



CityLife Downtown Charter School



The Sacred Spaces of Wilshire Boulevard
A Guide for Kids, by Kids

I n t r o d u c t i o n

This book came about because of our study of the history of Los Angeles through the history and preservation of the Sacred Spaces of Wilshire Boulevard. We learned about the religions, architecture and how Los Angeles was built by going on outings to these sacred spaces and talking with the people who knew about the history of the buildings and their worshippers.

We began this project by visiting the eight sacred spaces (seven churches and one temple). Each of our Advisory Groups went to two historic religious spaces. We had guided tours at each church by people who were knowledgeable. We took notes, made sketches and took digital pictures of things we were interested in at each church. We returned to school and organized our information. Then, we wrote questions to do more research. We used published books about the Sacred Spaces in Los Angeles, published information prepared for us by the Los Angeles Conservancy, and the internet.

Fourteen students made up the Writers group. They compiled all of our information on big charts, one for each church. Then, we wrote our first draft about each church. We worked with teachers to edit the work and then we rewrote a second and third draft. Eight students formed the Artists group. They went back to the churches to make more sketches and to take specific pictures that the Writers needed to go with the text of this book.

We learned about the differences in the architecture and the importance of preserving historic buildings. Without these buildings being preserved we could never have visited them. We were able to learn about the history of the communities around the churches, too. When these churches were first built the congregations were made-up mostly of white, English speaking people. Now, the congregations are open to more ethnic groups and the services are held in different languages such as Spanish, Tagalog, and Korean. We have learned much doing this whole project and we hope you also find things to investigate that interest you.

Note: The churches and temple in this guide are listed alphabetically. The number in () indicates the location on the map. There are bus stops along Wilshire Boulevard within a block of each church/temple, and the Red Line stops at Vermont, Normandie and Western.

Fatima Cervantes and Alex Prieto, Editors

Este libro llevo a realizarse a traves de nuestras investigaciones acerca de la historia de Los Angeles y a traves de la historia y la preservacion de los Espacios Sagrados de la Avenida Wilshire. Visitando estos Espacios Sagrados y hablando, no solamente con los feligreses sino tambien con la gente que conoce la historia de estos edificios, pudimos aprender muchas cosas.

Iniciamos nuestro proyecto visitando ocho Espacios Sagrados: siete iglesias y un templo. Cada uno de nuestros grupos de consejeria visito dos Espacios Sagrados. Los guias de las iglesias demostraron sus conocimientos mientras daban tours de las iglesias. Nuestro metodo de aprendizaje incluye escritura, dibujo y fotografia digital de lo que mas nos cautivo. Al regresar a la escuela, se organizo la informacion y se escribio aun mas preguntas para seguir investigando, no solamente a traves del internet, sino tambien a traves de informacion preparada por el Conservatorio de Los Angeles y libros publicados que se tratan de los Espacios Sagrados de Los Angeles.

Los catorce estudiantes que formaron el grupo de escritores, recopilaron sus investigaciones de cada iglesia en tablas graficas. Los escritores, junto con los profesores, escribieron su primer ensayo de las iglesias. Despues de redactar los ensayos varias veces, los estudiantes finalizaron sus escrituras. El grupo de los ocho artistas hicieron un paseo a las iglesias para dibujar y tomar fotos, las cuales serian acompañadas por las escrituras de los estudiantes.

Los escritores y artistas aprendieron acerca de las diferencias en arquitectura y la importancia de preservar edificios historicos. Sin estos edificios preservados no podriamos visitarlos y aprender de ellos. Pudieron aprender de historia de las comunidades alrededor de las iglesias tambien. Cuando estas iglesias fueron construidas la mayoría de los fieles eran personas de habla ingles. Ahora las congregaciones estan abiertas a muchos grupos etnicos y las misas son dadas en diferentes idiomas como espanol, tagalog y coreano. Los estudiantes han aprendido mucho a traves de este proyecto y esperan que ustedes tambien encuentren las investigaciones interesantes.

Note: Las iglesias y templos en esta guia estan en orden alfabetico. El numero en () indica el lugar en el mapa. Hay paradas de buses por Wilshire Blvd. No mas de una cuadro de cada iglesia/templo, y la linea roja para en las calles Vermont, Normandie y Western.

