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GLAZED BUILDING BLOCK

Filed Feb. 19, 1940

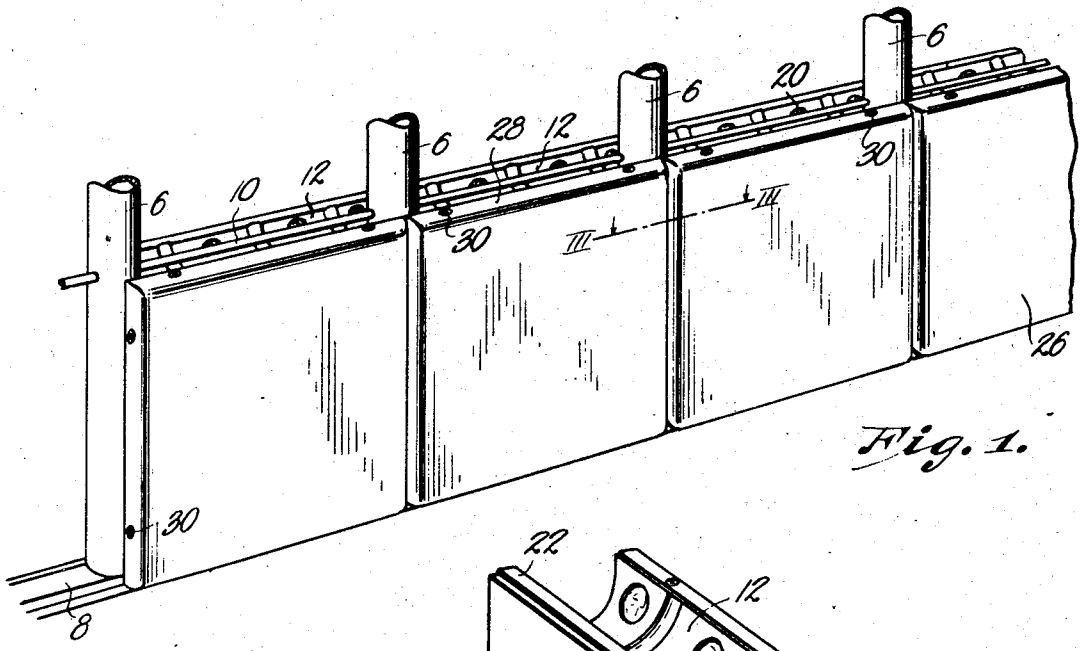


Fig. 1.

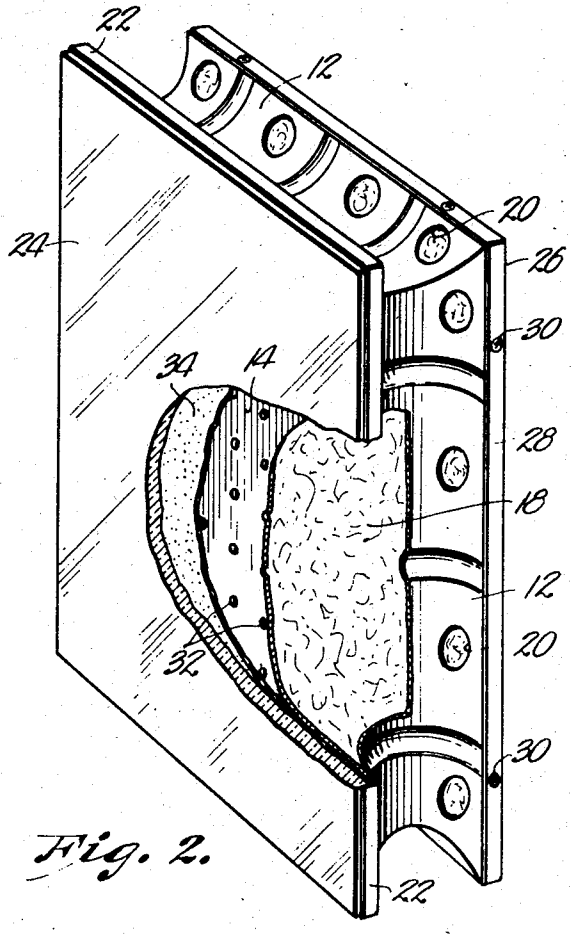


Fig. 2.

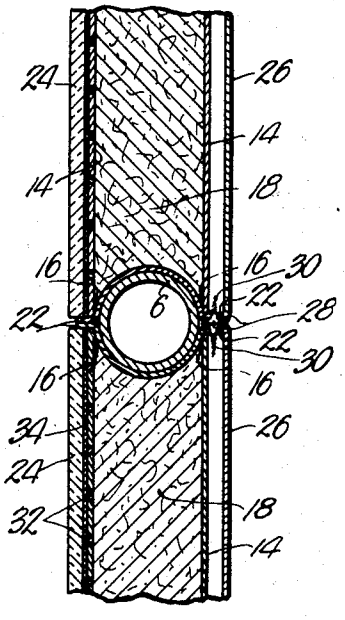


Fig. 3.

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GLAZED BUILDING BLOCK

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Application February 19, 1940, Serial No. 319,703

5 Claims. (Cl. 72—44)

This invention relates to buildings and particularly units in the nature of blocks that are formed to be combined with a relatively rigid supporting structure, and the primary object is to provide such a building block which has means for holding comparatively fragile face plates thereon and elements for absorbing any unexpected shock or twisting of the supporting frame so that said face plates will not be subjected to strain causing cracks or breaks.

