

ACLS



NEWSLETTER

ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTANTS FOR LITURGICAL SPACE

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Upcoming Events

ACLS Leadership Elections:

Welcome our new President - James Hundt

and new board members: Karen Schmidt & Greg Lewis

Webinars will resume in the fall.

See below for more info

Reminder: to access archived webinars, log on to the ACLS website and go to the member's Area, from there you can watch the webinars you may have missed or would like to view again!

ACLS Trip

Passion of Christ Play:
Oberammergau 2020

Retreat: Jim Heck and Greg Davis are working on a retreat in Sept. 2020 in San Antonio, TX

Member News:

Canning Liturgical Arts: Beautifying Americas Churches

When Canning approaches a beautification project, we do not seek to change the architectural design of the church rather to expand on the style, adding decoration in the same design as the interior.

Owen Jones's first proposition in the Grammar of Ornament has been our guiding philosophy, "the Decorative Arts arise from, and should properly be attendant upon, Architecture." In other words, the design must follow the lines of the architecture.

Otherwise, the decoration becomes haphazard and pointless. For example, the grandeur of immense Gothic architecture is lacking without proper ornamentation, the design compliments and enhances the



Commissioned Artwork:
Our Lady of La Vang

architecture. Mid-Century and modern architecture is typically very simple and features minimal decoration and artwork. All the decoration for mid-century and modern designs should follow along with the simple architecture but does not need to be limited to bare walls; decoration completes the architecture. Different architecture requires different approach but the grounding philosophy remains the same.

When developing new design, we will sketch out ideas in the form of renderings. Renderings are a way of placing artwork and design ideas into the space and act as a visual conversation between the designer, the priest, the architects, and the congregation. During the design phase, we develop color schemes, designs and artwork fitting to the architecture of the church.



Rendering for St. Mary Church

The complexity of beauty reaches beyond that which is simply pleasing to the eye and demands all parts to function as one, in seamless harmony: the architecture with the design, color, lighting, etc. It is important that the focus and purpose of the interior is distinct and that the design elements complement each other rather than compete.

When restoring a traditional Gothic or Romanesque church, the designs are often an exact replica or based on the original interior. Mid-century and modern design development can prove more complex despite the simplistic style. This involved process can be attributed to one major factor, it is not done. In the old we replicate in the new we create. Statues, artwork and decorative painting is often absent within modern interiors and foreign to the congregation. However, just because a thing has not been done does not mean it should not be or that it is impossible. We seek to develop a seamless addition of liturgical design and

furnishings, develop an interior that is in keeping with the original design and most importantly, having purpose and permanence.



Beautification is not difficult nor does the process need to be expensive however, a strategic and carefully developed design is integral to achieve a cohesive and beautiful completed project. The new design should not look new in the sense that it stands out, the new design must incorporate the surroundings and give a sense of permanence. To be surrounded by true beauty is an immeasurable gift to the congregation. Preserving the connection between architecture and decoration is vital to the integrity and tradition of faith. Pure beauty speaks directly to and satisfies the soul, for that which is beautiful is true and that which is true must be beautiful.



Our Lady of Fatima Adoration Chapel, After

Paul Mattek

A JOURNEY BACK.

What I thought of as a childhood pastime, I later discovered was a calling.

Growing up with visits to my grandparents' old Wisconsin dairy farm, I had amazing exposure to all nature had to offer. I grew to love the cycles and rhythms of nature. Walking through and among old wooden barns materially so rich and dramatically punctuated with light, I breathed in, deeply, the interactions nature has with the built environment.

Then, for a period of time, I didn't give this much thought.

As I went through high school and then pursued a theology degree in college, I let other more traditional ways of knowing demand my attention. During my subsequent seminary studies, I knew there was something I was missing. I struggled intensely to define it. My pursuit of ministry always seemed a good thing (my father is a Lutheran minister; it's a noble family profession), so I hadn't really challenged it. But, little by little, reflective journeys back to my childhood visits to that old dairy farm unearthed another longing. So I dug deeper, took a leap of faith, and made a change.

