Envoking the emotions through the experience of space; integration of an outreach community center and the First United Methodist Church of Hightstown

Elizabeth Dicecco

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Evoking the Emotions

Through the Experience of Space

Integration of an Outreach Community Center and the First United Methodist Church of Hightstown.

Author: Elizabeth DiCecco
Thesis Faculty Advisor: Eric Nelson
Dean of Architecture: Stephen White

Roger Williams University
May 2007
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Elizabeth L. DiCecco  
Independent Project Proposal
A city, town, or borough will inevitably have wealthy neighborhoods as well as low-income neighborhoods. In such neighborhoods there may be a need for a community space, a place where younger residents may choose to get together outside of their regular activities. This place needs to be located where it is going to be most accessible, right in the center of all of the confusion of everyday life, where people are going to notice that it is a place where activities happen and where qualities of trust and safety are achievable through the design.

Through the art of architecture, people are able to come together in a way that might not be possible otherwise.
A church is a structure that people can associate good deeds with. The First United Methodist Church cares about the town of Hightstown and tries in all its efforts to provide for as many people as possible through a series of activities and programs.

Mission Statement of the First United Methodist Church is:
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Mission Statement of the First United Methodist Church of Hightstown is:
Making Disciples of Jesus

Through this mission statement, the church is reaching out to the community and allowing anyone and everyone to become a part of the church community. The church is welcome to change within its walls and allows everyone to voice an opinion or concern. The First United Methodist Church of Hightstown is an inviting community to all who enter the old stone walls.
The Methodist Church (Methodism) was founded by John Wesley in the mid 18th Century. While at Oxford University, Wesley and a group of scholars “created a group that was devoted not only to scholarly goals, but also to prayer and to aiding the less fortunate” (The United Methodist Church).

When the religion first began, it was not organized and there were just several small faith restoration groups within the Anglican church called Methodists in the United States. Soon the religion became an official organized religion and three basic precepts were defined:

A. Shun evil and avoid partaking in wicked deeds at all costs
B. Perform kind acts as much as possible, and
C. Abide by the edicts of God the Almighty Father

Wesley believed in the scripture and that the Methodist religion could be “illumined by tradition, vivified in personal experience, and confirmed by reason” (http://archives.umc.org).

Today (2006), Methodism is the third largest Christian religious group in the United States having approximately 75 million people.
The church is over 100 years old and instead of disregarding all of the materials, I am proposing that the stone, stained glass, and other usable materials be used, such as the slate shingles on the roof which were recently replaced, and where-ever possible in the new construction. The conservation of the old church is to be reclaimed through the use of the old materials in the new construction of the church.

I want the design of the church to resemble the history and integrity of the existing, but have an edge that the church is ready for the future and the changing times. Through the use of old and new materials, the church will become a historical, yet modern building that suits the needs of the people and the times. I feel that in this location, the building is able to be updated while still holding true to the historical qualities of the town of Hightstown.
ARCHITECTURAL INTENSIONS

INTEGRATION

HOPE

RESPECT

TRUTH

PEACE

HARMONY

UNITY

WISDOM

ELIZABETH L. DiCECCO
INDEPENDENT PROJECT PROPOSAL
THERE IS AN UNDERSTANDING IN ARCHITECTURE THAT A SPACE HAS THE POTENTIAL TO EVOKE A DIFFERENT EMOTION TO EACH AND EVERY PERSON. THROUGH THIS PROJECT, I WOULD LIKE TO STUDY HOW A PUBLIC SPACE IS ABLE TO RELATE TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE ON A PERSONAL LEVEL. THE EXPERIENCE OF THE SPACE ALLOWS THE PERSON TO DISCOVER OUT WHY AND HOW THE SPACE IS SPECIAL IN A PERSONAL WAY IN A PUBLIC SETTING. I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES OF HOW A RELIGIOUS BUILDING CAN BECOME AN ACTIVE ASSET TO THE COMMUNITY AND HOW PUBLIC AND PRIVATE QUALITIES WILL BE ABLE TO COINCIDE.

DOES ARCHITECTURE REALLY DEFINE SPACE OR DOES SPACE DEFINE ARCHITECTURE? SPACE CONVEYS A MEANING, WHETHER THIS MEANING BE GOOD OR BAD IS IRRELLEVANT, BUT THAT WHEN WE ENTER A NEW SPACE OR A SPACE THAT EVEN IF WE HAVE BEEN IN MULTIPLE TIMES, IT IS A NEW EXPERIENCE.
In this space is it possible to experience situations but different visions at the same time? I want to explore this idea of the impact of space for the common person. There are always things changing, and no space will ever be the same twice in a row. I want to see how space can be perceived by different types of people on a personal level as well as a community level. Is this space possible to become all of the things that people believe it to be in one space, or does it occur in a series of spaces? Does this sense of space start to wander into the exterior, into the landscape of the site? Does it start to take over different buildings with a given project? Space has no limits and through architecture, I am trying to capture the parts that mean the most to the community. Within this public space, how can one bring the feeling into a personal, private space? Is this at all possible?