One of the important aims of this invention is to provide a building block in the nature of that disclosed in my United States Letters Patent No. 2,134,941, dated November 1, 1938, but which has as a part thereof, means for receiving a face plate on each side respectively thereof, which means is associated with the remaining part of the block in such fashion as to preclude the transmission of objectionable movement of the framework to the end that the block itself protects the face plates carried thereby.

Another object of this invention is the provision of a unit for buildings which is formed to be received by a relatively rigid framework and which has as a part thereof, resilient elements adapted to contact the parts of the framework so that any movement of the latter will be absorbed and not transmitted to the fragile face plates of the block.

This invention has for another important object the provision of a building block formed to be glazed so that the building created therefrom will present the same appearance as though structural glass were secured directly to a supporting wall as is now the custom.

Other objects of the invention will appear during the course of the following specification, referring to the accompanying drawing wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a portion of a building wall comprising in part, a number of building blocks each made to embody the present invention.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged perspective view of a glazed building block, parts being broken away for clearness; and

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary cross sectional view through a portion of the building wall taken on line III—III of Fig. 1.

The blocks about to be described, are arranged for mounting upon a relatively rigid framework in the nature of that shown and described in my co-pending application, Serial No. 237,913, filed October 31, 1938. This building structure comprises a number of vertical members 6, each of which extends upwardly from a suitable foundation 8 and that are tied together by horizontal rods 10 placed at intervals throughout the height of the building wall.

Members 6 and 10 of the framework are formed to be completely concealed by the blocks when the structure is completed, and as illustrated in Fig. 3. The contour of certain elements of the block is such as to engage vertical members 6 for example, to the end that support is gained for each individual block.

Rods 10 may be large enough in diameter to engage elements 12 of the block and therefore, definitely preclude one block from resting upon the unit directly therebelow.

Referring specifically to the illustrated embodiment of the invention shown in Fig. 2 of the drawing, the numeral 12 designates the arcuate, resilient elements, which combine to form a circumscribing frame, the sides of which are closed by members 14, welded or otherwise secured as at 16 to elements 12.

The space between side members 14 is preferably filled with insulating material 18 that may be introduced through holes 20 formed in elements 12.

Out-turned flanges 22 formed at the edges of the unit may receive either a face plate 24 of structural glass or a face plate 26 of any material having a desired finish on the surface thereof. In the instance shown, face plate 26 is a pan-like member having a continuous laterally extending flange 28 at the edges thereof, which overlap flanges 22 and through which pass screws 30 to removably maintain face plate 26 in position. Obviously, when the block is formed and before face plates 24 or 26 are assembled therewith, the whims of the builder may be met and he may cover the surface of the wall by mounting either the structural glass face plate 24 on each block, or the enameled or otherwise finished plate 26.

The side members 14 should have a number of holes 32 formed therethrough to serve as teeth or anchoring elements for a plastic 34 that may be spread thereover before placing structural glass 24 upon the block.

Flanges 22 embrace face plate 24 and support is gained therefor from the lowermost flange of each block. Manifestly, therefore, adjacent sheets of material 24 are not in direct contact with each other and the space therebetween part of which is occupied by flanges 22, may be filled with plastic or other suitable material if necessary.

The resilient property of elements 12 which lie directly adjacent to the parts of the building

framework, insures that any destructive strains might be otherwise transmitted to the face plates **24** or **26** and dissipated before damage can be done.

Screws **30** are employed when face plate **26** is positioned on the block before constructing the building but if it is contemplated that a different facing may be desired on all or a part of the building wall, these screws may be eliminated and the pan-shaped face plate **26** snapped into place without the use of elements such as screws **30** and through the employment of friction established by a tight fit arising from the telescoping arrangement between face plate **26** and flanges **22**.

It is conceivable that blocks different than those illustrated and described, and which are provided with glazed surfaces protected by the block per se, might be made without departing from the spirit of the invention or scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. A block of the character described for buildings having a rigid framework, said block comprising two opposed, spaced apart side members; resilient elements between the said members at the edges thereof, in connection therewith to hold the members in spaced relation and formed to engage the framework of the building to gain support for the block; outwardly extending flanges on each side of the block respectively at the periphery thereof; and a face plate held in place by said flanges over each side member respectively.

2. A block of the character described comprising a pair of polygonal, spaced apart, opposed side members; resilient inwardly arched elements at the edges of said members, in connection therewith, to hold the same in spaced relation; outwardly extending, opposed, flanges on one side of the block at the periphery thereof; and a relatively fragile face plate on said side of the block, said face plate being held in place in part by said flanges.

3. A block of the character described comprising a pair of polygonal, spaced apart, opposed side members; resilient inwardly arched elements at the edges of said members, in connection therewith, to hold the same in spaced relation; outwardly extending flanges on each side of the block respectively at the periphery thereof; and a relatively fragile face plate on one side of the block, said face plate being held in place in part by the flanges of said one side, said face plate being a sheet of structural glass having means between one face thereof and the underlying side members for further assisting in holding the glass in place.

4. A block of the character described comprising a pair of polygonal, spaced apart, opposed side members; resilient inwardly arched elements at the edges of said members, in connection therewith, to hold the same in spaced relation; outwardly extending flanges on each side of the block respectively at the periphery thereof; and a dished plate overlying one of the said members having the edges thereof overlapping and secured to the said flanges at the periphery of said one side.

5. A block of the character described for buildings having a rigid frame work, said block comprising two opposed, spaced apart side members; elements between the said members at the edges thereof, in connection therewith, to hold the members in spaced relation, and formed to engage the rigid frame work of the building to gain support for the block; face plates overlying the side members; and means for holding the face plates in position, said elements having holes therein for introducing a filling between the side members.

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