.9 million man-hours, the rate came down to 0.60. The company’s goal for 1998 is an EMR of 0.52.

The company’s safety and health philosophy states that “all injuries can be prevented.” As a condition of their employment, every employee is required to be knowledgeable of and follow the company safety and health requirements. This winning company also believes that the commitment to safety should be met by everyone from the CEO to the laborer.

In the last year, OSHA has done jobsite inspections on 13 jobs involving EL. Crane & Sons. To date, the company has been cited for only one minor violation.

F.L. Crane & Sons, Inc.

Safety & Health Philosophy

It is the philosophy of F.L. Crane & Sons, Inc. that all injuries can be prevented. We are vitally concerned about the human suffering and financial losses resulting from on-the-job accidents, both for the individual and the company. Accidents interfere with the orderly progress of our work and are indications of an inefficient operation. The prevention of accidents is a major company objective, requiring the active and sincere cooperation of all employees.

Therefore, all F.L. Crane & Sons, Inc. employees, as a condition of their employment, must be knowledgeable of and follow the company safety and health requirements.

It is our intent to comply with all local, state and federal safety standards, codes and regulations.

We welcome suggestions from employees which will further help provide safe and healthful conditions and practices.

Jimmie U. Crane, CEO Johnny L. Crane, President

Official Publication of AWCI 41
**Construction Dimensions** is proud to provide coverage about industry awards presented by associations and groups other than AWCI. On these pages you will learn about some of the industry’s best and brightest and most innovative.

What’s printed here is nor intended to be all-inclusive of industry awards, but it will become a regular annual feature of this magazine. To have your awards information printed here next year, contact the editor-prior to May 2, 1999. This listing of winners includes information received before May 8, 1998.

**D RYWALL INFORMATION TRUST FUND**  
Saratoga, California

**Winner (Commercial)**  
**Project** — At Home Network, Redwood City, Calif.  
**Architect** — Studios, San Francisco  
**General Contractor** — Devcon Construction, Milpitas, Calif.  
**Drywall Contractor** — Magnum Drywall, Inc., Campbell, Calif.

**Winner (Residential)**  
**Project** — Hillsborough Mansion, Hillsborough, Calif.  
**Architect** — Dahlin Group, San Ramon, Calif.  
**Drywall Contractor** — Basco Drywall & Painting Co., San Leandro, Calif.

**GYPSUM ASSOCIATIONS**  
Washington, D.C.  
1997 Excellence in Gypsum Board Design & Construction

**Winner (Nonresidential)**  
**Project** — North Oakland Medical Centers-ER, Pontiac, Mich.  
**Architect** — Gunn Levine Associates, Detroit.  
**Builder/General Contractor** — George W. Auch Company, Pontiac, Mich.  

**Winner (Residential)**  
**Project** — McKim Residence, Lawrenceville, Ind.  
**Architect** — Donovan & Donovan Associates, Vincennes, Ind.  
**Builder/General Contractor** — Barmes Builders, Vincennes, Ind.  
**Drywall Contractor** — Richardville, Drywall, Vincennes, Ind.

**Honorable Mentions (Nonresidential)**  
**Project** — Offices of SFA Architects, Inc., Cincinnati  
**Architect** — SFA Architects, Inc., Cincinnati  
**Builder/Drywall Contractor** — Elam & Associates, Cincinnati

**GYPSUM ASSOCIATIONS**  
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**Winner (Nonresidential)**  
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**Architect** — Gunn Levine Associates, Detroit.  
**Builder/General Contractor** — George W. Auch Company, Pontiac, Mich.  

**Honorable Mention (Residential)**  
**Project** — Custom Home, Saratoga, Calif.  
**Architect** — Luciano Stoppa Designer, Redwood City, Calif.  
**Builder/General Contractor** — Kraft Builders, Los Altos, Calif.  
**Drywall Contractor** — S&S Drywall, San Jose, Calif.

**EIFS INDUSTRY MEMBERS ASSOCIATION**  
Atlanta, Georgia  
1998 Excellence in EIFS Construction

**Retrofit/Remodel Category**  
**Project** — Second National Bank, Arcanum, Ohio  
**Contractor** — Ted Nealeigh & Sons Plastering, Greenville, Ohio
ARCHITECTURAL
WOODWORK INSTITUTE
Reston, Virginia
1997 Wood Design Award

Honor Awards
Designer — Kelbaugh, Calthorpe & Associates, Seattle

Project — Swatt House, Lafayette, Calif
Designer — Robert Swatt, FAIA, Swatt Architects, San Francisco

Project — New Barn at Straitsview Farm, Friday Harbor, Washington

Merit Awards
Project — Brandenburg’s Ravenwood Studio, Ely, Minn.
Architect — David D. Salmela, AIA, Duluth, Minn.

Project — Marshall Residence, Edisto Island, S.C.

Citation Awards
Project — Remodeling of Wauconda Area Public Library, Wauconda, III.

Residential Category
Project — The Foster Home, Columbia, S.C.
Builder — Warren Propst, Columbia, S.C.

Architect — Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Project — Randy Browns studio/residence, Omaha, Neb.

Project — Historic restoration of Frank Lloyd Wright’s Pope-Leihey House, Alexandria, Va.
Architect — Quinn Evans/Architects, Washington, D.C.

Project — Pioneer Pacific Camp Tent Platforms and Cabins, Thetis Island, B.C. Canada
Designer/Builder — Stephen Duff with University of Oregon design-build apprenticeship students, Department of Architecture, Eugene, Ore.

STRUCTURAL BOARD ASSOCIATION
Willowdale, Ontario
Global Home 1998 Student Design Competition

Richard Steward, a student at the University of Idaho, is this year’s first-place winner. With his winning entry, Stewart embraced the global home theme by combining an affordable design with creative appeal. He wins a $1,500 cash scholarship, and his design will be awarded to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements.

The second-place design was submitted by Studio 804, a team of eight students from the University of Kansas. The team wins a $1,000 cash scholarship.

Taking third place is Andrew Shannon, an Oklahoma State University student. He receives a $750 cash scholarship.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To make a nomination for next year’s awards, contact the associations using the telephone numbers below:
Drywall Information Trust Fund . . . . . . . . (408) 255-1544
Gypsum Association . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . (202) 289-5440
EIFS Industry Members Association . . . . . . (800) 294-EIFS
Architectural Woodwork Institute . . . . . . (703) 733-0600
Structural Board Association . . . . . . . . . . . (416) 730-9090

Good luck!