



HELPING CHURCH LEADERS MAKE THE TRANSITION FROM THE PRESENT TO THE FUTURE

Number 57 October 28, 1996

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CHURCH ARCHITECTURE IN THE 21st CENTURY

“Architects have a key role in shaping the new reformation that is reflected in the 21st century church” said Leonard Sweet to a national conference of church architects held in Dallas two weeks ago. Sweet wove the threads of historical shifts in culture, church, and architecture as background to outlining his “Ten Commandments of Post Modern Soulistic Health Architecture” (below). Other speakers addressed critical issues facing churches and architects including building design and costs, zoning issues, code revisions and cultural changes that will impact churches in the future. **Audio tapes of the complete “Church Architecture in the 21st Century” conference are available for \$25. To order a set, call (214) 828-5125.**

10. **Thou shalt not make any graven images.** “You are building sacred space...design for multiple use and re-cycling of the facilities. This new world is one of change and complexity, not stability and order.”
9. **Thou shalt not commit an ugly.** “Your job is to put people in places of beauty, not indulgence. Aesthetics has everything to do with soulmaking.”
8. **Thou shalt not design for one sense alone, but all five.** “You must design space that engages all five senses...consider them as a whole, not in isolation from one another. Smell will be the most important sense in the 21st century.”
7. **Thou shalt have a sense of place.** “People today more than ever need roots, a place of belonging. Design for the culture that God has given us and increasingly, ours is an electronic culture and that means screens, especially in the learning space of a church.”
6. **Thou shalt get real.** “The post modern church is reality based, not performance based, and uncovers hypocrisy. Design for interactivity and accentuate people’s relationships.”
5. **Thou shalt build an organic, living church.** “The emphasis in the future will be on arches, domes, and atriums, not glass, steel, and sealed windows.”
4. **Thou shalt take the church out of doors.** “Christianity is an out of door religion. Pay attention to gardens outside and “sky gardens” inside.”
3. **Thou shalt love the land on which you stand.** “Be environmentally responsible.”
2. **Thou shalt not build dumb buildings.** “Build smart churches that can glorify God.”
1. **Thou shalt build spaces in which people can experience God.** “Point people to something larger than themselves. Build the sky in which souls may soar.”

**Look for the coming Church Architecture section available December 1
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