

Program Summary:

A restoration reclaiming the cathedral's historic beauty, blending craftsmanship with modern systems and preserving its sacred character.

Program Statement:

This 1916 Dutch Romanesque Revival church had undergone several renovations. The most recent in 1984 covered much of the original ornamentation. The building suffered from water infiltration, peeling plaster, and harsh acoustics due to a crudely installed HVAC system. The stained glass was obscured by yellowed Plexiglas that trapped moisture, and the lighting was ineffective. What began as a renovation soon turned into a reclamation of the church's original grandeur. Historic photos revealed its former beauty, guiding our approach to restore and enhance the space. We sought to blend the craftsmanship of artisans with modern innovations in acoustics, mechanics, and lighting engineers to create a design faithful to the past, but with an eye towards the future. The exterior was restored to prevent water infiltration, and the Plexiglas was replaced with vented glass to protect the stained glass. Interior plaster walls were repaired and adorned with artwork reflecting the church's 1916 heritage. Lighting was updated, and acoustics improved through a new sound system and quieter HVAC. The original communion rail, found in pieces, was restored and reinstalled with a new marble step, while the presider's chair and pews were restored. To improve airflow and eliminate exposed ducts, the ducts were rerouted through the thick masonry walls, integrating custom grilles that complemented the artwork. Through careful design and collaboration, we preserved the church's original architecture while enhancing its sacred atmosphere.

