

Church Architecture Is Changing

Everybody knows that on the first Christmas, worshippers knelt in a cave . . . and it was worship enough! But Christmas 1960 will be celebrated in churches of many different designs. Shapes have changed, and building materials have advanced—from mud bricks to stainless steel. Why?

Architecture is a reflection of every period of history.

Ancient Egyptians buried mummified royalty in pyramids. From the pinnacle of these structures a deceased king was thought to behold the rising sun . . . symbol of his own resurrection! Built of huge stone blocks erected by slaves, the temples were meant to last forever. Several are still standing today.

Early Romans created the arch . . . which led to impressive stone church vaults and domes. The Pantheon—Roman temple of the gods—was circular, 150 feet in diameter, its remarkable dome the same height. It is still standing today, a tribute to its ancient contractors, and is used for Catholic worship.

How did churches look in China? Like a tent. The Japanese had no stone and settled for wood . . . which meant building and rebuilding. A pagoda—house of idols—in the Far East symbolizes human dignity through its up-turned roofs and spire.

Earthquakes inspired Buddhist temple styles in India. Moslem love of beauty fostered delicate jeweled arches and elaborate patterns in temple design. Byzantine religious architecture combined Oriental pomp, Greek precision, Hebrew spiritualism and Roman genius.

In the dark ages, churches were built like—and served as—fortresses. When Christians gained new freedom, the ornaments in their houses of worship reflected their joy. French Gothic cathedrals flung soaring arches to heaven.

What did the artists do with their freedom during the Renaissance? They built churches, immense, magnificent churches. This was their contribution to the Golden Age . . . and travelers to Europe still find them breathtaking: the Church of the Sorbonne, Cathedral of Florence, San Giorgio Maggiore in Venice, St. Paul's Cathedral and 50 other London churches were designed by Sir Christopher Wren in this period. For baroque artistry . . . he is unmatched.

Across the ocean in the exciting new land of America early worship took refuge in primitive buildings constructed with the timber of the rich forests. Colonists struggled to raise a steeple as high as they could. In every community the church was a dominant force . . . and had to look the part. One box of a room had to serve every purpose. Not so today!

Education, social life, committee work have all found a home—side by side with divine worship—under church roofs. Inside and out, authorities demand beauty, durability, modern design and low maintenance cost.

One reason they're getting what they want is the introduction of stainless steel into architecture. It has been called the greatest innovation since the arch. What does stainless steel do for churches?

It withstands the ravages of time and weather . . . in the steeple and cross of Albright College Chapel near Reading, Pa. Durable and dignified stainless steel spires soar above St. Paul's Church in Chicago . . . Christ the King Church in Worcester, Mass. . . the First Presbyterian Church in Youngstown, Ohio, and scores of other churches throughout the country. Three stainless steel domes of Byzantine design grace St. John's Russian Orthodox Church in Mayfield, Pa. Stainless steel gables in an accordion pattern form the sanctuary roof of the First Baptist Church of St. John in St. Louis, Mo. On the campus of Notre Dame University in South Bend, Ind., stands an 86-foot-high stainless steel cross. The outdoor groto of the Blessed Sacrament Church in Philadelphia, Pa., is surrounded by a weather-resisting railing of stainless steel.

When other metal failed, the Church of St. John of God, Chicago, installed stainless steel roof drainage products . . . no protective coating is required . . . no maintenance cost raises its gargoyles head! The St. Philomena Shrine at Seton Hill College in Greensburg, Pa., ingeniously solved the problem of capacity. Built in triangular shape, its two even sides are fitted with 20 stainless steel and glass doors. Opening onto lawns, the doors permit attendance by unlimited amounts of worshippers. Also made of stainless are the cross, transepts, mullions, fascia and downspouts.

The Stephens College Chapel in Columbia, Mo., combined slender stainless steel rods with oak slats to produce a delicate screen for the altar. Other churches show the gleam of stainless steel in baptismal fonts where its corrosion resistance maintains appearance over the years, and in altar rails and candle stands.

Fine, processed woods, precast concrete and extensive plate glass add still further modern features

to the changing look in churches. Stainless steel blends well with these materials and highlights their appearance.

Christmas season visitors near Portland, Ore., will stop to admire the triangular—sign of the Trinity—Community Church of Cedar Hills. Roof and steeple are one—only vertical skylights interrupt the long line from peak to ground.

