

# ACLS



# NEWSLETTER

## ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTANTS FOR LITURGICAL SPACE

### Upcoming ACLS Activities

Please join us at:

University of Dallas Ministry Conference, Dallas, TX Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 2016

**ACLS General Meeting** at Cathedral Ministries Conference, Santa Fe, NM Jan. 9-12, 2017

Southwest Liturgical Conference, El Paso, TX, Jan. 18-21, 2017

## St. Edward Catholic Church - a narrative

Winner of 2015 Faith and Form Award and 2015 WoodWorks Design Award

Keizer, Oregon

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*“Architecture is life, or at least it is life itself taking form and therefore it is the truest record of life as it was lived in the world yesterday, as it is lived today or ever will be lived.”*

Frank Lloyd Wright, 1867-1959, American Architect

If it's true that architecture chronicles life then, for better or worse, places of worship record how we interpret our relationship to God and to one another. To design a church is to search for the best way to express its transcendental purpose while honoring the people who worship there. For the church designer it's the chance to create an inspired place that helps us ponder the mystery of our existence

while telling a story. It's a serious endeavor complicated by the reality that each of us relates to God in our own way and that each faith is filled with specific rituals and requirements.

St. Edward Catholic parish in Keizer, Oregon worshiped in a tired structure from the late 60's originally meant to be a gym. Hidden behind their social hall, it's small and windowless space was crowded and uncomfortable. Its tiny entry vestibule and narthex did not match the welcoming nature of this lively parish. Little about the building represented the congregation and yet, in spite of this, St. Edward's was thriving. So much so that finally in 2011, after years of enduring their worship space, the parish embarked on a



## Webinars

Sept 20, 2016

### Case Study of the San Fernando Cathedral Restoration Presented by Jim Heck

San Fernando Cathedral is home to the oldest continuously active parish in the State of Texas and the oldest Roman Catholic cathedral/church in continuous operation in the United States. The cathedral is not just the geographic center of the city, but is considered by most San Antonians to be its spiritual center.

This webinar, focused primarily on the cathedral building, will take you through the entire process from initial planning to completion of construction and will touch on the many preservation, stabilization, design, liturgical, artistic, acoustical and technological issues faced and solutions incorporated by the design team.

San Fernando has been the recipient of numerous local, state and national design awards including a 2006 AIA / IFRAA Honor Award.

About the presenter: As Senior Vice President and a Principal of Fisher Heck Architects in San Antonio, Texas, Jim oversees all of the firm's religious architecture projects.

### ACLS Bi-Annual Membership Meeting

We are having our bi-annual membership meeting at the Cathedral Ministries Conference at the Drury Plaza Hotel in Santa Fe, NM in Jan. This will be a perfect location to meet - we are looking forward to seeing you there! For registration and more information, check our website.

journey that would lead to a new church.

The journey began by listening. While the rituals of the Catholic Church are well established there are a number of ways within that framework to house the gathering. "Discovery™" is our way of determining the unique nature of each congregation so that our solution accurately tells their story.

It's a series of town hall workshops that we facilitate to discover the needs, goals and vision for any project. Distinctive to "Discovery™" is not only the large gatherings where all can hear each other but the take part nature of the process. We ask the people to work together to solve their problem. It's a community building activity that leads to a list of criteria specific to this congregation.

Over 12 months and six workshops the parishioners described their ideal church as one rooted in a Catholic architectural tradition, fitted to the liturgy, and local in its design. They wanted it to be warm, inviting, uplifting, flooded with natural light (maybe in response to the lack of windows in their existing church), and built of local materials. In short it should be a church for the Catholic faith that belongs in the Pacific Northwest.