Space

"Architecture space is born from the relationship between objects or boundaries and from planes which do not themselves have the character of object, but which define limits."
THE BOROUGH OF HIGHSTOWN, NEW JERSEY DOES NOT HAVE A PLACE AND A SERIES OF PROGRAMS THAT IS OPEN TO THE YOUNGER RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN. HIGHSTOWN NEEDS A FACILITY THAT IS ABLE TO HOLD LARGE AMOUNTS OF PEOPLE AS WELL AS MEET THE NEEDS OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. THE CONGREGATION HAS BECOME AN IMPORTANT PART OF TO THE COMMUNITY AT CERTAIN TIMES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. WITH THIS SPACE, THE CONGREGATION WILL BE ABLE TO HOUSE OUTREACH PROGRAMS DURING THE ENTIRE YEAR.

"THE DEFINITION OF PLACE IDENTITY" BY CANTER (1977)
HE DESCRIBES THE IDENTITY OF PLACE AS THE INTERACTION BETWEEN THE PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES, THE ACTIVITIES AND OUT CONCEPTIONS OF WHO, HOW, WHAT, AND WHERE. THIS MEANS: WHO WE ARE GOING TO MEET IN THE PLACE, HOW IT IS GOING TO LOOK, WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN THERE, AND WHERE THE DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES ARE GOING TO TAKE PLACE. (BERGMANN P. 13).

http://www.arinewusinfo/deappel/images/ex1772_quadro.jpg
The First United Methodist Church is located in between the middle-class and lower class living of Hightstown, New Jersey. Through this project, I would like to try to incorporate the two different living conditions into one space with the two can interact as one. This is in a sense breaking the boundaries of the community through communal architecture. Also I would like to look into how spaces relate to children as well as adults and how those spaces are able to relate to each other.

The congregation of the church is made up of all different types of people thus reflecting how the church architecturally is able to relate back to the community through a centrally located public space. The idea that this space will be open to all types of people in a public as well as a private sort of way. I hope to find a relationship between different types of architecture and find a way that all can be satisfied with the end result.
PROJECT STATEMENT

PASSION

COMBINATION

LOVE

INSPIRATION

AMBITION

DETERMINATION

MEMORIAL

PRAYERS
How can two different programs interact as one?

How can a space meet the needs of two income groups?
I will study how the integration of an outreach community center and a religious building will be able to function in separate ways but also be seen as one entity. A need for an outreach center that functions in a very public fashion while still holding true to the needs of the mission of the church community. This outreach center will house a recreation center, including a gymnasium, where the "Methodist Madness" program can function as a year-round event and a nursery school that will be sponsored by the church. As well as giving the children and younger residents a place to use during their free time, people looking for employment, needing jobs would be able to take on tasks that help make the community center function smoothly.

The elements of mind and body are essential to the learning process of any individual. Through the existing spaces of the church and the addition of a recreation center, the people of the community will have a structure that is open and ready for use in the spiritual and physical sense. The transitional space that connects the church and the gymnasium is filled with classrooms for learning.
The sponsors of this project will be the congregation of the First United Methodist Church. I believe that through the donations and support of the community, this project will in fact be a possibility.

This space will be used by the congregation of the church as well as the community as a whole. Although there is going to be a distinction between the church and the community, I do not want that separation to hinder anyone from entering either of the spaces. Because of the central location of the church community center, I am hoping that everyone will have an equal opportunity to access the space. Through the use of transitional spaces throughout construction, one will not be discouraged when entering any of the spaces.
Using the motto of the United Methodist Church,

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

I am proposing a church that reaches out to the community through the use of a recreation center, nursery school, as well as a space that the children of the neighborhood can go when there is no alternative. To accommodate this new program, the church needs more space than is currently available. The congregation is currently outgrowing the existing facilities and have discussed ways in which an expansion could be possible. In order for the church to function, a space is needed that relates to the people in a spiritual way. The church congregation is always thinking of what they can do to better the community through various outreach programs.

The blending of how all of the programmatic elements are able to function throughout the interior of the building in all of the same spaces.
CHURCH (250-300 People) 18225 s.f.