Fatima Cervantes y Alex Prieto, Editores

First Congregational Church is a Protestant church designed by Allison and Allison Architects. It is home to the oldest continuous Protestant congregation in Los Angeles. Like other churches and temples that began in downtown Los Angeles, the congregation began in 1867 near El Pueblo and later moved west along Wilshire Boulevard. The church is built in a Cruciform shape.



The main doors to the church have large bronze doors, each weighing 1000 pounds with bas relief scenes from the life of Christ.

An example of English Gothic revival architecture, First Congregational Church has a large, intricately carved reredos which is a copy of the reredos in Winchester Cathedral in England. This church is made of reinforced concrete to look like stone, and it has very heavy concrete arches in the nave.

With 22,000 organ pipes, First Congregational Church has the largest church organ in the world. When the biggest or deepest-sounding pipes play really loud, the church vibrates. The oak pews still have the original red cushions. The main doors to the church have large bronze doors, each weighing 1000 pounds, with bas relief scenes from the life of Christ.

540 South Commonwealth Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90020
213-385-1341
www.fccla.org

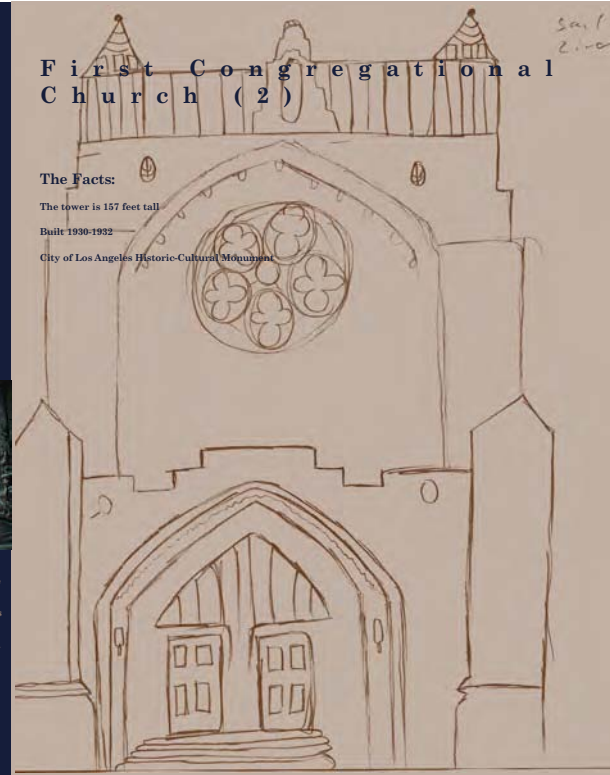
F i r s t C o n g r e g a t i o n a l C h u r c h (2)

The Facts:

The tower is 157 feet tall

Built 1930-1932

City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument



La Primera Iglesia de Feligreses, disenada por los arquitectos Allison y Allison, es la Iglesia Protestante mas Antigua que ha servido a su comunidad protestante continuamente en Los Angeles. Como otras iglesias y templos que comenzaron en el centro de Los Angeles, los fieles comenzaron en crecer en 1867 cerca de El Pueblo y con el tiempo, se establecieron al oeste hacia la Avenida Wilshire. El santuario esta construido en forma de crucifixion.

La Primera Iglesia de Feligreses es un ejemplo de arquitectura del periodo de renacimiento gotico ingles. Las complejidades de los tallados son los mismos de los tallados en la Catedral de Winchester en Inglaterra. Esta iglesia fue construida y reforzada con concreto, la cual da la impresion de piedra.

Con sus 22,000 tubos, el organo de la Primera Iglesia de Feligreses es el organo de iglesia mas grande del mundo. Siempre que se escucha los tubos mas fuertes de sonido, se sienten las vibraciones en toda la iglesia. Los bancos de roble todavia tienen sus cojines rojos originales. Cada puerta principal de la iglesia pesa mil libras. En estas puertas de bronce, uno puede observar diferentes escenas de la vida de Cristo.



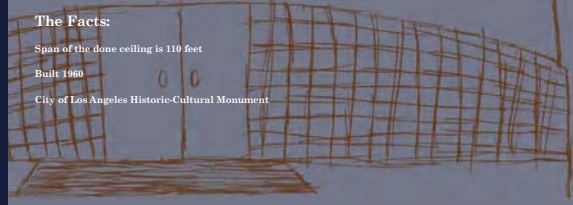
Founders Church of Religious Science (3)

Founders Church was designed by Paul Williams, a famous African American architect in Los Angeles. It is a modern structure in a round shape with no corners. The story told by the founder of the church is that it was made round so that there would be no corners where the Devil might hide. This round shape also symbolizes unity and wholeness.

