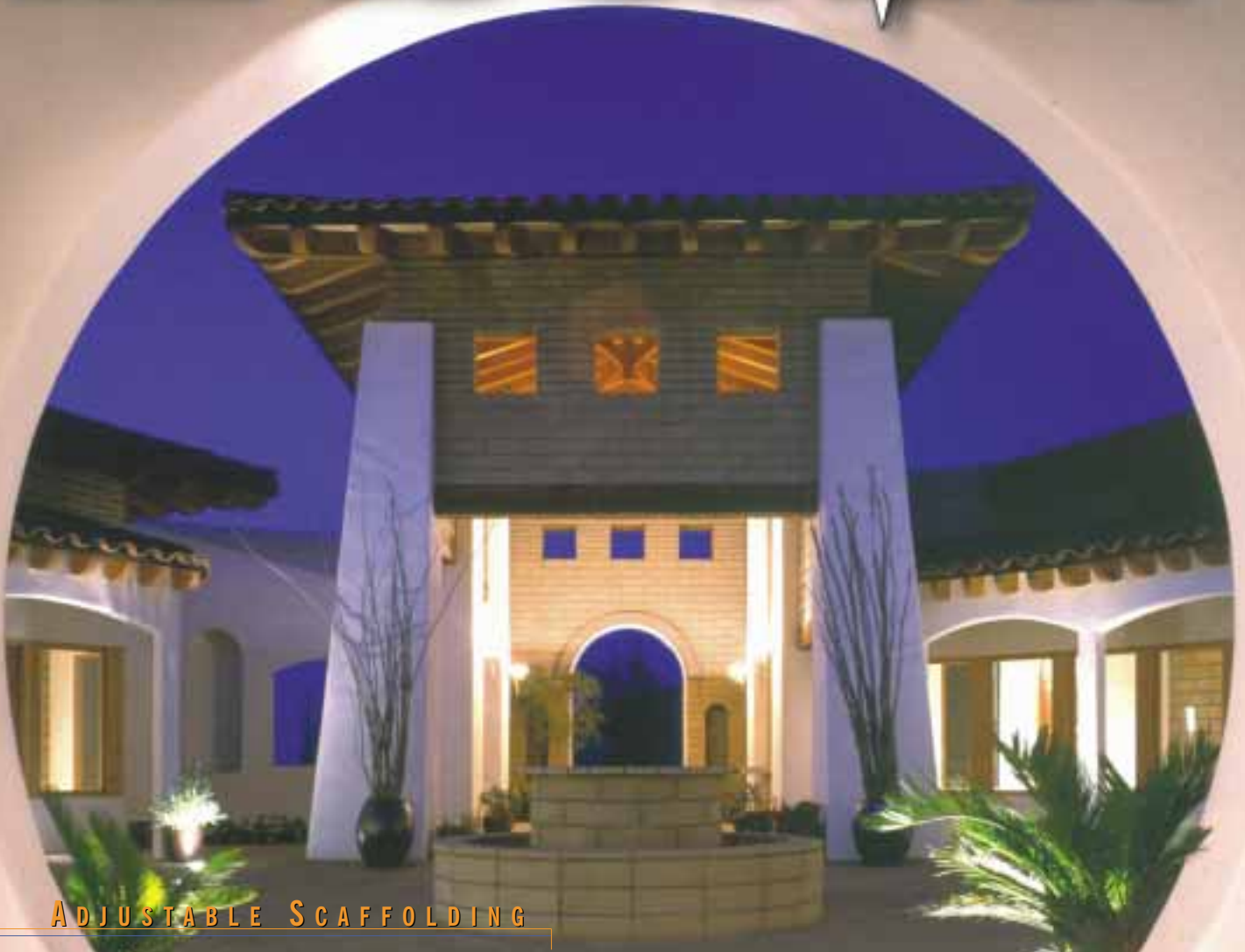


# MASONRY



ADJUSTABLE SCAFFOLDING

Saving the Day...