The *grand designer* has always reached me via the beauty of what surrounds me. After switching gears to study art and architecture in graduate school, I was able to define what I was missing. My early observations of nature and their interaction with humanity's structures were enlivened with formal instruction and amazing aesthetic experiences - studies of soaring space and light streaming through apertures and orchestrated movement and carefully crafted materials - the best of what architecture can be. Architecture graduate school at UW-Milwaukee was one of the most enriching times of my life. My youthful yearnings received the nurturing they needed. That education combined with earlier experiences and the aforementioned studies in theology led me to know that my purpose in life was to make God's beauty visible by highlighting the best of nature's interactions with architecture. More generally, I came to the conclusion that God's beauty is revealed when his creation is beautifully utilized in the creative pursuits of his people.

A chapel for the Jesuit Retreat House on the shores of Lake Winnebago near Oshkosh, WI. The chapel highlights the middle space of life between the strata of the earth and the heavens where the breath of the Spirit animates life and movement. The chapel is utilized during silent retreats. Design Fugitives worked with Fr. Gilbert Sunghera, SJ on the chapel's design, and designed, fabricated and installed all furnishings.



Just a decade into my professional career as an artist, I am amazed and humbled. I have had the good fortune of working with gracious and brilliant partners and team members at our studio: Design Fugitives. There we create all manner of art and architecture furnishings for schools, public parks, residences, office buildings, churches, and more. I have been able to work with so many incredibly gifted people on ecclesiastic and liturgical projects: projects that make visible and invite people to wrestle with fundamental truths so often bypassed in everyday living.



From left: Baldacchino Lighting Medallion with night sky on date of parish dedication
Interactive lighting Reredos and Altar portraying the light of Christ's sacrifice breaking apart the tomb (death)
Cloud Canopy and Glass Sunburst for Midwest Diocese Jesuit Chapel

I have been the recipient of undeserved patience and grace from amazing people and a good God. I hope my art reflects His love and brilliance, and the love of those whom His goodness has touched.
Paul Mattek

A Founding Partner at Design Fugitives in Milwaukee, WI
www.designfugitives.com

ACLS President's Letter
June, 2019

With the completion of the ACLS election, I can now turn over the presidency to Jim Hundt. Jim is a long time member of ACLS who has brought wisdom and insight to both his work with ACLS and his professional work. And so it is with great confidence for the future of ACLS that I turn over the president's role to him.

I would like to thank all of the current board members who have worked so diligently for all the members of ACLS. Each one has contributed in their unique way from their own personal gifts and from so much of their time. I think they have brought about a renewal of ACLS. And I feel so good about the newly elected board members – Karen Schmidt and Greg Lewis – who will, I am sure, continue the good work that your board does for all of us.

For the future, I am looking forward to traveling with ACLS members to Oberammergau and to seeing many of you at future conferences. I will be striking out on a new adventure as Program Director for the Graduate Certificate Program in Liturgical Art and Architecture at St. John's University in Collegeville, MN.

With deep gratitude for all in ACLS,
Carol

I am honored to have been elected to pick up the reins of the presidency of ACLS from our Past President, Carol Frenning. Carol has worked hard to increase awareness of liturgical consulting within various faith traditions in the United States through more active involvement in education by ACLS members. I believe that this effort has been vital to the continued existence and flourishing of our organization. I also understand that many members see one of the benefits of ACLS membership as promotion of the work of the organization and its members.

As the new president of ACLS, my goal is to continue the work that the board has started and to build on that work through focusing our attention on other important issues, such as the website and our organizational structure. We are already actively working on both of those issues. We have recently hired someone to assist members with website issues and to enhance the value of the website to our members. More details will be provided as they become available.

I encourage all our members to feel free to reach out to me or any of the board members with any questions or concerns you might have about ACLS. As a member-run organization, we rely on participation from all our members, in whatever form it might take. I am looking forward to meeting or seeing you at one of the many ACLS events that will take place in 2020.

Sincerely,
Jim Hundt



Oberammergau

*Trip 2020-Tour dates:
May 27 - June 6, 2020
Here's some teaser photos
from Germany! Please
check the ACLS website -
liturgical-consultants.org for
all the information you need
to sign up! Hurry though,
space is limited and it's
filling quickly.*



Website Photos

We are working on the website! Stay tuned to find out when you can add information soon. Thank you for your patience.

Send your Member News to be included in the next Newsletter to:

Shelley@ShelleyKolmanSmith.com

We'd like to know more about you and your work.