RR205.01

Building Area: (sf)
13,292 SF

Cost per Square Foot:
\$225

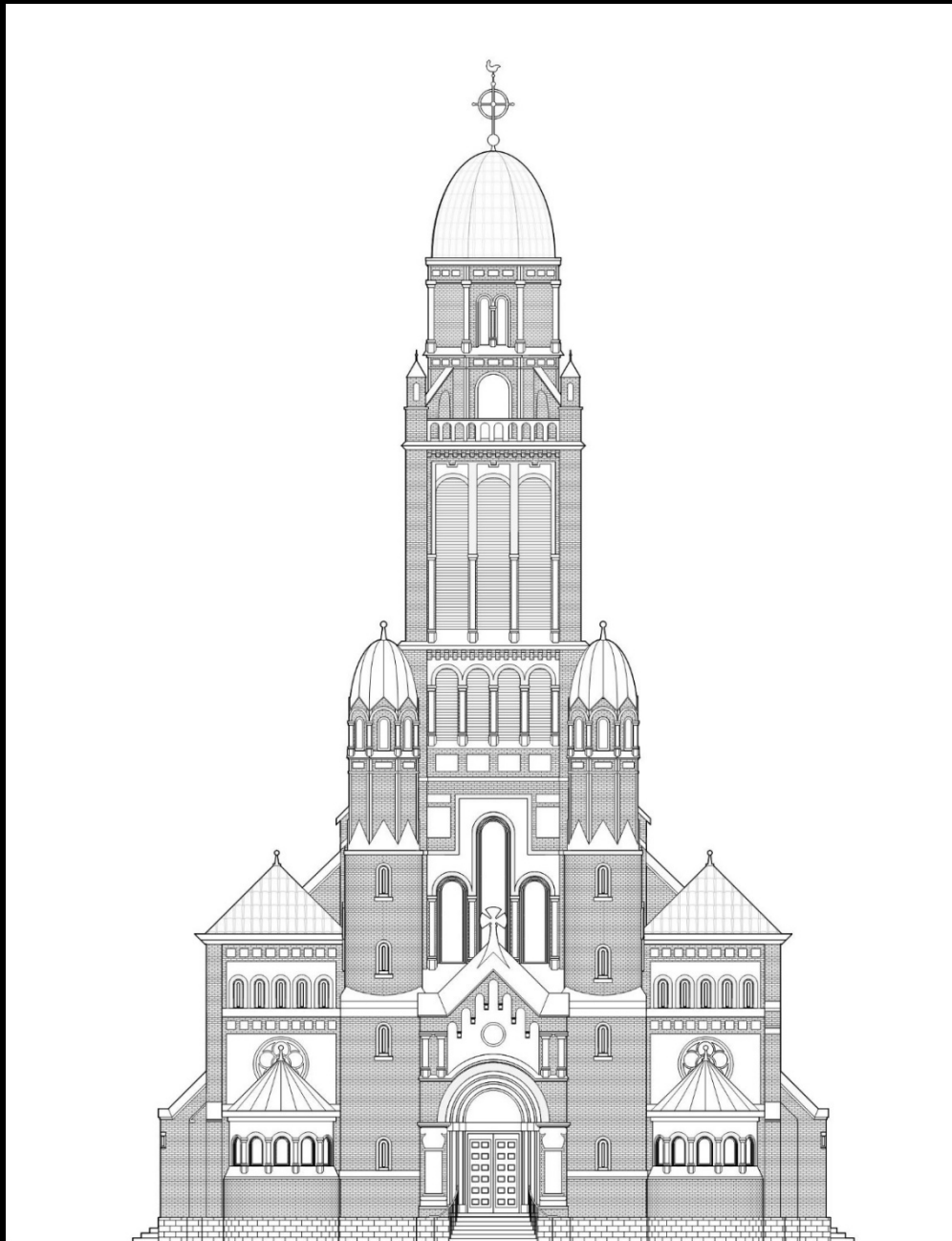
Construction Cost
\$2,988,600

Date of Completion:
November 2024



RR205.02

To prevent future water infiltration, extensive exterior repairs and painting were completed.



RR205.03

This work included painting, repairing or replacing flashing and wood trim around