



Design and Architectural Services

AVOIDING CRACKS IN BRICKWORK

PROVIDED BY GLEN-GERY CORPORATION

The various elements and materials which make up a building are in a constant state of motion. All building materials expand and contract due to changes in temperature; some materials move with changes in moisture content. Each building material also changes dimensions due to stress and some materials move further when subjected to sustained loads. These major causes of movement: thermal, moisture, deflection and creep, along with the proper way to control these movements are the focus of this presentation. Proper detailing and installation of movement joints, reinforcement, and brick veneer wall movement as a whole, is discussed in detail. Discussion also includes: The difference between expansion joints and control joints, proper spacing of movement joints, and how to make these joint less noticeable.

Other topics included in this presentation are --

Expansion Joints, Control Joints, Building Expansion Joints

Is there really a difference, or is it just semantics?

Joint Spacing

Is there an appropriate 'Rule of Thumb' - or can such a rule lead to cracking?

Compressible fill

Where should it be used and why?

Shelf angle details

What must occur at shelf angles to allow for the expected movements?

Moisture expansion

Why is moisture expansion an increased concern in brick veneer?

Joint reinforcement

Which type- truss or ladder? Are three wires necessary?