



SACRED SPACE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The Embodiment of Human Experience

Amy Lemke
ARC 2017



Winchester Cathedral, UK



Beachside Baptist Church, FL



DOESN'T BAT 400
SLAM DUNK
TAKE 20 MILLION
A YEAR...
DIED FOR ME.

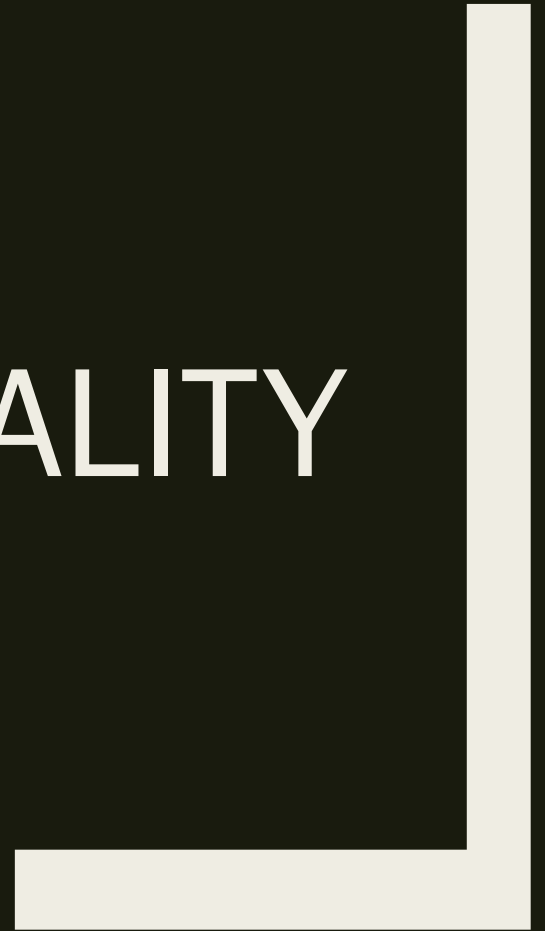
THESIS:

In order to produce the kinds of sacred spaces that will facilitate the mission of the church in the 21st century, church leaders should take the following three areas into account: human corporeality, spirituality and temporality.

Church of the Servant, Grand Rapids, MI



CORPOREALITY



Corporeality

- The physical nature of humanity, relating to the senses
- The tabernacle and materiality
- Platonism and Gnosticism

An orthodox theological anthropology should lead us to uphold the value of the built environment and pay attention to how we affect space.

Practical Implications

- Accessibility
- Connection to nature, the wider world
- Incorporated seating arrangement