The beliefs of Religious Science do not include crosses, pictures of Jesus or an altar. The table in the front is used only for the speakers.

Although there is no rose window and no stained glass windows, Founders Church has a large mural painted on glass, to look like stained glass with no sun shining through – they use lights instead of the sun. Actually, this modern church with its theatre-like sanctuary does not have any windows at all. The carpeted floors, theatre organ and theatre-style seats give it a more modern feeling than the other churches of Wilshire Boulevard.

3281 West Sixth Street
Los Angeles, CA 90020
213-388-9733
www.founderschurch.org



The Facts:

Span of the dome ceiling is 110 feet

Built 1960

City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument



Founder's Church has a large mural painted on glass, to look like stained glass with no sun shining through – they use lights instead of the sun.

Esta iglesia fue diseñada por el famoso arquitecto Africano-Americano de Los Angeles, Paul Williams. La iglesia tiene un estilo moderno con forma redonda sin ningún rincón. De acuerdo al fundador de la iglesia, la razón por la cual no tiene rincones la iglesia es para que el Diabolo no tenga ningún sitio para esconderse. Además, la forma redonda de la iglesia simboliza unidad e integridad.

Las creencias de la Ciencia Religiosa no incluyen cruces, imágenes de Jesús ni tampoco el altar. La mesa en adelante es utilizada solamente para los parlantes.

A pesar que no existen cristales de colores en esta iglesia, sí hay un mural que está pintado en una ventana quebrilla con luces en vez del sol. La verdad es que esta iglesia moderna, con su santuario estilo de teatro, no tiene ninguna ventana. La alfombra en el piso, el órgano y asientos teatrales definitivamente le dan un estilo moderno y diferente que las otras iglesias en la Avenida Wilshire.



Immanuel Presbyterian Church (4)

Immanuel Presbyterian Church is a Protestant church designed by Chauncy F. Skilling and Henry M. Patterson Architects. It is an example of Gothic revival architecture.

This church has a lot of detail in the carving on the altar, the hand carved pulpit and the stencilled ceilings. The ceiling is very boat-like in its shape.



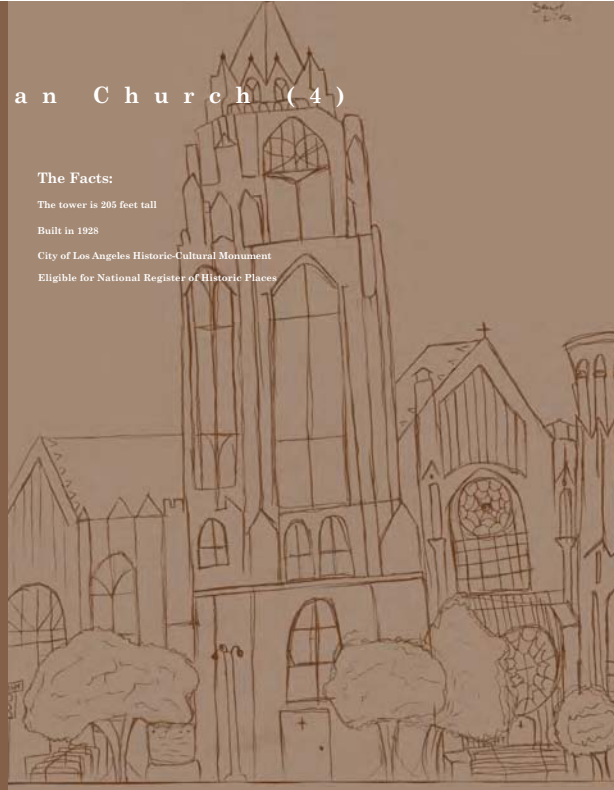
There is a rose window and original stained glass windows which show scenes from the life of Christ. These beautiful examples of stained glass were created by Dixon Art Glass Company. The chapel has stained glass windows by the Judson Studios.

A very special feature of this church is the use of ancient symbols in the tiles on the floor. There are iron crosses and a religious symbol that later was tilted and changed by Hitler into what became known as a swastika, the Nazi emblem.

