

# Architect Colorado

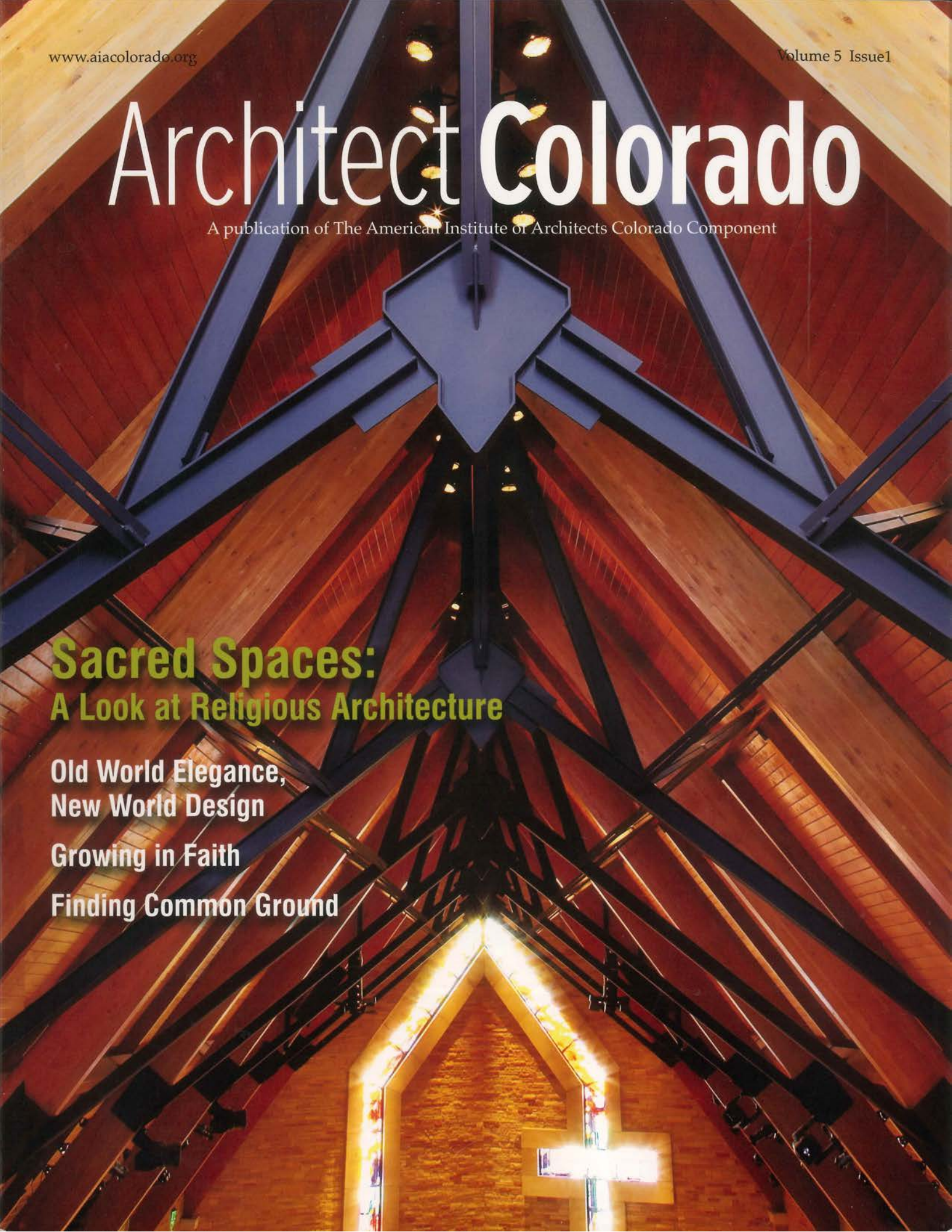
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## Sacred Spaces: A Look at Religious Architecture

Old World Elegance,  
New World Design

Growing in Faith

Finding Common Ground



# OntheBoards

By Mary Lou Jay

## Boulder Jewish Commons

Barrett Studio Architects

**Location** Boulder, Colo.

**Client** Oreg Foundation

**Construction Cost** Unknown at this time

**Scope** Master plan and design guidelines

**Purpose** 31-acre campus with facilities to serve as focus of Jewish community in Boulder

**Completion** Spring 2013

The master plan and design guidelines for the Boulder Jewish Commons, a remarkable 31-acre site in East Boulder, define a campus specific to Jewish community life. Including three synagogues, housing for Jewish elders, a garden environment for outdoor contemplation and a Jewish Community Center facility for recreation, education and cultural events, the campus will be a meaningful cultural contribution to the City of Boulder. Reference to Jewish traditions and places will be made not only literally, but also experientially and metaphorically.

As part of the scope of work, Barrett Studio produced initial design studies for one of three potential synagogues. In this design, a day-lit central worship space is sheltered by a rammed earth wall, a thermal mass structure that embraces the congregation and alludes to the natural environment and the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem. Other design teams have begun studies for buildings in accordance with the master plan and design guidelines. This campus is the physical expression of a "whole community presence," essential in creating a vibrant future for the Boulder Jewish community.