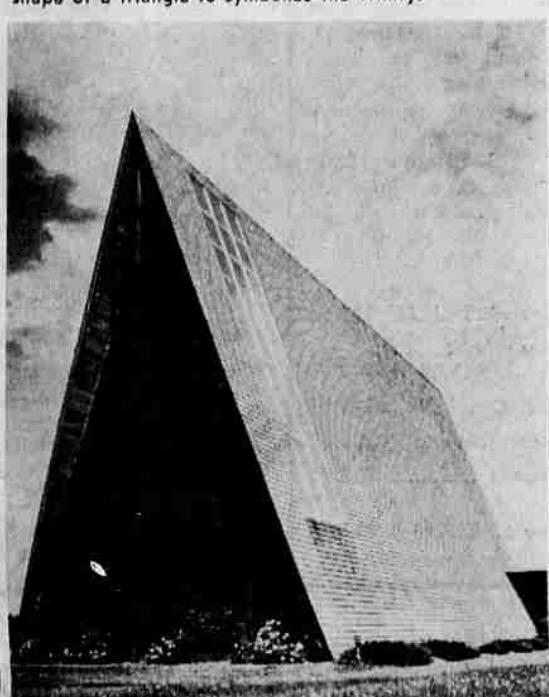
The First Presbyterian Church at Vero Beach, Fla., invites wor-

shippers with an open glass wall. In the adjacent triangular bell tower, the mighty music of Christmas draws a deep breath and waits for the signal to begin.

Just as the Gothic Churches reflected the spirit and religious fervor of the Middle Ages, and represented its thought through contemporary materials, so the churches today in America express our own religious and progressive attitude, the creative impulses of our architects, and our country's advanced technology.



A NEW APPROACH in church architecture features this triangular structure on the campus of Seton Hill College. It is St. Philomena's National Shrine built in the shape of a triangle to symbolize the Trinity.



THE COMMUNITY CHURCH of Cedar Hills near Portland is built of fine, processed hemlock and laminated fir. Roof and steeple are one, forming a triangle to represent the Trinity. In many new churches, stainless steel is being used in combination with fine woods and other materials to highlight their appearance.



SELECTION of a suitable Christmas gift for that very special man causes some degree of soul searching and furrowed brows. Most men, particularly smokers, are delighted with something they truly want, but would not buy for themselves. His favorite smoke and/or fashionable smoking accessories are always welcome.

Most Fabulous Gifts In History

Try it. Some comfortable moment during the holiday season, when the menfolk are contentedly enjoying their cigars and the girls are stirring saccharine into their coffee to compensate for the rich Christmas desserts they've been nibbling, ask your listeners what they consider to be the biggest gift ever given. The diversity of answers will provide an interesting discussion—and perhaps a revealing clue to your friends' values.

Some may cite the Hope diamond, recently given to the people of the United States. The famous gem, appraised at \$178,920, was donated to the Smithsonian Institution in November, 1958, by diamond merchant Harry Winston.

Others, asked to cite history's biggest gift, might name the 500 million dollars given at one time to schools, hospitals and other institutions by the Ford Foundation. The gift was announced in December, 1955—an appropriate time if ever there was one.

Ranking high on anyone's list of fabulous presents would be the 200,000 tons of food given to starving people each year by private American citizens through CARE—Committee on American Remittances to Everywhere.

Less famous but more striking than any of these is history's strangest giveaway—the gift of an entire country! It happened hundreds of years ago during the reign of Charles V, who ruled over the Holy Roman Empire. Short of cash with which to re-

pay a loan from his banker, Charles gave him the country of Venezuela instead. (Anything but a cheerful giver, the emperor later took back his present without repaying the loan.)

Operating on a more modest scale, the French emperor Charlemagne rewarded victorious generals by giving them all the land they could walk around from sun-up to sundown. An earlier potentate—that ignoble Roman known as Nero—had the endearing habit of throwing numbered balls into a crowd of guests and awarding cash, mansions and jewels to the lucky numbers. Whatever people said about Nero fiddling away his time, no one ever denied that he was the life of the party—or that his guests had a ball.

While it's the spectacular gifts that crowd the headlines and the history books, many would argue that the little presents, by sheer weight of numbers and cumulative

cash value, are really the most fabulous of all.

Two fairly typical examples will suffice. When a man becomes a father—especially if "it's a boy!"—he's highly likely to hand out cigars even if he's never smoked a cigar in his life. Marriage and fatherhood are increasingly apt to bring him cigars, as wives and children discover, in ever-greater numbers, that a box of cigars is a welcome gift for Christmas, Father's Day or Dad's birthday. Retirement or promotion may also cause a man to give or get cigars, and increasing numbers of hosts—from Joe Blow to Gene Cavallero of New York's famously expensive Colony Restaurant—offer cigars to guests as a matter of course.

Thanks in large part to all these friendly gifts, more than one million cigars are being sold throughout the country during each hour of a 16 hour day! This

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figure comes from a tobacco re- lion dollars was spent on perfume in the United States last year. A healthy chunk of this dough was put up by people buying gifts. In fact, some salespeople maintain that most of their sales come from gifts rather than the womenfolk start buying before the womenfolk start buying. ponder this statistic: over 31 mil- wearers of the heady fragrances! may win you a bride in Africa.

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