- Alter 350 s.f.
- Sanctuary 5500 s.f.
- Choir Loft 300 s.f.
- Organ 500 s.f.
- Narthex/Entry Space 2000 s.f.
- Administration Offices 925 s.f.
  - Reception Area 130 s.f.
  - Conference/Meeting Room 320 s.f.
  - Pastor Office 300 s.f.
  - Work/Storage Space 175 s.f.
- Fellowship Hall 4500 s.f.
- Kitchen/Serving 550 s.f.
- Music Support Spaces (Choir Rooms) (x3) 1100 s.f.
- Large Music Space 750 s.f.
- Choir Director's Office/Storage 550 s.f.
- Storage/Mechanical Room 500 s.f.
SUNDAY SCHOOL (75-100 people) 2720 s.f.

*NURSEY (0-6 months) (30 s.f. per person)
*SMALL CHILDREN (6 mon-3 yrs) (30 s.f. per person)

CHILDREN (4-11 yrs) (25 s.f. per person) 550 s.f.
YOUTH (jr. high-college) (20 s.f. per person) 500 s.f.
ADULTS (15 s.f. per person) 270 s.f.

YOUTH LOUNGE (20 s.f. per person) 500 s.f.
GATHERING SPACE 900 s.f.

The small children will share the space provided by the nursery school as the nursery school is already sized and maintained to be used only during the weekdays. Along with providing spaces for the Sunday school classes to meet on Sunday mornings, the spaces then can be used as meeting rooms for church committees as well as groups from the community.
The most celebrated program that the church instituted, approximately 10 years ago, is "Methodist Madness," a summer basketball program. It is a program that allows kids from the neighborhood to play basketball for a few weeks in the summer. The program is constantly growing and the need for an indoor as well as an outdoor location is necessary for the program to continue to grow. During this program, the children receive backpacks, school supplies, sneakers, bag lunches, and healthy snacks.

The mission statement of the Methodist Madness program is:

"Kid Friendly"

This program, with religious and basketball themes range from Hoops for Heaven, Lighting the Way, Eye on the Goal, Raise the Roof, Jump for Joy, Rim of Glory, and Victory Above. These themes help to motivate the kids and adults that partake in the program. I would like to propose an interior space so that this program is able to continue throughout the year and that the youth of the town is able to use as a place to stay out of trouble.
RECREATION CENTER 10,400 S.F.

GYMNASIUM 9,500 S.F.

BASKETBALL COURT - PRIMARY (84 FT x 50 FT)
BASKETBALL COURT - SECONDARY (x 2) (74 FT x 50 FT)
TELESCOPE BLEACHERS (8 ROWS @ 24" OPEN DEPTH)
(15'-1 1/2" - OPEN 3'-3 3/8" - CLOSED)
ALLOW FOR 18" OF BLEACHER LENGTH PER PERSON, PER ROW
NORMAL AISLE 36" WIDE

SAFETY ZONES MIN 6 FT FROM SEATING TO COURT SIDES
MIN 4 FT TO COURT ENDS

LOCKER ROOMS 800 S.F.
STORAGE 100 S.F.
To accommodate to the younger children of the community, propose a nursery school/day care for all of the working parents to have a safe place for their children. I feel that the nursery school is a considerable asset to the community because child care is so important to so many people. The church currently houses a nursery school program which is run by the YMCA.

The church will assume all of the responsibilities of a day care/nursery school and provide the community with a low cost, high education facility that is centrally located within the town.

“All furniture, fixtures, and equipment should be sized to accommodate the children and to promote self-esteem, learning and independence.”

-Architectural Graphics Standards

Elisabeth L. DiCecco
Independent Project Proposal
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Space Description</th>
<th>Area (S.F.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interior Open Play Area</td>
<td>2000 S.F.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gathering Space (80 S.F. per child)</td>
<td>600 S.F.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Play Areas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative</td>
<td>120 S.F.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fantasy Play</td>
<td>120 S.F.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puzzles</td>
<td>120 S.F.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Blocks</td>
<td>120 S.F.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiet (Reading)</td>
<td>120 S.F.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cubbies</td>
<td>150 S.F.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery School Director's Office</td>
<td>200 S.F.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Size Bathroom Facilities (x 2)</td>
<td>100 S.F.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen</td>
<td>200 S.F.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage</td>
<td>100 S.F.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exterior Enclosed Play Area (75 S.F. per child)</td>
<td>1800 S.F.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parking area for parents to Drop Off and Pick Up children
In the spaces that are specifically for the church congregation, I would like to include a place to display the history of the church as well as a prayer chapel specifically for the persons using the church in a private religious way. The chapels can function as reading rooms for the congregation as well as the community as a place of security.