As part of this intention of wholeness and community, Boulder Jewish Commons will be an expression of responsible civic development with green standards and guidelines that will potentially meet LEED-ND requirements. At the building level, all structures must be designed to meet the standards of minimum LEED-NC. This commitment to environmental stewardship and community creation is a direct manifestation of the Jewish directive of tikkun olan — the healing of the world.



Barrett Studio Architects

## Holy Trinity Church

Integration Design Group, PC  
Architect Adam Hermanson, AIA

**Location** Westminster, Colo.

**Client** Holy Trinity Catholic Church/Archdiocese of Denver

**Construction Cost** \$2 million

**Scope** 2,000-square-foot narthex addition, new bell tower, entry plaza, addition of clerestory roof and windows and complete interior renovation

**Purpose** Accommodate needs of growing church

**Completion** April 2010

As the community of Holy Trinity Catholic Church approaches its 50-year jubilee, it is preparing to expand the church to accommodate a growth in parishioner families. In 1959, when parish members built the current church building, they intended to use it as the church only until a new one could be built. The original building would then become the school gymnasium. The separate church was never built, so for 50 years the parish has continued to use the original building as its worship space.

To raise the stature and nobility of the church, the parish is moving forward with an addition and complete renovation of the building. Integration Design Group has worked with the parish to develop the design over the past several months. The project will include a new prominent entrance into a larger narthex at the west front of the church, surmounted by a cross to be salvaged from the exiting steeple; a new choir loft; a new area of raised roof with clerestory windows; a completely remodeled sanctuary; and new liturgical elements and furnishings throughout. The community hopes to include a new bell tower in the project as well. The addition and renovation will encourage a greater sense of the sacred, both on the exterior and interior of the church.

Integration Design Group is providing design services for not only the architectural aspects, but also the complete interior design and finish package; the artwork and furniture design and procurement; and the design of the liturgical elements, including altars, tabernacle canopy, ambo, baptismal font, baldachino and altar rail.



Integration Design Group, PC

## Holy Name Catholic Church

Eidos Architects, PC  
Architect Robert L. Saas, AIA

**Location** Steamboat Springs, Colo.

**Client** Holy Name Catholic Church/Archdiocese of Denver

**Cost** \$5 million

**Scope** Master plan entire campus, design new sanctuary, nave and chapel and remodel existing nave into new narthex.

**Completion** 2012

Eidos Architects is completing the master plan and Phase I schematic design for the expansion of Holy Name Catholic Church in Steamboat Springs. Originally built in the early 1960s, when Steamboat Springs was a much smaller ranching community, the parish at Holy Name has exploded with growth just as its community has blossomed into a major ski resort.

Holy Name requested that Eidos Architects first prepare an overall master plan not only reflecting current growth but also anticipating Holy Name's continual growth over the next 30 to 40 years. Under that plan, the existing church will double in size, increasing its seating capacity from 280 to more than 600.

The intent of the master plan is to create a completely interconnected campus with the church and sanctuary as its major focus. Eidos Architects developed the interconnecting elements of the narthex, office area and religious educational components with transparent relationships through the use of glass and strategic alignments in the design, allowing views of the nave and sanctuary from multiple locations throughout the campus. The design connects the building not only on the interior but also through meditative cloister walks that surround the building and an entrance to the church that announces to the parishioners that they are entering a holy place.

Fox Construction of Steamboat Springs will build the church.



Eidos Architects, PC

# OntheBoards (con't)

## Westminster Church of the Nazarene

RNL  
Architect Douglas A. Spuler, AIA,  
LEED AP

**Location** Broomfield, Colo.

**Client** Westminster Church of the Nazarene

**Construction Cost** \$19.7 million

**Scope** (phase one) 68,000square-foot building with space for worship, education and operations

**Purpose** Accommodate the needs of a growing church community

**Completion** Spring 2011

The Westminster Church of the Nazarene's new facility is the initial phase in the development of a 77-acre parcel that in the future will become a mixed-use community supporting a partnership of compatible uses. The master plan envisions an approximately 1.4 million-square-foot spiritual "village" linked by open space and pedestrian friendly streets, fostering a sense of unity and community.

The property is highly visible with the church at the terminus of the entry boulevard. Visitors move through a series of landscape features and fountains before arriving at the building. Outdoor courtyards and a great lawn extending from the main entrance connect future church and mixed-use buildings in a campus setting.

The initial phase of the 68,000-square-foot building will contain an events center; classrooms; administrative offices; and a two-story, cathedral-like atrium, wrapped in artful compositions of clear and opaque glass. The dynamic geometries and reflecting light of the patterned glass infuse the interior volume with natural, controlled light.

Carefully designed glass façades meet the challenges of sun control in a number of different and surprising ways.

Inside, visitors experience a 200-foot long sweep of curved glass with program spaces organized along its edge. A cantilevered mezzanine within the soaring volume of the atrium provides additional space for the church's religious and social activities.

The adjacent rectilinear volumes are clad in concrete panels with significantly smaller "window boxes" that project or recess within the walls. Additional sun shading elements are incorporated into the boxes to further control the sun on south and west facing façades.



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