Two basic architectural actions inform the design. The first creates a pedestrian walkway from the street to the heart of the site, connecting St. Edward's physically and symbolically to the broader community. This path organizes the development taking advantage of existing landscaping, gardens and building entries to join the new with the old. The second involves light. The building is conceived as a lantern, a beacon, to the community. The 12,000 square foot church consists of a solid base of dark brick and cedar above which sits a glass lens enclosing the sanctuary below. It is a direct response to the parishioner's desire for daylight, transparency and Catholic symbol.

Accessed from both the east and west under a tower cross, one enters the church via a large narthex that allows for multiple small gathering areas requested by the parish. Inside the nave the worshiper passes the site built immersion baptismal font to a center aisle that terminates at the altar and tabernacle beyond, a requirement of the local archbishop. Above is the crucifix suspended in a white wall. Visible from both the interior and exterior the hovering cross is both crucifixion and resurrection. As requested by the parish, pews are radiused on a level floor of concrete around the raised sanctuary. Overflow seating is provided in a 100 seat balcony that floats over the main floor. Stairs inside the nave insure that balcony congregants are seen by the entire congregation reinforcing the



parish desire for community.

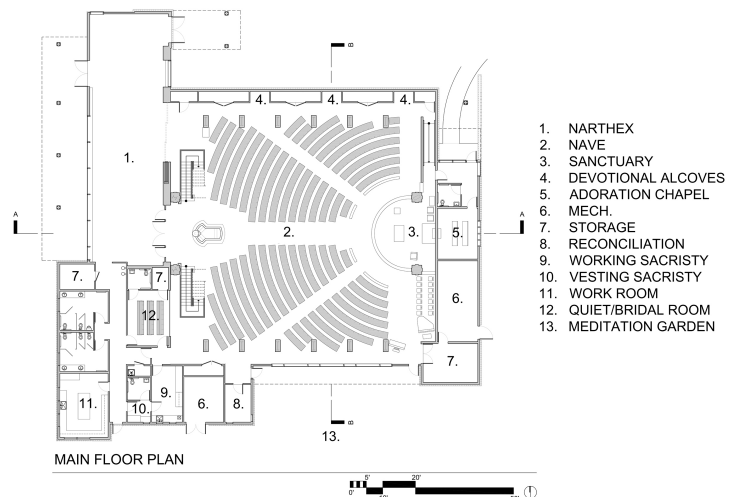
The glue-laminated wood arches, visible from the exterior through the clerestory windows, are the powerful statement of the building. Reminiscent of historic church architecture, they march toward the sanctuary, support the wood roof, create side aisles and allow for the glass surround above. “Gothic” in vocabulary, these pointed wood arches represented “church” for many of the congregants. A structural engineering challenge, particularly since the entire surround is glass, the half arches at the beginning and end of the nave were developed to keep the roof from collapsing like a house of cards. Outriggers from the arches support the roof and window walls. Steel rods suspend from the arches to support the balcony. Likened to the inside of an ark, the all natural wood structure is exposed reminiscent of stone ribs in Gothic churches.

Materials are few and simple: black brick, cedar, fir and drywall. The black gives the building a deep spiritual sense. Above the brick, western red cedar attached in a reverse board and batten gives the building a local flavor. Inside much of the space is left white. To accent and contrast with the interior white walls, douglas fir is used throughout as spaced 1x2's for acoustical reasons or as tongue and groove paneling. The neutral color scheme is a superb backdrop throughout the year for the various colors of the liturgical calendar.

Heating and cooling are provided via a boiler and chiller using water in floor pipes. To provide natural ventilation in Oregon's temperate climate, six windows in the clerestory can be electronically opened. Opening the lower windows in the nave and narthex as well as skylights over devotional alcoves provides cross ventilation during most of the year. To reduce sun glare and heat gain, the clerestory windows have a frit pattern of white dots reducing effective heat gain by 50%. Shades raised or lowered electronically, on the south and west walls of glass, help to further reduce glare and heat gain.