I propose that these chapels will also have a private exterior space that can be used for small gatherings. I feel that providing the congregation with more intimate spaces will help to ensure that the church remains a private place while also filling the needs of the community.
Extra Features | 3000 S.F.  
---|---
Private Prayer Chapel | 1000 S.F.  
Historical Library/Reading Room | 500 S.F.  
Parking (137 spaces) | ~70000 S.F.  
Permanent Parking Underground (~100 spaces) | 50000 S.F.  
Overflow Parking Above Ground (~40 spaces) | 20000 S.F.  
Total Including Full Parking x 20% | 36795 S.F.  
Total SQFT | 128154 S.F.
The site is in a pivotal point in Hightstown, NJ due to the lower-income housing towards the southern part of the site as well as the higher income housing on the northern end of the site. The program is to rebuild the church on the existing site instead of choosing a new location. The neighborhood around the site would benefit the most from a community center. The surrounding site contains low-income housing in which the kids do not have a place to hang out and instead cause mischief in the town. I feel that the community outreach center portion of the church will benefit the kids in the neighborhood because there will be a place to gather and hang out in a responsible way. It will help keep the kids active, prevent the troubled teenagers from doing anything that they would regret later in life. This space will act as a safety zone within the community allowing people of all ages use it, with a much needed focus on the younger residents.
DOWNTOWN HISTORIC APPROX. 12 MIN WALK
HIGHTSTOWN APPROX. 20 MIN WALK
BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN APPROX. 20 MIN WALK
LOCAL CHURCH COMMUNITY APPROX. 5 MIN WALK
CHURCH CAMPUS
Subsection 28-3-13 CC-1 Central Commercial District.  

A. Permitted Uses. In the CC-1 Central Commercial District, the following uses, and no others, shall be permitted:

1. Principal Uses:  
   (d) Houses of Worship  

1. Lot Area. A lot area of not less than two thousand (2,000) square feet shall be required.

2. Lot Width. A lot width of not less than twenty (20') feet shall be required.

3. Lot Depth. A lot depth of not less than fifty (50') feet shall be required.

4. Front Yard. None shall be required, except that building locations shall comply with Borough requirements for providing adequate sight triangles.

5. Side Yards. None shall be required, except that building locations shall comply with Borough requirements for providing adequate sight triangles.

6. Rear Yard. Principal Buildings. There shall be a rear yard not less than ten (10') feet deep.

8. Height. The maximum height shall be three (3) stories or fifty-five (55') feet.

9. Coverage. No building shall cover more than ninety (90%) percent of the lot.

10. Parking. Parking shall be provided in accordance with subsection 28-10.10. Parking is not required for individual uses situated within seventy-five (75') feet of a public facility or designated private parking facility subject, however, to demonstration that the facility has adequate parking to accommodate the individual use.
11. SIGNS. SIGNS FOR INDIVIDUAL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS SHALL BE PERMITTED, PROVIDED THAT:

(A) THE TOTAL AREA OF ALL SIGNS SHALL NOT EXCEED TWO (2) SQUARE FEET FOR EACH FOOT OF BUILDING FRONT AGE BUT SHALL NOT EXCEED A MAXIMUM OF FORTY (40) SQUARE FEET.

(B) NO SIGN SHALL EXCEED TWO (2') FEET IN HEIGHT.

(C) SUCH SIGN SHALL BE APPLIED FLAT AGAINST A WALL AND SHALL NOT PROJECT BEYOND THE SIDE OR TOP OF THE WALL TO WHICH IT IS AFFIXED NOR PROJECT OUT MORE THAN EIGHT (8”) INCHES IN FRONT OF SUCH WALL.

(D) ALL BARE INCANDESCENT LIGHT SOURCES (NEON LIGHTS SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED AS SUCH) AND IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT REFLECTING SURFACES SHALL BE SHIELDED FROM VIEW. FLASHING, MOVING, INTERMITTENTLY ILLUMINATING SIGNS, REFLECTION SIGNS OR SIGNS PAINTED IN LUMINOUS MATERIALS THAT GLOW IN THE DARK AND ADVERTISING DEVICES SHALL BE PROHIBITED.
SUBSECTION 28-3-17 R-O RESEARCH OFFICE DISTRICT.
A. PERMITTED USES.
   1. PERMITTED PRINCIPAL USES.
      (f) DAY CARE CENTERS
      (c) RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