EACH AND EVERY DAY

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**By Justin Breithaupt, Jr.**

*Owner, Non-Stop Scaffolding, Inc.*

**For efficiency and adaptability, elevating scaffolding leads the way.**



Photo courtesy of Lucia Incorporated

**Inside and outside corners and radius walls are no problem for adjustable scaffolding.**

**T**HE ART OF LAYING BRICK HASN'T CHANGED A LOT in the last 100 years. In many areas, it has gotten more technical, such as new mortar formulations and different materials, but the basic work of skillfully placing one brick or block on another is about the same. What has changed tremendously over the years is how to put those skilled craftsmen right where they need to be through the use of scaffolding.

## In the Beginning

CONVENTIONAL FRAME scaffolding, invented in the early '30s, became commonplace after World War II. Trades of all types, including mason contractors, embraced this type as a solution to many of their problems.

In the '60s and '70s, several new elevating scaffolds – also called adjustable or climbing scaffolds – appeared on the market for mason contractors looking for an alternative to fixed frames. The main advantage of this type is you are able to winch the platform up the towers every couple of courses to keep the bricklayers working continuously at a comfortable waist-high level, without having to stop to raise the planks. This new concept was not only sound, but it was also proven in a government study to increase productivity by over 20% compared to the fixed frame variety.

## A Versatile Option

MANY CONTRACTORS across the country have turned to elevating scaffolding because of the unique working advantages it offers them over other scaffolding systems available today. Many contractors become aware of just how versatile elevating scaffolding truly is during tough situations where their scaffolding needs just aren't being met.

One contractor, Lucia Incorporated of Houston, Texas, was faced with such a difficult job in Jackson, Miss., where fixed frames and mast-climbing scaffolds just weren't doing the trick.

"We were setting the stone on the new Justice Court Building downtown and saw right off our frames were not going to work," says Joe Campbell, Lucia's Safety Director. "We had to place the pieces of stone onto the scaffold with a crane, and the cross-braces would have been in the way. Since our elevating scaffolding has no obstructions above the five-board material landing area, we were able to land the stone with no problems. We just cranked the platform to keep it at the right height with the work all the time. This is really important when you're setting heavy stone."

Placing materials wasn't their only problem.

"The configuration of the job was a major problem, too" adds Lucia's Project Manager, Harry McGraw. "We had a lot of inside and outside corners and radius walls. We were using a mast-climbing system on the job at first, and it could have been made to work on these walls, but only with a lot of costly extra hardware and the labor to modify it. We also had some engine breakdowns that shut us down for days at a time.

"We switched over to our elevating scaffolding because our men could set-up these odd configurations almost as fast as straight walls," says McGraw. "It's also about one-third the money."



Photo courtesy of Lucia Incorporated

As you see here, Lucia's elevating scaffolding conforms easily to this radius wall.

Lucia was also considering the use of the mast-climbing platforms along one side where the basement extended out past the face of the building.

"The engineers wouldn't let us do that because the point loads were so high," states Campbell. "Our adjustable scaffolding did a great job here because the point loads are only slightly higher than frames."

### A Step in the Right Direction

TIM EVERETT, A MASON contractor in Braxton, Miss., regularly employed five to ten bricklayers. He saw an opportunity to make his business grow, but it was going to be a difficult growth phase and he saw hindrances in his daily operations.

"I was at a point where I knew we could do bigger jobs, but that would mean a big jump in the size of my crew and my payroll because I would be going after jobs with taller walls," explains Everett. "I was using frames and, if a couple of laborers didn't show up, my bricklayers would have to stop and raise their own walk boards, plus no scaffold got built ahead that day. That just cripples you unless you have a big crew you can shift around."

After studying the possible advantages he could gain by changing to elevating scaffolding, he decided to go ahead.

"I've never looked back!" says Everett. "When we roll up on a job now, we set up the scaffold one time and we're done. No more building and tearing down frames. I've got a man who can grab those towers with the forklift and move them around in no time. My bricklayers don't do anything but lay brick. My production has gone through the roof."

At the time he was interviewed, Everett had been using his new scaffolding for about 16 months, and has stepped up his



Photo courtesy of Tim Everett



Photo courtesy of Tim Everett

Tim Everett uses a crane to place complete towers in tough spots.

daily operations, now working 20-25 bricklayers efficiently. When asked if it had helped him out of any especially tough spots, he didn't take long to ponder his response.