The accomplished twentieth century architect Pietro Belluschi put it succinctly when he wrote in the July, 1963 *Architectural Record* article titled *Eloquent Simplicity in Architecture*: “.....the architect will soon find that there are no perfect answers, only questions by earnest people; and it may well be that an earnest quest is the most important element in church design.” St Edward Catholic Church, a 2015 Faith & Form/IFRAA and 2015 WoodWorks Design award winner, is an “earnest quest” to reflect this parish and this location within a Catholic tradition of worship architecture. The layout and appointments respond to the Catholic Liturgy and the congregation's desire for an inspirational space, made of Oregon wood and welcoming to all.

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**ALCS President's Letter**

September 2016

September is always a busy month. Even though I am no longer teaching full time I still have that feeling in September of something new and exciting starting out. I am sure many of you do as well. The school year may be starting anew for some but for ACLS members we too have a new venture beginning this month.

For the first time ACLS and its members will have what I think is a very strong presence at the Dallas Ministries Conference: Walking Together in Faith to be held this year September 29 through October 1. The conference is sponsored by the University of Dallas and will be held at the Kay Bailey Hutchinson Convention Center in Dallas. In terms of attendees it is the largest of the conferences we are affiliated with. More information can be found on the website [udallas.edu/dmc](http://udallas.edu/dmc).

Seven sessions on art and architecture for the church will be offered by ACLS members. These sessions range from an introduction to the building process in a two session intensive to specific case studies sessions to a session on multicultural design issues and sessions focused specifically on artists working for the church and seasonal environment. These sessions provide a well-rounded showcase of our members.

Even more exciting for our new adventure is a first time ACLS sponsored exhibition. Entitled 'Art: Enriching the Liturgical Year' the display showcases art, architecture and celebrations during the Liturgical Year. All work in the exhibit comes from ACLS members. It will be located in the exhibitor section throughout the conference. This is a great way to bring the work we do to a larger faith community. I especially want to thank Shelley Kolman Smith for her work with the exhibit.

Other conferences that are on our future calendar include the Southwest Liturgical Conference held next January in El Paso, Texas. We will begin with a tour on the afternoon of January 17 and have many things planned during the conference through Saturday January 21, 2017.

The Cathedral Ministries Conference will host our biannual ACLS members meeting. This conference will be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico January 9 – 12, 2017. You will be hearing much more about the events we planned later this fall. For now please 'save-the-date' for annual meeting – Tuesday January 10. We hope as many as possible will attend.

There are lots of exciting opportunities coming up for our members and I hope to be able to greet each of you there. Finally, I would like to welcome our new ACLS members who have recently joined us – including Norbert Gutierrez, Mark Gulsrud, Vincent Hawley, and Rex Kare. We are glad you have joined and look forward to working with you in the future.

See you in Dallas,

Carol Frenning

### Do you have news?

We would love to know what our members are up to! If you have any news or new projects you would like to post in our newsletter, please send your article and photos to: [Shelley@ShelleyKolmanSmith.com](mailto:Shelley@ShelleyKolmanSmith.com)

Thank you to all our members who so graciously sent in photos or will be bringing art to the Dallas Ministry Conference for our Liturgical Art Display! It would have been so easy to fill the Convention Center with ACLS member's gorgeous work. Perhaps one day we'll just have to do that! In the meantime, our contributing artists, architects and consultants are:

Sue Obata

Robert Habiger

Karen Schmitt

Claire Wing

John Freshnock

Dale Molnar

Jeff Smith

Pam Hardiman

Julie Richey

James Hundt

Johannes ALBL

William Brocius

John Collier

J. Robert Macdonnell

Conrad Schmidt

Annie Dixon

Linda McCray

Shelley Kolman Smith

Martin Marklin

Christ Kamages

George Hoelzman

Pam Hawkins

Carol Frenning

This could be the beginning of something really special. I'm quite sure it won't be the last time we do this. Thank you again, I'll post photos in the next newsletter. Be watching our Facebook page, as I'm sure you'll see the Display there too.

Sincerely, Shelley