1. LOT AREA. A LOT AREA OF NOT LESS THAN FOUR (4) ACRES SHALL BE REQUIRED.
2. LOT WIDTH. A LOT WIDTH OF NOT LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED (100') FEET SHALL BE REQUIRED.
3. FRONT YARD SETBACK. NO PORTION OF ANY BUILDING SHALL BE LOCATED NEARER TO ANY STREET LINE THAN ONE HUNDRED (100') FEET.
4. SIDE YARD SETBACK. THERE SHALL BE TWO (2) SIDE YARDS, EACH WITH A WIDTH OF AT LEAST FIFTY (50') FEET.
5. REAR YARD SETBACK. THERE SHALL BE A REAR YARD NOT LESS THAN FIFTY (50') FEET DEEP. IN THE CASE OF A LOT EXTENDING THROUGH FROM STREET TO STREET, THE FRONT YARD REQUIREMENT SHALL BE OBSERVED ON BOTH STREETS.
6. MAXIMUM FLOOR AREA RATIO. MAXIMUM FLOOR AREA RATIO SHALL BE THIRTY (30%) PERCENT FOR ALL USES, EXCEPT THAT THE PORTION OF USE DEVOTED TO STORAGE AND WAREHOUSING MAY BE CALCULATED AT FORTY (40%) PERCENT.
7. LOT COVERAGE. TWENTY (20%) PERCENT BY BUILDINGS WITH A MAXIMUM TOTAL IMPERVIOUS COVERAGE OF FIFTY (50%) PERCENT.
8. BUILDING HEIGHT. THREE (3) STORIES, WITH A MAXIMUM HEIGHT OF FORTY-FIVE (45') FEET.
9. Landscaping and Buffers. All portions of lots not used for buildings or other site improvements shall be suitably landscaped with lawns, trees, shrubbery, etc. All preserved critical land areas shall be left in their natural state and suitably buffered. Portions of lots which adjoin any residential zone shall provide a fifty (50) foot landscaped buffer screen area, which is to be improved with a variety of landscaping to provide for a year-round screen visually separating the site from the adjacent residential zoned properties. The buffer area may contain landscaped berms and suitable fencing, but the fencing shall be only incorporated to supplement required landscaping.
SUBSECTION 28-10-2 PLACES OF WORSHIP.
INCORPORATED PLACES OF WORSHIP SHALL BE PERMITTED, PROVIDED THAT:

A. A PLACE OF WORSHIP MAY BE BUILT TO A HEIGHT OF SEVENTY-FIVE (75') FEET, PROVIDED THAT THE NUMBER OF STORIES AT ANY POINT ALONG THE PERIPHERY OF SUCH BUILDING SHALL NOT EXCEED THREE (3), AND NO BUILDING OR PART THEREOF SHALL BE ERECTED NEARER THAN A DISTANCE EQUAL TO TWO (2) TIMES THE HEIGHT OF SUCH BUILDING TO ANY PROPERTY LINE OTHER THAN A STREET LINE.

B. ALL ACCESSORY BUILDINGS SHALL BE LOCATED ON THE SAME LOT AS THE PRINCIPAL BUILDING AND THE SUM OF ALL AREAS COVERED BY ALL PRINCIPAL AND ACCESSORY BUILDINGS SHALL NOT EXCEED SIXTY (60%) PERCENT OF THE AREA OF THE LOT.

C. EACH PLACE OF WORSHIP SHALL BE PERMITTED TO MAINTAIN AN EXTERIOR BULLETIN BOARD WITH AN AREA OF NOT MORE THAN TEN (10) SQUARE FEET.

D. THOSE PORTIONS OF THE SITE NOT COVERED BY BUILDINGS OR USED FOR PARKING, LOADING OR PEDESTRIAN WALK WAYS SHALL BE LANDSCAPED.

E. ON-SITE PARKING FACILITIES SHALL BE PROVIDED AT A RATIO OF ONE (1) PARKING SPACE FOR EACH SIX (6) SEATS EQUIVALENT THERETO, PLUS ONE (1) SPACE FOR EACH FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE. (1991 CODE § 233-30)
303.1 Group Classification: A-3
Assembly uses intended for worship, recreation or amusement and other assembly uses not classified elsewhere in Group A including Gymnasiums (without spectator seating), Community Halls, and places of religious worship.

305.2 Group Classification: E
Daycare – the use if a building or structure or portion thereof, for educational, supervision or personal care services for more than 5 children older than 2 1/2 years of age.

