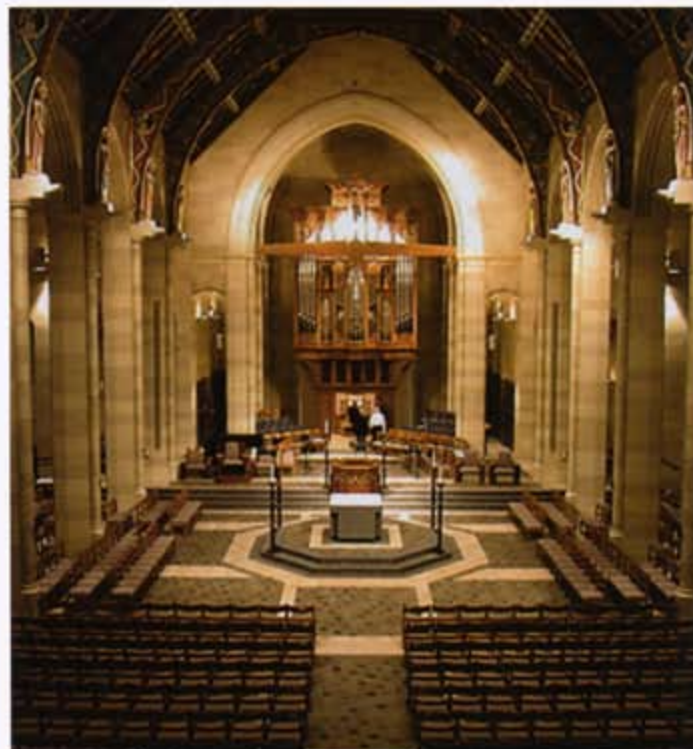


2009 FAITH & FORM RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE AWARD



This \$11 million project brought a 75-year-old, Gothic Revival cathedral into compliance with current Roman Catholic liturgical standards. It provides new spaces for gatherings, meetings, and administration. Work included restoration of the cathedral interior and the design of new ritual focal points. A new Great Hall for community gatherings links the cathedral, rectory, and new office wing. A gracious front entry plaza includes wide steps, lighting, and ADA access ramp.

Inside the main worship space, a new granite baptismal font for baptism by immersion was placed on axis with a new granite altar located at the crossing of the nave and transepts, allowing the congregants, choir, and clergy to gather together around the altar. The painted plaster walls, sculptures, and elaborate ceiling were restored to create a warmer, more unified scheme. Deteriorated pews were replaced with chairs for greater flexibility and a tile floor was installed. The old altar was removed from the chancel to make room for an expanded choir and new Paul Fritts pipe organ. A distinct Chapel for the Reserved Eucharist was created with a ceiling featuring gold leaf constellations that accurately depict the sky on the night of the cathedral's dedication. New reconciliation chapels with a sky-lit entry vestibule were added. Original stained glass windows were restored and confessional booths were converted into niches for new devotional works of art and the holy oils. The old organ was removed and the balcony reconfigured to provide overflow seating. Air conditioning and a sound reinforcement system were also added. The old pendant light fixtures were replaced by a computer-controlled lighting system to accommodate a variety of liturgical events.



RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE

LITURGICAL / INTERIOR DESIGN

Renovations and Additions
Sacred Heart Cathedral
Rochester, New York

AWARD

Merit

ARCHITECT

Williamson Pounders Architects,
PC with LaBella Associates, PC
1399 Carr Avenue
Memphis, TN 38104
901-678-5669, 901-678-1755 fax
James F. Williamson, FAIA;
Arthur Yeates, AIA; Robert A.
Healy, AIA; Kevin Marren, AIA
(project team)

MECHANICAL / ELECTRICAL
ENGINEER
M/E Engineering

ACOUSTICAL AND AUDIO DESIGNER

MuSonics
(Dennis Fleisher, Peter Borchard)

DECORATIVE ARTS CONSULTANT

Conrad Schmitt Studios, Inc.

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Rambusch Studios
(Viggo Rambusch)

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

McCord Landscape Architecture

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

LeChase Construction

OWNER'S LITURGICAL CONSULTANT

Richard S. Vosko, PhD, Hon AIA

PHOTOGRAPHY

Tim Wilkes Photography

JURY COMMENTS

This project shows how a church built a long time ago can be rejuvenated by the careful selection of furnishings, lighting, and an emphasis on where the altar should be placed in a Roman Catholic house of worship. There is appropriate identification of what is rich and supportive of a sense of place, and elevating it respectfully through restraint. The new design respects the community, celebrates it in a new way, and changes the focus of the worship experience. The wood chairs and wood ceiling tie the space together and uplift it.