the windows, repointing select areas of brick, and applying waterproofing treatments.

RR205.04

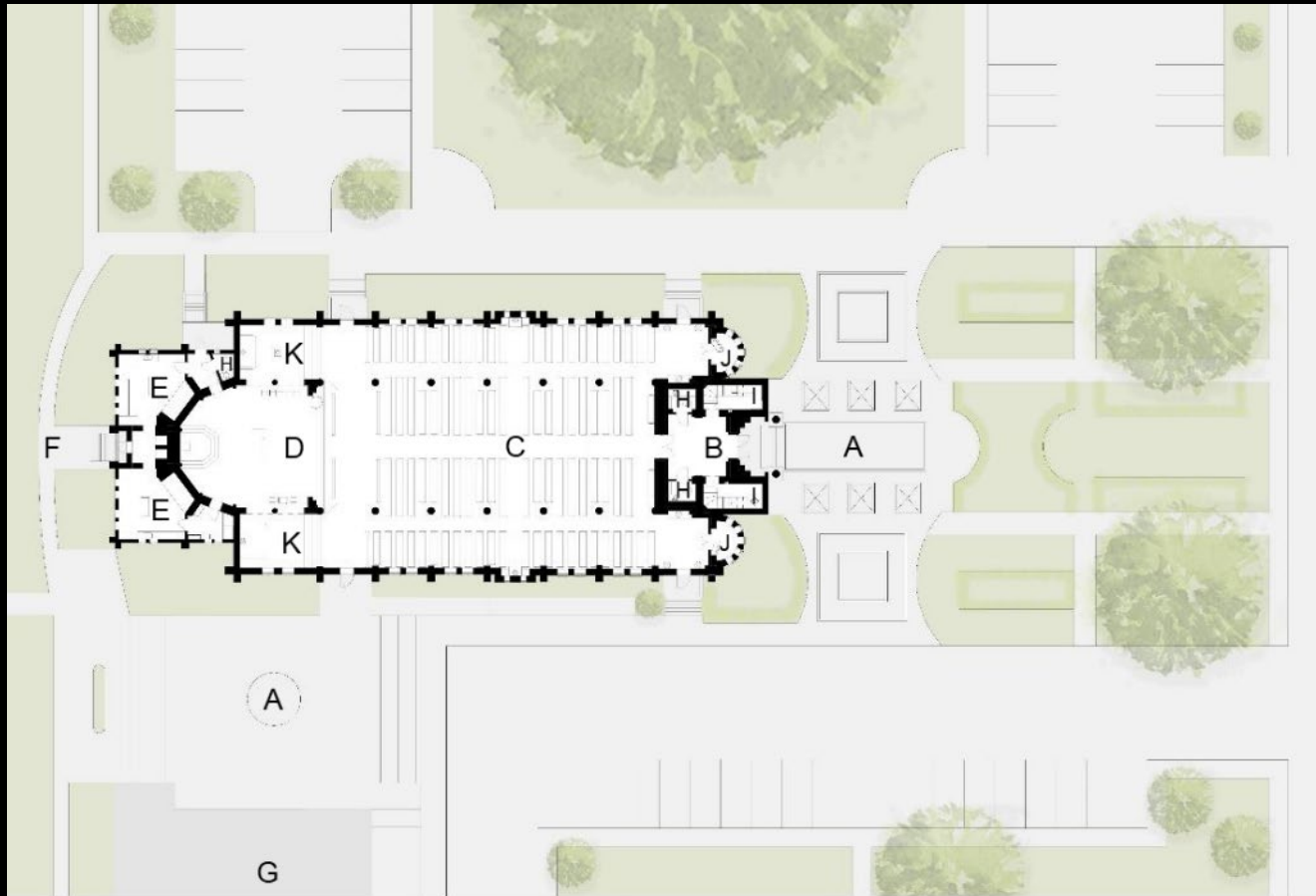
The yellowed Plexiglas covering the stained-glass windows were replaced with new glass and custom frames designed to allow ventilation. This improvement helps prevent the condensation that previously led to wood frame deterioration.