507.6 Group A-3 Building

The area of a one-story, Group A-3 building used as a place of religious worship, community hall, dance hall, exhibition hall, gymnasium, lecture hall, indoor swimming pool or tennis court of Type II construction shall not be limited when all of the following criteria are met:

1. The building shall not have a stage other than a platform.
2. The building shall be equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.11.
3. The assembly floor shall be located at or within 21 inches (533 mm) street or grade level and all exits are provided with ramps complying with Section 1010.1 to the street or grade level.
4. The building shall be surrounded and adjoined by public ways or yards not less than 60 feet (18288 mm) in width.
507.9 Group E Buildings
The area of a one-story Group E building of Type II, IIIA or IV construction shall not be limited when the following criteria are met:
1. Each classroom shall have not less than two means of egress being a direct exit to the outside of the building complying with Section 1018.
2. The building is equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.11.
3. The building is surrounded and adjoined by public ways or yards not less than 60 feet (18288 mm) in width.

Table 705.4
Fire wall resistant ratings for group A: 3 hours

Table 706.3.9
Fire resistant rating requirements for fire barrier assemblies between fire areas: 2 hours

Table 803.5 Group A-3: Exit Enclosures and Exit Passageways and Corridors—
In exit enclosures of a building less then 3 stories in height of other than group I-3, Class B interiors for non-sprinklered buildings and Class C interior finished for sprinkler buildings shall be permitted.
**Table 803.5 Group A-3: Rooms and Enclosed Spaces—**

Requirement for rooms and enclosed spaces shall be based upon spaces enclosed by partitions. Where fire-resistance rating is required for structural elements, the enclosed partitions shall extend from the floor to the ceiling. Partitions that do not comply with this shall be considered enclosed spaces; the specific occupancy thereof shall be the governing factor regardless of the group classification of the building or structure.

**903.2.1.3 Group A-3**

An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided for Group A-3 occupancies where one of the following conditions exists:

1. The fire area exceeds 12000 square feet (1115 meters squared).
2. The fire area has an occupant load of 300 or more.
3. The fire area is located on a floor other than the level of exit discharge.

Exception: Areas used exclusively as participant sports areas where the main floor area is located at the same level of exit discharge of the main entrance and exit.
903.2.2 **Group E**

An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided for Group E occupancies as follows:

1. Throughout all Group E fire areas greater than 20000 square feet (1858 meters squared).
2. Throughout every portion of educational buildings below the level of exit discharge.

Exception: An automatic sprinkler system is not required in any fire area or area below the level of exit discharge where every classrooms throughout the building has at least one exterior door at ground level.

907.2.1 **Group A**

A manual fire alarm system shall be installed in Group A occupancies having a occupant load of 300 or more. Portions of Group E occupancies occupied for assembly purposed shall be provided with an alarm system as required for the Group E occupancies.

Exception: Manual fire alarm boxes are not required where the building is equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system and the alarm notification appliances will activate upon sprinkler water flow.

Day Care: 35 net (Floor Area in sq. ft per occupant)
1004.7 Fixed Seating

1. For areas having fixed seats and aisles, the occupant load shall be determined by the number of fixed seats installed therein. The occupant load for areas in which fixed seating is not installed, such as waiting areas and wheelchair spaces, shall be determined in accordance with Section 1004.11 and added to the number of fixed seats.

2. For areas having fixed seating without dividing arms, the occupant load shall not be less than the number of seats based on one person for each 18 inches (457 mm) of seating length.

3. The occupant load of seating booths shall be based on one person for each 24 inches (610 mm) of booth seat length measured at the backrest of the seating booth.

Table 1015.1
Spaces with one means of egress: Maximum Occupancy Load: 49 persons

Table 1016.1
Exit access travel distance: 200 ft (without sprinkler system)
250 ft (with sprinkler system)

Table 1017.1 Corridor fire resistance rating:
Occupant load served by corridor: Greater than 30
Required fire resistance rating:
**Table 1019.1**

**Minimum Number of Exits for Occupant Load**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupant Load (Persons per Story)</th>
<th>Minimum Number of Exits (per story)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-500</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500-1,000</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 1,000</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assessable Wheel Chair Spaces:**

**Capacity of Seating in Assembly Areas to Minimum Number of Wheelchair Spaces**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capacity Range</th>
<th>Minimum Number of Wheelchair Spaces</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 to 25</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 to 2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 to 100</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101 to 300</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>301 to 500</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>501 to 5,000</td>
<td>6 plus 1 for each 150, or fraction thereof, between 501 through 5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,001 and over</td>
<td>6 plus 1 for each 200, or fraction thereof, over 5,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I did not want an specific distinction between the spaces, so an idea that the spaces can be inter-changeable was developed. The only part of the program that is distinct is the church sanctuary as it is such a sacred space.
THE IDEA OF HAVING AN INTERIOR COURTYARD WITH STRUCTURE SURROUNDING CREATED AN EXTREMELY SMALL OUTDOOR SPACE. I WANTED TO MAXIMIZE THE INTERIOR SPACE AS WELL AS THE EXTERIOR SPACES ON THE SITE.


