



In the Grace Assembly of God Church the transparent north facing main façade allows the church's activities in the main foyer and to the sanctuary to be visible to the pedestrians and vehicular traffic, metaphorically reaching out to the masses by broadcasting the activities within the church to the public. The western facade receiving the full afternoon sun makes it an ideal location for the stained glass wall. When viewed from inside the sanctuary, the strong afternoon sun is transformed into the most vibrant hues by the stained glass.

Grace Assembly of God can be thought of as a 'vertical church': with Sanctuary, Chapels, Prayer rooms and offices stacked on top of each other, circulation is via lifts and staircases instead of corridors. However we consciously avoided the box stacking effect with each layer being cut-off from each other, but instead tried to craft a building that provides the users with an exceptional sequence of vertical and horizontal spatial experience, certain richness in spatial variations and direct visual connection to the green environment outside.

In the Covenant Evangelical Free Church (CEFC) we thought that the church had to play its part as an urban landmark in the landscape, expressing its role as a spiritual beacon and guiding force to the lives of the Christian community around it. The element of Light has always been the raw material of architectural expression. In religious architecture it is also associated with the idea of purity and sacredness. We sought to create a building that not only let light enter in, but a church that emits light. The strategically placement of the stained glass walls topped with an illuminated cross projects the presence of the church into the distance. Conversely the location of the grand foyer draws the view of the neighbourhood greens into the church, a borrowed landscape view.

We worked with the metaphor of folding hands, the left hand folds slightly inward to create a recess at the grand foyer entrance, working with its opposite hand to delineate a superhuman scale entrance portico. In doing so we have denoted the sacredness and importance of the grand entrance purely through space and form. Without utilising any religious or symbolic imagery, this is a modern abstraction of the repetitive entrance arches found in European gothic churches. This gesture is once again repeated in the entrance to the sanctuary, a subtle reminder of the presence of God to those passing through.

architecture 1999

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LAUD Architects combines the latest design methodologies with pragmatic experience in proposing and realizing a wide range of projects including religious and institutional buildings, condominiums, shopping/office complexes, hotels and industrial buildings. The LAUD Team constantly seeks to push the boundaries of contemporary design; exploring both architectural and related disciplines to find new and innovative design solutions. Amidst these pursuits, emphasis is firmly placed upon the appropriate and creative use of technologies, materials, space and forms that run beyond fulfilling the client's brief, creating an architecture that engages the senses and heightens the awareness of space, yet never losing sight of basic functional requirements. At LAUD, great emphasis is placed on the spirit of teamwork as we encourage the flow of ideas and opinions from clients and fellow consultants throughout the entire design and construction process.

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