RR205.05

KEY

- A. PLAZA
- B. NARTHEX
- C. NAVE
- D. SANCTUARY
- E. SACRISTY
- F. PATH TO CEMETERY
- G. ADMIN. BUILDING
- H. RESTROOM
- I. STAIR
- J. CONFESSIONAL
- K. SIDE SHRINE

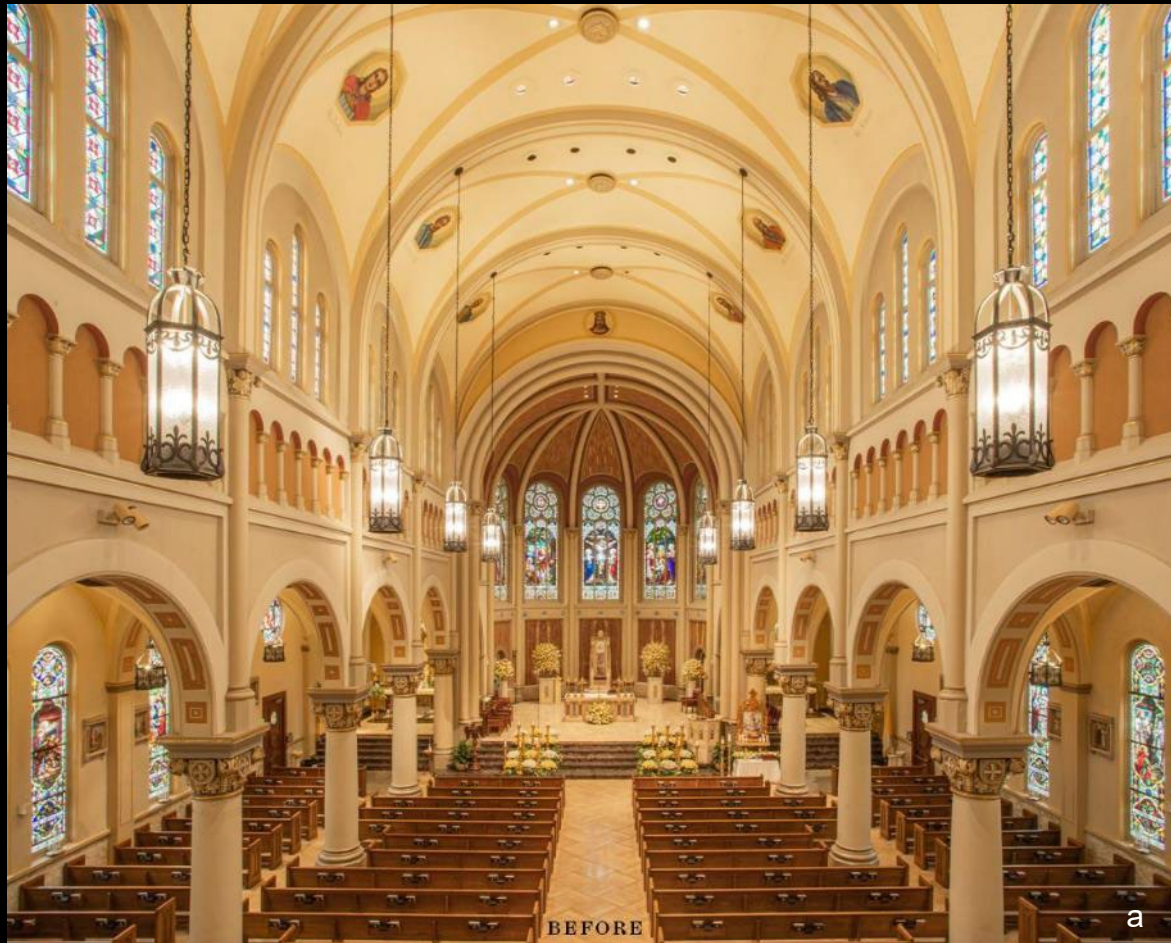


SITE PLAN



RR205.06

Photo from the choir loft before 2024 the renovation. Note the dulled color scheme and the lack of detail in the painting. (a)



The black and white photo is an existing photo from the 1930's showing some of the painting detail that had been concealed by later renovations and an altar rail. (b)



RR205.07

Restored and renovated cathedral interior from the choir loft.

The renovation repaired and restored the cathedral's details throughout while integrating improved acoustics, lighting, and mechanical systems into the structure.



RR205.08

The renovation highlights the side shrines with new artwork and improved lighting and mechanical systems.

RR205.09

The altar rail, found in pieces in the basement, was like a puzzle to reassemble. (a)

After careful repair and restoration, it was successfully reinstalled on the newly extended altar step. (b)





a



b



c

RR205.10

Many historic elements were found and restored for use again after being discarded in an earlier renovation.

Ineffective and distorted lighting was replaced with new or refurbished fixtures.

Note the dulled monochromatic color scheme, the obtrusive ductwork and diffuser, and the opaque glass on the light fixture that distort the light in the existing photo of side aisle and baptismal side shrine. (a)

Light fixtures during restoration. (b)

Side shrine after renovation. (c)