THE SUNDAY SCHOOL AND THE NURSERY SCHOOL HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LINKED TOGETHER AS THEY CAN BE USED COINCIDING BECAUSE THE NURSERY SCHOOL IS USED ONLY DURING THE WEEK AND THE SUNDAY SCHOOL ONLY ON SUNDAY MORNINGS.

OPENING THE BUILDING ONLY ON THE SOUTHERN PART HELPED TO OPEN UP THE COURTYARD HOWEVER IT WAS STILL CRAMPED AND NEEDED TO BE OPENED UP EVEN FURTHER.
The First United Methodist Church of Hightstown
187 Stockton Street
Hightstown, NJ

Documentation of Project
The site is located in Hightstown, NJ is a pivotal point in the town. Along the northern part of the site is the lower-income housing while along the northern portion of the site is middle to high-income housing. There are not many open areas in the town where outdoor activities can take place thus creating a open space that is welcome for all to use.
The basement consists of the parking deck below most of the site and the recreation center. The parking contains approximately 100 spaces, which is enough parking for weekly needs. Also located on the basement level is the choir support spaces located under the sanctuary in the existing stonework. The fellowship hall is located on the western part of the site with an available kitchen and dining area. There is plenty of storage available for the church and all of its activities in various locations in the basement level.
THE ENTIRE FLOOR IS RAISED 4.5 FEET HIGH OFF THE GROUND TO ACCOMMODATE THE CURRENT CONDITIONS OF THE EXISTING CHURCH. LOCALLY ON THE FIRST FLOOR IS THE SANCTUARY, THE PRIVATE CHAPELS, RECREATION CENTER AND THE NURSERY SCHOOL. THE COURTYARD IS TO BE USED FOR OVERFLOW PARKING WHEN THERE IS A SPECIAL SERVICE SUCH AS A HOLIDAY AS WELL AS AN OUTDOOR PLAY AREA FOR THE "METHODIST MADNESS" PROGRAM. THE STONE OF THE CHURCH IS TO BE RECREATED ALONG THE LOWER 4.5 FEET OF THE BUILDING AS TO CONNECT THE NEWER PART OF CONSTRUCTION TO THE EXISTING CONDITIONS.

ELIZABETH L. DI CECCHI
INDEPENDENT PROJECT PROPOSAL
SECOND FLOOR
PLAN

The Second floor houses the Sunday School Program with classrooms and gathering spaces for all of the students. This space also can be used for meetings for the church congregation as well as the community at large. There is a balcony level to the sanctuary for services that need overflow seating.
The new church structure consists of heavy timber trusses spaced 14 feet apart and are replicas of what would have been original construction of the church. The bell tower remains the highest point and is used as an anchor for the entire site. The surrounding site is low housing units thus making the church a very prominent structure in the town.
The stonework from the church continues around the entire building to help bring the new addition back to the quality of the existing church. The rest of the building is covered in a terra-cotta paneling system. The maximum amount of light is allowed in the main entry space as well as the gymnasium, located on the western part of the site.
The heavy timber structure of the church is carried along the southern facade of the chapel. This continuation helps to link the spiritual parts of the church together. Clear story windows are placed on the southern facade to allow for the maximum light into the Sunday school on the second floor.
The heavy timber trusses of the recreation center is also exposed to the facade of the East Elevation. There are large garage doors that allow the gymnasium to be opened up into the courtyard, maximizing the use of both the interior and exterior spaces.
HERE THE SUSPENDED BALCONY IN THE SANCTUARY OF THE CHURCH IS DISPLAYED. IT IS LOCATED IN THE EXISTING STONWORK THAT WAS NOT SANCTUARY BEFORE THE RENOVATION. THE FACADE WHERE THE BALCONY IS LOCATED DOES NOT MATCH THE EXISTING SANCTUARY STAINED GLASS THEREFORE CREATING A SPACE INTERIORLY THAT IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE MAIN SECTOR OF THE SANCTUARY.
The main circulation hall runs along the southern part of the building and connects the chapels to the recreation center. The roof is continuous between these elements therefore making a connection is made along the entire building. There is also clear story windows located along the eastern and western facades of the recreation center to capture soft light.
MECHANICAL DIAGRAM

There are three mechanical systems: the church, the recreation center and the learning part of the building. The recreation center needs a ventilation system that will allow the temperature to remain relatively cool for the players as well as spectators. Because of the stone construction of the church, a separate system must be used. Three systems will allow for proper air flow throughout the entire structure.

