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Heavenly City: The Architectural Tradition of Catholic Chicago

By Denis R. McNamara



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This visually stunning and carefully researched book encompasses many of the most significant churches of the Archdiocese of Chicago, addressing both their architectural and theological significance. The insightful and readable text is lavishly illustrated throughout with full-color photographs, creating a book suitable for those interested in local history, architectural achievement, theological insight, or who simply desire to glory in the visual beauty of Chicago's churches.

- Features 68 churches and chapels, in many of Chicago's principal city neighborhoods and suburbs
- Over 250 striking color photographs
- The scholarly yet accessible text addresses church buildings as both examples of architectural movements and sacramental images of the heavenly city of Jerusalem (Revelation 21:1)
- Broad appeal for pilgrims, architects, and historians, both casual visitors and serious scholars

Hardcover, 9 1/2 x 13, 160 pages.



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Editorial Review

Review

A study of not just Catholic churches but a social and cultural history of Chicago from its beginnings. --
Richard Guy Wilson, Commonwealth Professor of Architectural History, University of Virginia

Chicago is a city of neighborhoods. At the center of many of the neighborhoods stand Catholic churches. --
Rev. Andrew Greeley, Chicago priest, author

Like the best works of architectural history, we learn, among other things, a great deal about Chicago's social history. --*Thomas Gordon Smith, AIA, Thomas Gordon Smith Architects, School of Architecture University of Notre Dame*

From the Author

FROM THE PREFACE OF HEAVENLY CITY To speak of Chicago architecture is to call to mind the names of Daniel Burnham, Frank Lloyd Wright, Louis Sullivan, and Mies van der Rohe. But Chicago's rich array of architectural offerings includes other names as well, architects whose work Chicagoans have come to live with like old friends and which still inspires visitors to the city. The spires and domes of Chicago's Catholic churches seen while driving on the expressways or walking through South Shore, Lincoln Park, Old Town, or Garfield Park neighborhoods are not only familiar landmarks for the passersby, but comfortable second homes for millions of Chicagoans. This book is intended to put these city-wide architectural treasures on display, a source of pride for those who know them well and think of them as their own, and a source of information for those drawn by their history and beauty.

About the Author

Denis R. McNamara, an architectural historian who specializes in American church architecture of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, holds a PHD from the University of Virginia. He has written and lectured widely on the history and theology of ecclesiastical architecture, and served on the Art and Architecture Commission of the Archdiocese of Chicago. He is currently assistant director and faculty member at the Liturgical Institute of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary, and serves as a liturgical design consultant.

James Morris specializes in architectural and cultural subjects from around the world, working with publishers, magazines, and architects, including his recent work in the 2000 book *Churches of London* (Contemporary Books). In 2004 he published the monograph *Butabu: Adobe Architecture of West Africa*, of which The New York Times commented, "The British photographer James Morris easily takes the palm for the year's most haunting architectural images." His work is exhibited in both Europe and the United States and has been awarded prizes by, among others, Chicago's Graham Foundation for advanced studies in the fine arts, and the United Kingdom's Design and Art Directors Guild. He currently lives in Wales.

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