

Cassini Blocks

N° 042100-001

KIDNEY-SHAPED CERAMIC BUILDING BLOCKS



Designed by Neil Meredith as a new type of wall system, Cassini Blocks embrace the natural and formal tendencies of ceramics as a starting point for design. Utilizing a single unit type shaped like a kidney or peanut, many different stacking and opening possibilities emerge. Instead of forcing the material into a standard brick unit, these building units are slip-cast into hollow blocks. Ceramic building units also offer distinct performance criteria: clay is a durable and natural material, has a high insulation capacity, absorbs and distributes water when uncoated, and can shed water once glazed—allowing it to be used in interior and exterior applications.

CONTENTS

Slip-cast red earthenware clay

APPLICATIONS

Interior and exterior walls

TYPES / SIZES

15 3/4 x 7 1/4" (40 x 18.4 cm) individual blocks; stacked dimensions vary

ENVIRONMENTAL

Natural material, biodegradable and reusable; requires no finishing or maintenance

LIMITATIONS

Large installations may require additional engineering and testing

CONTACT

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MULTIFUNCTIONAL CERAMIC BUILDING BLOCKS



Bricks and tiles, though materially similar, are commonly understood as discrete building materials. Bricks are stacked to produce a solid volume, while tiles are arrayed to create a surface. Q Blocks, designed by Neil Meredith, work as a single ceramic building unit that can perform a host of different constructive functions. The units can stack to create walls, overlap to create roof tiles, or nest to create irregular tiling patterns. By extruding clay through a steel die and then changing the length of the resulting tube, a single hollow profile can be used to create a range of constructive units. This approach allows for a number of advantages over the standard rectangular stacked units. For example, the air cavity within the units also allows services to pass through what would typically be a solid cross section. These bricks, pavers, and roof tiles can nest and stack in both regular and irregular patterns depending on use and installation.

CONTENTS

Extruded clay

APPLICATIONS

Interior and exterior walls and roofs

TYPES / SIZES

2 x 4 x 8/16/32" (5.1 x 10.2 x 20.3/40.6/81.2 cm)
individual blocks

ENVIRONMENTAL

Biodegradable, reusable, no finishing required

LIMITATIONS

Large installations may require additional engineering and testing

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Y Blocks

N° 042119-002

CELLULAR CERAMIC BUILDING BLOCKS



Y Blocks, designed by Neil Meredith, are a new type of brick system that creates an informally arranged wall or paving surface while utilizing a single repeated unit. A short version can be used horizontally as paving or vertically to create a screen wall. A longer version stacks vertically to create a brick wall with the ends perpendicular to the wall surface, similar to masonry header coursing. Unlike standard bricks or tiles, there is no idealized configuration. The introduction of each new unit ripples throughout the system, letting forces internal to the stack or field determine the final design. While the system has some strange requirements—namely buttressing and patience on the part of the installer—it does solve some problems inherent with typical masonry construction, such as dealing with irregular edges and ways to introduce irregular patterns and openings.

CONTENTS

Extruded clay

APPLICATIONS

Interior and exterior walls

TYPES / SIZES

4 x 3.7 x 2/4/8/16" (10.2 x
9.3 x 5.1/10.2/20.3/40.6 cm)
individual blocks; stacked
dimensions vary

ENVIRONMENTAL

Biodegradable, reusable, no
finishing required

LIMITATIONS

Large installations may
require additional
engineering and testing

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