ELIZABETH L. DICECO
INDEPENDENT PROJECT PROPOSAL
Precedent Analysis

A: First Unitarian Church and School
   Louis Kahn
   Rochester, NY (1959)

B: Pines Shore Presbyterian Church Community Center
   ADP Architects
   Sarasota, FL (2001)

C: Basin Recreation Center
   EDA Architects
   Salt Lake City (2004)
PRECEDE NT ANALYSIS

D: THORNCROWN CHAPEL
FAY JONES
EUREKA SPRINGS, ARKANSAS (1980)

E: CHURCH OF ST. IGNATIUS
STEVEN HOLL
SEATTLE, WA (1997)
-The idea of centering the sanctuary of the church, the most holy of places within a program that contains classrooms, meeting rooms, social gathering spaces as well as the circulatory paths for the building.

-The integration of realization and form. What is going on? Who is it for? How does this space interact with surrounding spaces within the structure.

"Architecture is the thoughtful making of spaces. It is the creating of spaces that evoke a feeling of appropriate use." - Louis Kahn
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL L. KAHN

-LARGE INTERIOR SPACES THAT FUNCTION FOR LARGE GROUPS OF PEOPLE AS WELL AS SMALLER, MORE PERSONAL SPACES THAT WORK WITHIN THE LARGER, BUT ARE THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE SPACE.

"...INITIAL CONCEPT SKETCH BEGAN WITH A QUESTION MARK, CHOSEN TO REPRESENT THE SANCTUARY, AT THE CENTER OF THE BUILDING SURROUNDED BY A CIRCLE TO SERVE AS AN AMBULATORY REPRESENTING THE SHADES OF BELIEF..."

— FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF ROCHESTER
PINES SHORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COMMUNITY CENTER

- The idea that the church and community center function as one idea but are housed in two separate structure. This allows for design of green space that act as a circulation path from building to building.

- The community center functions as a space for the outside community as well as a fellowship hall for the congregation of the church.

- Within the structure are spaces that accommodate the needs on a personal level with the included chapel. Also spaces that act as meeting rooms for the whole of the community.
PINES SHORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COMMUNITY CENTER

- The 'church' consists mainly of a sanctuary that forms the shape of the building as well as the secondary needs of the congregation, such as choir, Sunday school, meeting rooms, and a library.

- Because of the size of the congregation, the 'church community center' has various sized auditoriums and meeting spaces to accommodate the various needs.
BASIN RECREATION CENTER

A recreation center that suits the needs of the community by incorporating an enclosed soccer field for the residents through the design of the entrance, people feel welcomed to enter and enjoy the gathering space that allows for viewing of the exterior as well as the interior field.
The idea that this space does not have 'boundaries' in a sense that it appears to be open to the surroundings. A knowing of the native materials and the use of specific flagstone floor tiles that are indigenous to the area.

A sense of scale was explored in that all of the building elements were made at a scale of a man in mind carrying it through the woods. These smaller elements were then constructed on site to form the large structure that supports the entire building.
THORNCROWN CHAPEL

- It is situated 250 feet from and vehicular movement thus allowing the visitors a chance to get away from 'the norm' of everyday life.

- Because of the ever changing patterns that occur from the light and shadows of the surroundings, there will never be the same occurrence two times in a row.
"...A Stone box, containing seven bottles of light"
- Steven Holl

An unannounced differentiation of spaces through the change of light patterns as well as light color. Through a series of light patterns, one is able to walk through the church and question why and how the light is changing.

Located on the Seattle University campus, Steven Holl incorporated the needs of the students of the university by focusing on their spiritual needs.

Figure 2: Plan of Chapel of St. Ignatius
"...A DESIGN THAT WOULD BE FORWARD LOOKING, BUT ANCHORED IN THE PAST..."
-STEVEN HOLL

-AS WELL AS PLAYING WITH THE COLOR AND PATTERNS OF LIGHT, HOLL USES THE IDEA OF LIGHTNESS AND DARKNESS WITH THE BUILDING TO ACHIEVE DIFFERENT MEANINGS WITHIN THE STRUCTURE.

"...A GATHERING OF DIFFERENT LIGHTS"
-STEVEN HOLL


http://archives.umc.org. "What We Belive"
HTTP://RELIGIOUSMOVEMENTS.LIB.VIRGINIA.EDU/NRMS/METHODIST.HTML.

INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE 2003.