RR205.11

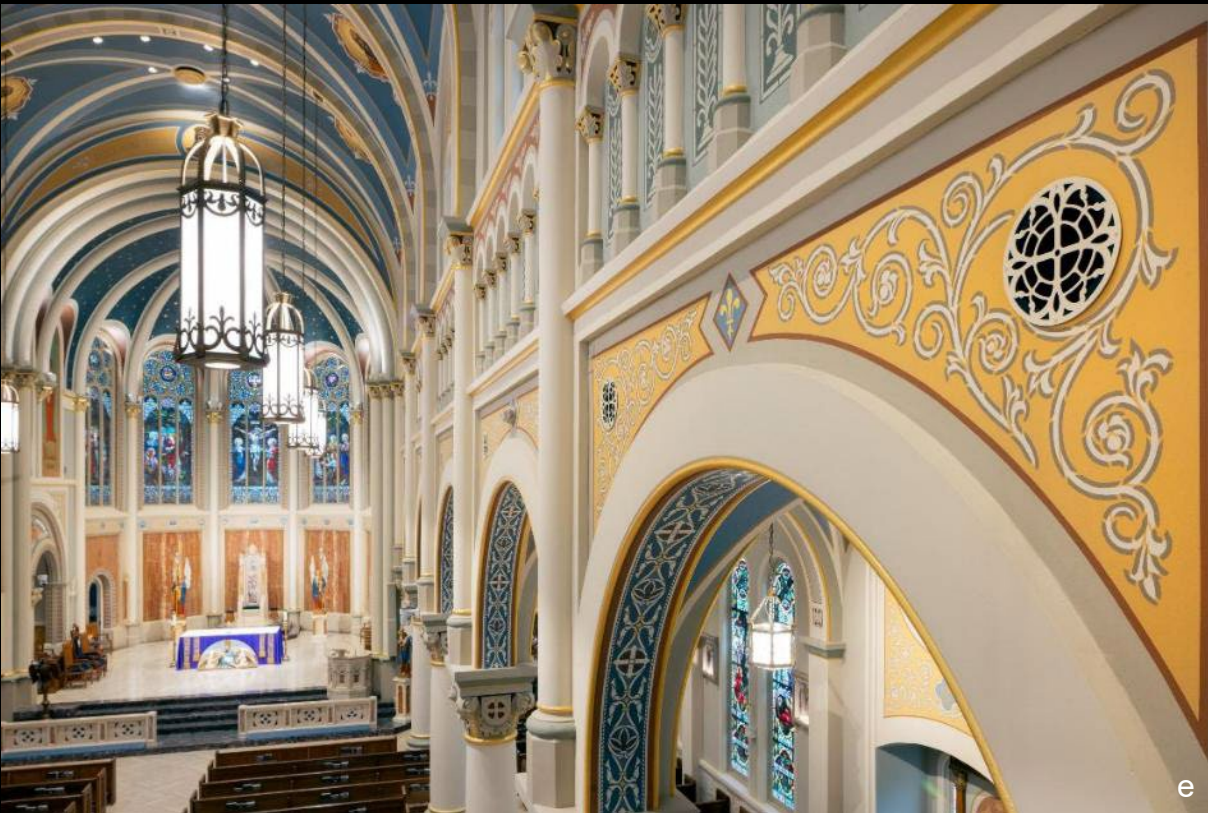
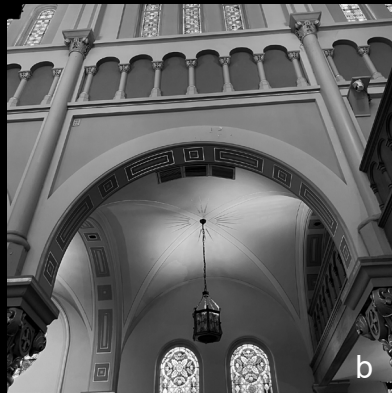
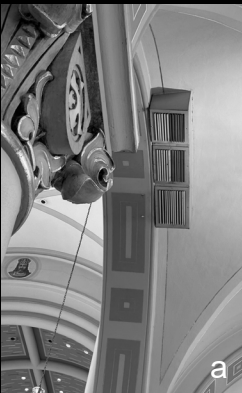
Ineffective, loud, and prominent diffusers and exposed ducts were replaced with a quieter and discreet diffusers that condition the air more evenly throughout the space.

Existing diffusers and exposed ducts. (a) (b)

During construction, the exposed ductwork was removed and new recessed grilles installed. (c)

Holes were cored through the existing masonry wall for the new ductwork and a steel ring inserted before threading the ductwork through. (d)

Diffusers after renovation. (e)



RR205.12

Restored and renovated cathedral interior from the sanctuary.

From the repaired plaster to the updated artwork and mechanical systems the renovation addressed both functional and artistic aspects of the cathedral to enhance the sacred nature of the space.





RR205.13

Aerial view of the bell tower, newly cleaned, waterproofed, and freshly painted.