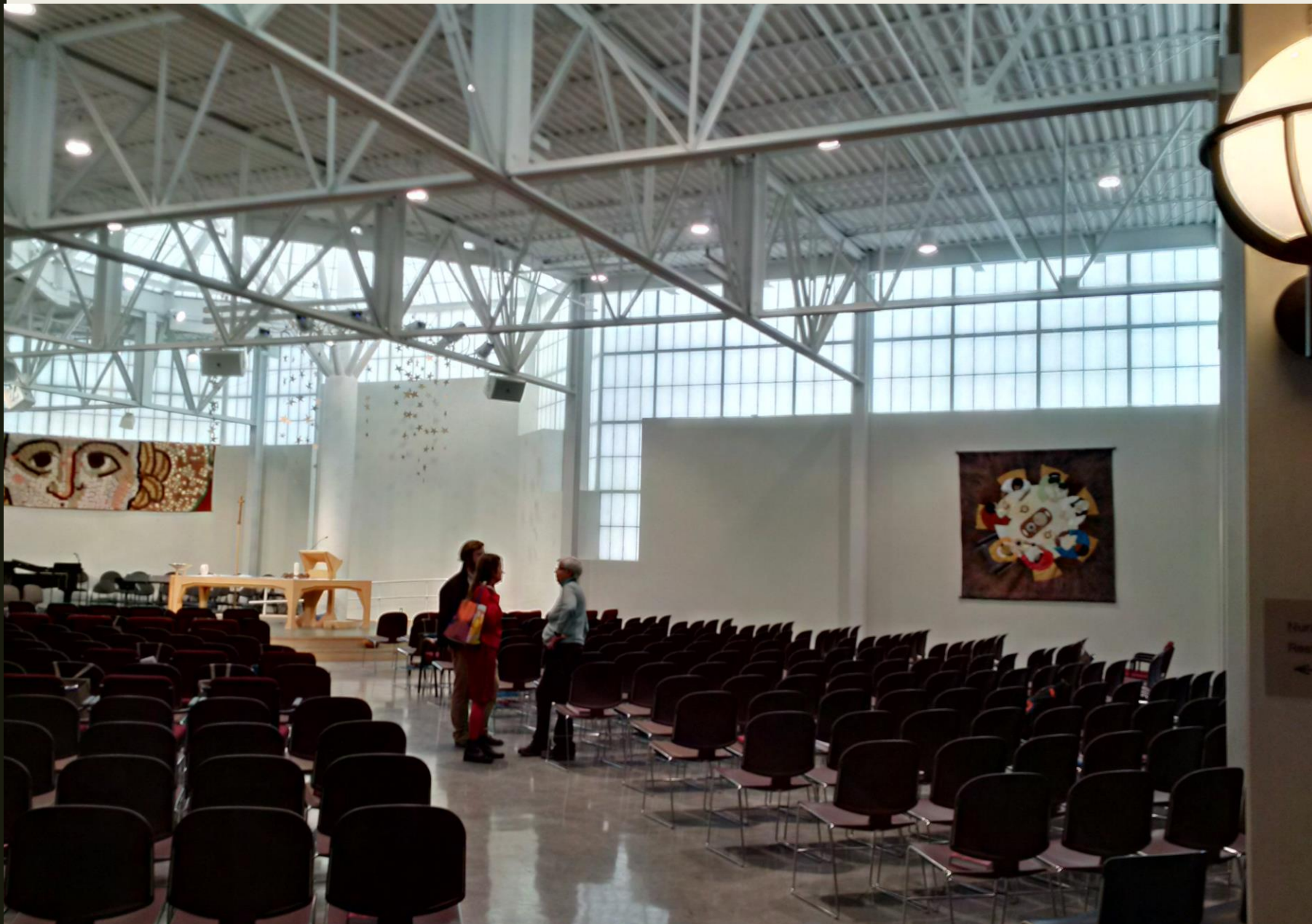
Connection to Nature

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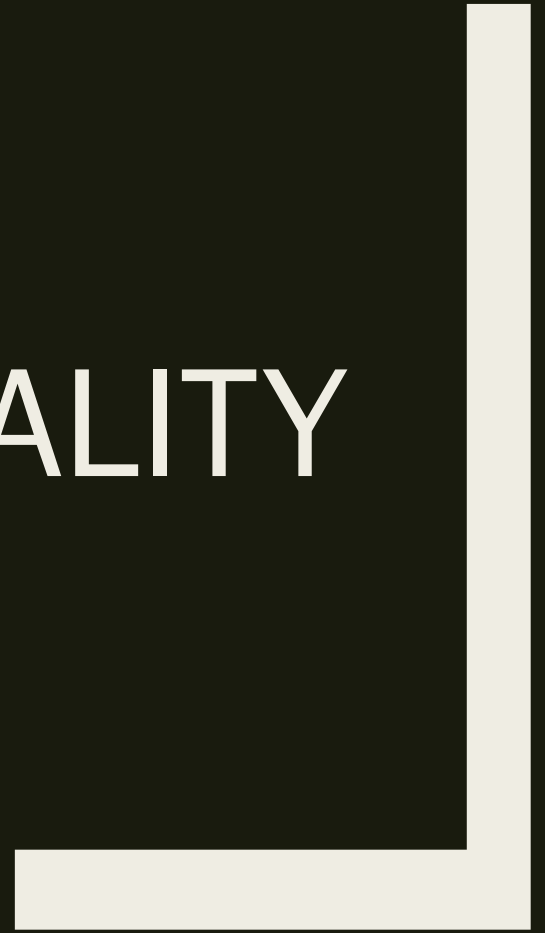