"That's an easy one to answer," Everett immediately says. "We had a bunch of 25-foot-high gable walls to build on top of a three-story church. That would have been a nightmare on frames – hauling every piece up there and then the erection and dismantle on every wall. It would have taken absolutely forever.


"I made a deal to use the General Contractor's crane and fly the towers in place, boards and all," continues Everett. "In six picks, we were done. It only took us an hour to scaffold that first gable, and about two hours to fly them from wall to wall after that. We mopped up."

The use of adjustable scaffolding has not only helped this mason contractor with how his crew is working, but also where they're working.

"This new way has really streamlined my day-to-day operation," says Everett. "It helped me step-up to doing big commercial work and still maintain tight control. We are very productive, with fewer men, which is good because it's really hard to find bricklayers around here."

The experience of these two companies is pretty typical of elevating scaffolding users. While some contractors have continued to use conventional frame scaffolding due to tradition, the ones that have changed say they are never going back. They all agree that adjustable scaffolding has assisted in their bottom-line.

John Clements, co-owner of Masonomics, Inc., of Louisville, Ky. has been using elevating scaffolding for over ten years and can adequately sum up the main overall advantage for mason contractors.

"When the block stops the money stops," states Clements. "It would be a giant step backward to do our jobs with anything other than our climbing scaffold." 

**Justin Breithaupt, Jr.** is the Owner of Non-Stop Scaffolding, Inc. Non-Stop has been manufacturing elevating scaffolding since 1975.

# Non-Stop. Every Wall. Every Job.

*(P.S. - Costs 70% Less Than Mast Climbers)*

## 10 Reasons Why Non-Stop Became the **GOLD STANDARD** In Masonry Scaffolding



**Non-Stop. Maximum Speed. Maximum Safety.  
Maximum Profits. Minimum Cost.**

## Non-Stop Scaffolding

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[www.nonstopscaffolding.com](http://www.nonstopscaffolding.com)

1. Non-Stop has been perfecting adjustable masonry scaffolding for nearly **30 years** and it is the **only** masonry scaffolding designed and manufactured by a masonry contractor for masonry contractors.
2. Non-Stop will always work smoothly and easily! Crank it with a full pallet **one handed!** **That's the whole idea...**raise the scaffold for three minutes and tend the bricklayers for 20 minutes - the masons never stop and the tenders never fall behind!
3. Non-Stop is perfect for **all walls** - from straight walls to cut-up footprints, from 12' high walls to 550' high walls and it sets up on any layout as fast as it does on straight walls - from now on reach for Non-Stop whenever you would reach for frames.
4. Non-Stop can be erected by **anyone** on your crew!
5. Non-Stop keeps you in the bricklaying business and out of the trucking business. Simply, you move Non-Stop with just a **pick-up truck** and any trailer...or just a flat-bed truck. You don't need **18 wheelers** like...mast climbers.
6. Non-Stop also keeps you out of the high-capacity forklift business. Laborers move Non-Stop from the trailer to the wall with any lift. Why get into the 8,000 lb. forklift business?
7. Non-Stop provides a **huge landing platform** - 5 boards wide plus 3 additional work bench boards, if desired! Further, go ahead and land your material **anywhere on the platform!** Non-Stop is that solid!
8. Non-Stop is easier to own than ever with a **rental/purchase option**. Rent it out - fall in love - and apply 100% of your rent toward our purchase price!
9. Non-Stop has outlasted traditional adjustable masonry scaffolding systems because it's soooooo simple and virtually **indestructible**. Mast climbers are simple too...just push a button. That sounds great until the button doesn't work and **your climbers won't climb**.
10. Let's summarize: Non-Stop will make you money starting only 12 feet off the ground. You can set it up on straight walls at least four times faster than frames. You can set it up on cut-up footprints **JUST AS FAST** as on straight walls! (That's something that mast climbers can never do...even though they cost triple the low Non-Stop price).

There's a ton of masonry contractors out there who tried numerous scaffold systems - including Non-Stop and mast climbers. Please ask us to give you their names and numbers. You might be very interested in their personal comments.