

Virginia Society of the American Institute of Architects

**Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art and Architecture**  
A Knowledge Community of Virginia Society AIA

## ***The Nature of Sacred Space: Context and Culture***

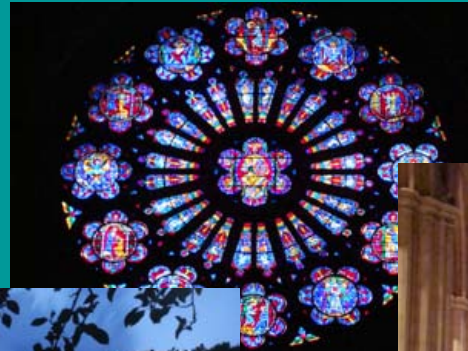
**Friday, November 6, 2009**

Greater Richmond Convention Center

403 North Third Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219

Virginia Society of the American Institute of Architects

**Architecture Exchange East**



Virginia IFRAA  
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## Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art and Architecture

*A Knowledge Community of Virginia Society of the American Institute of Architects*

### The Nature of Sacred Space Context and Culture

Please join the Virginia Chapter of Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art and Architecture (IFRAA) as we embark on our second annual presentation exploring the nature of sacred space. Examine the culture of worship and the context of architecture during the twenty-second annual Architecture Exchange East, presented by the Virginia Society of the American Institute of Architects. The day-long event will be held on Friday, Nov. 6, 2009 at the Richmond Convention Center in Richmond, Virginia.

There are two significant religious design trends currently underway. These are creating very different and unique religious environments. Although these are predominately occurring in the Christian faith, there are Jewish congregations that are employing the same method of attracting new members or bringing people back to their faith.

The first trend is a contemporary movement which is relinquishing its reliance on traditional forms and adopting new "market place" driven designs. Such venues result in coffee shops and community center spaces. These are functional, performance driven environments often reliant on visual technology and impact. This trend is associated with the emerging, evangelical and "re-visioned" Christian churches. In some cases, the resulting environment is void of any element that would distinguish it as a "place of worship".

The second style remains reliant upon traditional architectural forms that promote and inspire liturgical based worship. These types of buildings and spaces are easily recognized as places of worship and rely upon mass, form, materials and articulation of space. These elements are readily identified in a variety of culture and context.

These two design concepts are diametrically opposed. We will explore the historic context, current trends and rationale of each of these environments as well as, examine different aspects of "sacred space." The contrast between the "performance type" worship environment and the "spiritual type" worship environment will be studied through form, massing, textures/materials, nature of music and the use of light.

#### *Information and Registration:*

This program is held during Architecture Exchange East presented by the Virginia Society of the American Institutes of Architects. Registration opens in September. For additional information, please contact Wayne Conners, Director of Professional Development at the Virginia Society of the American Institute of Architects, 2501 Monument Avenue, Richmond, VA 23220, or (804) 237-1769 or [wconners@aiava.org](mailto:wconners@aiava.org)

#### *Sponsorships and Exhibitors:*

Sponsorships and exhibit opportunities are available. Please contact Porter Hulett at (804) 237-1765 or [phulett@aiava.org](mailto:phulett@aiava.org). Visit [www.archex.net](http://www.archex.net) for additional information.

## Schedule

### **7:30 a.m. IFRAA Breakfast**

Join your colleagues and clergy at the Richmond Convention Center to kick off the day's event. We will provide an overview of the day's presentation and be joined by Michael Berkowicz, President of Faith and Form Magazine who will reflect on the nature of sacred space and the magazine's extensive coverage of religious architecture and art.

### **8:30 a.m. – The Worship Environment Part 1: Emerging Market Trends**

Paul Braoudokis with the Willow Creek Church and Mel McGowan of Visoneering Studios will present the emerging market design trends in worship buildings and environments. Braoudokis will share the Willow Creek Church approach to ministry and architecture. As a practicing architect, McGowan has emerged as a unique voice in the call for Architectural Evangelism and the integration of sacred and secular space. Together they will present how a church's mission and ministry yield new architectural forms for worship space. Architectural examples of this contemporary trend will be presented.

### **10:15 a.m. The Worship Environment Part 2: Traditional and Inspirational Influences**

This session will be presented by two notable speakers. Mark Torgerson, Ph.D., is a professor of theology, liturgy and architecture at Judson University, Elgin, Illinois and the author of *An Architecture of Immanence*. Mr. James Williamson, FAIA, is an award winning, practicing architect who has taught at Yale and the University of Pennsylvania. He is currently serving as an adjunct professor at the University of Memphis. Together, they will present the design context of the spiritual space in the Christian culture of worship which is still present in the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox and Lutheran denominations. Our speakers will explore the purpose of architecture in the traditional/spiritual church environment by reviewing how form, mass, light and materials inspire a place for worship and the presence of God. They will review the historical overview, the current trends and show examples of notable church architecture supporting this cornerstone of architecture.

### **ArchEx Exhibit Hall Break and Lunch**

### **2:15 p.m. Leo A Daly, Presentation of Religious Projects**

Mr. Tom Findley, FAIA, Vice President of Leo A. Daly Architects (Omaha) will present his firm's long history of religious architecture. Their work has spanned almost 100 years and consists of notable, award-winning architecture. Leo A Daly Architecture was established in 1915 by the current CEO's grandfather. They designed their first church in the early twentieth century and have continued to be active in the religious design sector. Findley will review their work including the Boys Town Campus and Chapel, their mid-western parish churches (1940-1990) as well as their more recent work including the Cathedral of Our Lady of Angels (designed in collaboration with Raphael Moneo), the Cathedral of the Risen Christ, the Pope John Paul Culture Center in Washington, D.C. and several sustainable religious projects.

### **4 p.m. Panel Discussion: Context and Culture**

We will assemble all of the speakers for a panel discussion to review the day's presentations and examine what role architecture plays in the worship environment. Attendees to the session are encouraged to engage the panelists with thought-provoking questions