Semi-Circular Seating

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SPIRITUALITY



Spirituality

- The mystery of human spirituality
- Mircea Eliade
 - *Hierophany: the manifestation of the divine*
 - *Nonhomogeneity: the state of the universe as a result of the mix of sacred and profane, e.g. the Incarnation*
- Genesis 28:10-22 – Jacob's dream at Bethel
 - *A bodily need: to sleep*
 - *A spiritual experience: a numinous dream, hearing from the Lord, affirmation of vocation*
 - *A temporal marker: a pillar for coming generations*
- The fragility of sacred space

Practical Implications

- Natural Light
 - Signifying the immanence of God
 - The primacy of fire and sunlight
 - More than a visual aid?

Church of the Servant, Grand Rapids, MI

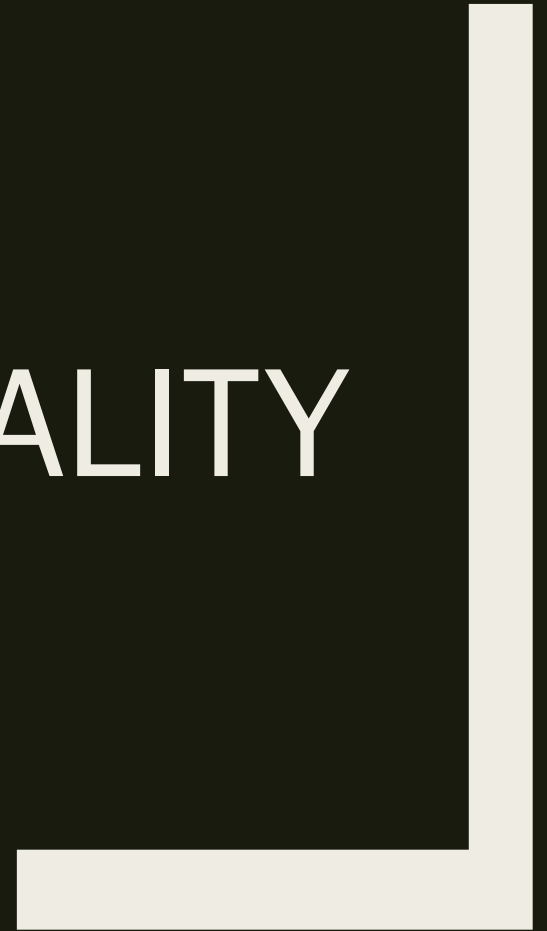


Exterior Windows

Church of the Servant, Grand Rapids, MI



TEMPORALITY



Temporality

- Memorializing the past, encompassing the present, shaping the future; built environment as monument
- “People ensoul not only their houses but the settlements in which they dwell. At the same time their settlements shape their souls.” – T.J. Gorringer
- **PAST:**
- An awareness of the scope of Christian tradition, looking for points of convergence and mutuality with an eye to the future
- **FUTURE:**
- Globalization and the Christianity of the global south
- The end of time

Practical Implications

- Problems with temporary set ups and the inevitable budget restrictions
- The iconography of the gymnasium

Byzantine-esque Mosaic
Flexibility



Timeline + Entry + Church Calendar



Conclusion

Sacred space has tremendous power to shape us and connect us to one another, and thus it must not be neglected by Christian leaders who have the responsibility of caring for a group of people who are altogether corporeal, spiritual, and temporal.



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