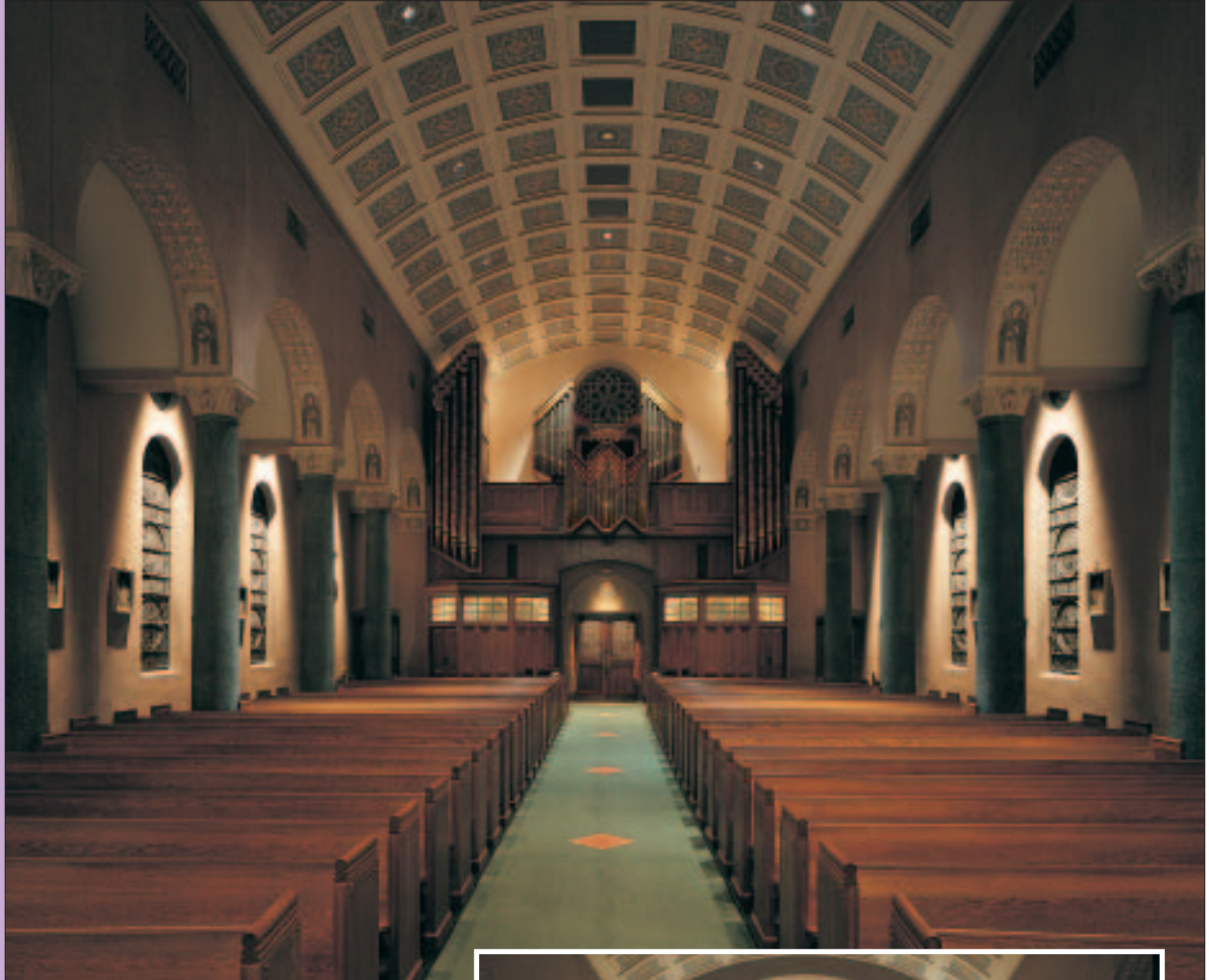


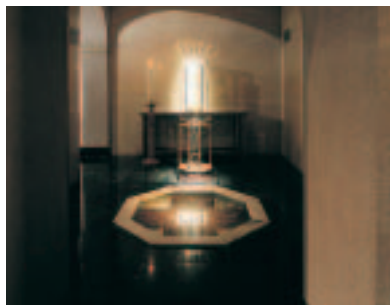
St. Anne's Church Houston, Texas



New lighting control system creates a flexible environment and dramatic effects at the touch of a button.

Interior view of church from altar/sanctuary (above). Altar/sanctuary view (right), with architectural details highlighted.





Lighting subtly enhances the beauty of St. Anne's Church.

PROJECT

Church Interior

CLIENT

St. Anne's Church

LIGHTING CONSULTANT

Michael John Smith,
AIA, IES, IALD

ARCHITECT

Ray Bailey Architects,
Inc.

EQUIPMENT PROVIDERS

Lutron Electronics
Co., Inc.,
Coopersburg, Pa.

LUTRON PRODUCTS

Preset multi-scene
dimming controls

THE CHALLENGE

The interior of St. Anne's Church in Houston, Texas, was recently renovated as a result of Vatican II recommendations to accommodate the new liturgy. A new lighting system was included in this renovation in order to highlight these changes. Michael John Smith, project lighting designer, wanted to reveal the unique architectural features of the space without drawing attention to the light sources. His goal: "To alter as little as possible while revealing more than ever before."

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Control flexibility and simplicity were among key client requirements. Lutron preset multi-scene controls were selected because of their simple, touchbutton operation and capability of handling up to 16 scenes. The main control unit was located in the balcony; accessory controls were placed in the sacristy and at the entrance from the rectory.

Recognizing that the church has many functions, each requiring different lighting, led Michael John Smith to specify preset lighting control. Smith programmed the controls to the appropriate light levels for each activity. (See Typical Lighting Scenes below.) Fade times were employed to add drama. There is convenient access to the controls, and the system is able to subtly focus the congregation's attention through changes in scenes during different services.

Savings in energy usage and operating costs have also been realized. The lighting system requires less energy when lights are dimmed. Dimming also extends lamp life and reduces the need to change difficult-to-access bulbs as often. Lighting maintenance labor costs have not increased despite the fact that 20 original fixtures were replaced by approximately 100 new fixtures.

Dimming is always part of Smith's lighting design for a project such as this. "We dim for lamp life extension and to reduce maintenance costs... as well as for aesthetics. Gradual changes in the lighting level allow for a subtle reinforcement of activities. Focal lighting draws the eye of the congregation while providing a varied luminous environment."

UNVEILING THE SYSTEM

The new lighting was installed during the 40 days of Lent, and the evening Easter Vigil was the first service to be performed. From semi-darkness at the beginning of the service (for a somber mood), the lights were brought up to full (at the Easter Gloria) with the choir singing for a breathtaking, powerful and emotional event.

TYPICAL LIGHTING SCENES INCLUDE

- Funeral
- Good Friday/Vigil
- Mass
- Easter Gloria or Alleluia
- Baptism
- Wedding
- Pre-Mass
- 10 second fade-to-off for Easter Gloria
- Church unoccupied (day, night, with choir rehearsal)



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