



Upscale Restaurant, Colonial Brookwood Village, Birmingham, Alabama

CONCRETE MASONRY 'IN THE ROUND': **Built Round With Standard CMUs**

Throw out the notion that design options are limited when using the standard eight-inch gray masonry unit. An upscale seafood restaurant selected eight-inch grays to help them achieve a distinctive structure for fine seafood dining in the Colonial Brookwood Village area of Birmingham.

Their design included a large exterior circular structural wall. This area is a feature of the restaurant. The concrete masonry wall surrounds a large room with a domed roof that is equally impressive when viewed from the outside or the inside of the building.

Brent Young of Boora Architects in Portland, Oregon, related that "The dome roof and cupola are designed to create a prominent feature in the landscape. The

dome feature also refers to the main space of the interior including the dining and bar area. From the interior, one can see a second, internal dome which supports a ceiling of stained glass."

While the masonry contractor admitted that holding the radius on the circular wall was a bit more tedious than the straight walls of the building, the end result is a strong, durable masonry wall that affords a smooth, round surface for the stucco finish.

The building also includes a large concrete floor that incorporates an admixture that makes the slab essentially waterproof, according to the architect. This impressive structure, built with concrete and concrete masonry is an excellent example of the versatility of con-

crete and gray block. The restaurant will enjoy the time-tested benefits of masonry.

They have incorporated strong, durable concrete and concrete masonry into a design that will ensure a low maintenance facility that will serve them for many years. Its unique design will also ensure that the restaurant will be a place of local interest from the day the doors open in June 2004.

