

Church Architecture

There is a purpose to the architectural design of the renovated space. Despite 13 years of Catholic schools, I was not aware of the definitions, purposes, and symbols in church architecture. Thinking others may feel the same, I wanted to share what I have learned.

There have been many forms of churches over the millennia. One of the oldest forms of church is based on the construction of the early Jewish temple. Each section is lined up so one enters and is continually drawn forward to the holiest place. Resurrection's original church space was of this form. Our "new" entryway is actually the original entry.

The first section on entering is called the narthex and is a place for people to gather and visit before the Mass.

The next section is called the nave. The word comes from the Latin word for "ship". It is a place where the parish can come together and worship - protected from the waves and storms of the world. In many churches (now including ours!) the comparison is visually evident with exposed wooden beams intentionally resembling the reversed look of a ship's keel. Since we are located at the lake, the design architect suggested a "water" motif which is evident here and in many other aspects of the renovated church.

Finally, there is the sanctuary--the most holy part since the tabernacle resides there, holding the Real Presence of Christ. This is also where the altar for the sacrifice of the Eucharist and the ambo for the proclamation of the Word are located.

As we enter the front doors of our renovated church, we will follow in the footsteps of those who built the original church. And, as they did, we will look straight through from font to altar and be drawn into God's Holy Presence!

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RESURRECTION
CATHOLIC CHURCH