

“In a city, grace just falls all over the place.”
—Sara Miles, *City of God: Faith in the Streets*

“We meet in local gathering places to keep a narrative going about God’s presence in the neighborhood and in people’s daily work and their leisure.”
Keith Anderson, *The Digital Cathedral*

“It is better to think of the church in the ale-house than to think of the ale-house in church.”
--Martin Luther

Phase 3: Design Parti for the Petworth Place for Spirit and Wellbeing

DUE: Oral and graphic presentation, October 9, 2015

OBJECTIVE: The *parti* will set out the parameters for your design of the Petworth Place for Spirit and Wellbeing at the corner of Georgia Avenue and Randolph Street, NW, in Washington’s Petworth neighborhood. Petworth Place will be a combination of places for the spirit, places to share community, places for outreach, places for creation, places for worship, composed of situational and substantive sacred spaces. Remember that this studio is asking you to consider if there a need for a new type of sacred space — one that serves dimensions of life currently not engaged by traditional faith practices.

PROCESS: the Petworth Place for Spirit and Wellbeing should reflect some of the elements of contemporary ideas and questions about spirituality, along with some dimension of traditional sacred spaces. Reflect on the readings and discussions of Parts 1 and 2A, and consider the *Relevant Readings* listed below. Pay particular attention to the message of *Laudato Si*, the Pope’s recent encyclical, about our estrangement from the natural world and the ecological and spiritual consequences of that distancing. Since this is not a single-use building, but multifaceted in its spaces and functions, it should offer opportunities to design “in cathedral,” to use a term coined by writer Elizabeth Drescher and explored in Keith Anderson’s book, *The Digital Cathedral*. Being “in cathedral” recognizes the sacred in everyday life, in everyday places, the network of relationships among neighbors and even strangers, and the witness of believers beyond the confines of an enclosed sacred space. Petworth Place should be “in cathedral” with the surrounding neighborhood and the people who live there.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

Petworth Place is to be located on a site of a demolished Wendy’s. The site is approximately 33,400 square feet; the design should respect existing setbacks. The building itself should be at least 25,000 square feet but no larger than 40,000 square feet. The program is flexible, in the sense that you should choose to address 8 spaces/places from the Program List below. The local building code needs to be followed. The four bold items are **required** in every design, but it is up to you to decide how much space they should occupy to successfully perform their function.

Program List

A place to pray, to leave a prayer and to take a prayer.

A place to serve meals to those in need.

An outdoor space that has some privacy.

A place devoted just to view the moon and stars.

A place for target shooting.

A place where young people and old people can share.

A traditional worship space.

A place where items and non-perishable food can be deposited by neighbors for those in need.

A place to cry and grieve a loss.

A program element that is “Your Thing.”

A place where one can obtain information and guidance on health and nutrition.

A pub, coffeehouse or similar place, with a space for groups to share conversation on spirituality/religion.

A place to slow down and appreciate the wonders of nature.

A place where art can be made, displayed, and performed.

A place to find, experience, and practice silence.

A place to house or attend those in (you define) need.

A spiritual home for those feeling spiritually homeless.

A place to give or receive ...

RELEVANT READINGS

Anderson, Keith. “The Digital Cathedral: Distributed and Situational Sacred Space.” *Faith & Form*, Volume 47, Number 3 (2014), pp. 25-26

Anderson, Keith. “God on Tap: At the Intersection of Life and Faith,” in *The Digital Cathedral* (New York: Morehouse Publishing, 2015)

Anderson, Keith. “Everyday Sacred: Locating God in Daily Life,” in *The Digital Cathedral* (New York: Morehouse Publishing, 2015)

Anderson, Keith. “Make Your Neighborhood Your Cathedral,” in *The Digital Cathedral* (New York: Morehouse Publishing, 2015)

Berghoef, Bryan. *Pub Theology: Beer, Conversation, and God* (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2012, selected excerpts provided)

Bermudez, Julio. *The VAS Manifesto*

Chiotti, Roberto. “A Reflection on ‘Care for Our Common Home,’” *Faith & Form*, Volume 48, Number 3 (2015), pp. 32-33

Eliade, Mircea. *The Sacred and the Profane* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, 1959)

Kilde, Jeanne Halgren. “A Method of Thinking About Power Dynamics in Christian Space,” in *Sacred Power, Sacred Space: An Introduction to Christian Architecture and Worship* (Oxford: University Press, 2008, discusses the concept of “situational” sacred space)

PART I

For a definition of refer to https://www.academia.edu/4020964/On_the_Architectural_Design_Part_I

PRODUCT: You will make a graphic and verbal presentation to the studio class that explains your *architectural parti* for Petworth Place. Particular requirements will be provide later.

MODALITY: Individual/team work

GRADE: 30% of course grade

KICK-OFF WORK (For Wed 30 Sept at 2:00pm)

Minimum of three (two) 1:20 scale rough/massing models for each of one of three (two) different ideas (total 9 models for teams, 5 for individuals). The models (to fit studio model) should use at least 2 (and no more than 4) different materials. Consider expressing enclosure systems (wall, frame, roof, excavation).

The methodology of operation should follow a (1) ‘conceptual,’ (2) ‘contextual,’ and (3) ‘typological’ logic (in that order).