A very special feature of this church is the use of ancient symbols in the tiles on the floor. There are iron crosses and a religious symbol that later was tilted and changed by Hitler into what became known as a swastika, the Nazi emblem.

The pews are unusual because they combine bench backs with theatre style seats. That means that the row shares backs, but each person has an individual seat. The organ at Immanuel Presbyterian Church has 4,000 pipes. The congregation presently includes Latinos, Anglos, Filipinos, Koreans, and African Americans.

3300 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90010
213-389-3191
www.immanuelpres.org



The Facts:

The tower is 205 feet tall

Built in 1928

City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument

Eligible for National Register of Historic Places

La Iglesia Presbiteriana de Emanuel es una iglesia protestante diseñada por los arquitectos Chauncy F. Skilling y Henry M. Patterson. Esta iglesia es un ejemplo de arquitectura del periodo renacimiento gótico.

Esta iglesia tiene muchos detalles tallados en el altar, en el pulpito y en los vitrales del techo, el cual tiene forma de barco. Los cristales de colores demuestran escenas de la vida de Cristo. La compañía Dixon Art Glass son los responsables por construir estas bellas ventanas de colores. Los cristales en la capilla son hecho por Judson Studios.

El detalle más especial de la iglesia es el uso de los símbolos antiguos que se ven en las baldosas del piso. Ernest A. Bachelder de Pasadena es responsable por esta creación. Aquí también se puede observar cruces hechas de hierro y un símbolo religioso que después fue cambiado por Hitler en la época Nazi en Alemania, conocido como el Swastika.

Los asientos son únicos ya que tienen una combinación de bancos y asientos de teatro. Esto significa que la gente comparte el banco, sin embargo, cada persona tiene su propio asiento. El órgano en esta iglesia tiene 4,000 tubos. Los feligreses incluyen Latinos, Filipinos, Coreanos y Africanos-Americanos.



Iron Crosses: A religious symbol that was tilted and changed by Hitler into what became known as the swastika, the infamous Nazi emblem.

Precious Blood Church (1)

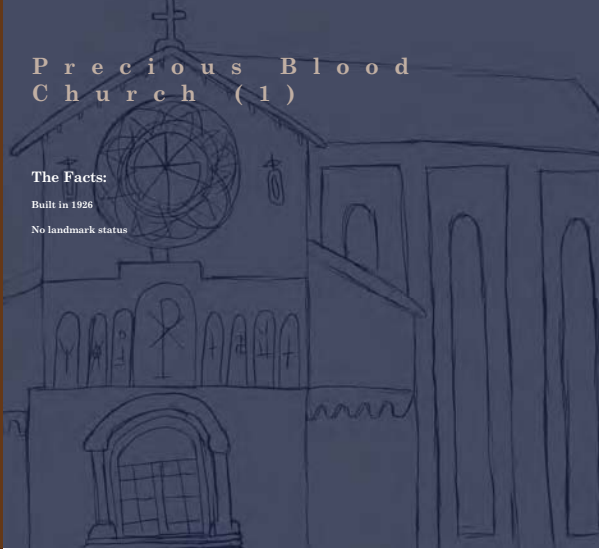
Precious Blood Church is a Roman Catholic Church designed by Henry C. Newton and Robert D. Murray Architects. It is in the Italian Romanesque style with rounded arches and a beautifully painted ceiling.

There is a large altar with a huge mosaic mural made from small tiles in vivid colors with lots of gold. When the church was first built, the wall was blank. The mural was added later when the church was able to raise the money for it. A crucifix is hanging in front of the mural, behind the altar. Also made of mosaic tiles are the fourteen pictures of the Stations of the Cross.

The rose window of Precious Blood Church has an ornate frame of concrete which adds to its beauty from the outside. There are plain wooden pews with kneelers for the people to use during prayer.

This church sits on swampy soil and required 150 reinforced pilings driven to an average depth of 22 feet to support the building. The church is built of concrete, and the walls are hollow to reduce the weight on the pilings of the foundation.

435 South Occidental Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90057
213-389-8439



The Facts:

Built in 1926

No landmark status

La Iglesia Catolica-Romana, Sangre Preciosa, fue disenada por los arquitectos Henry C. Newton y Robert D. Murray. e arcos redondos y balcon techos pintados.

En el enorme altar, hay un mural mosaico hecho de pequenas baldosas de colores vibrantes y mucho oro. Cuando la iglesia fue construida, las paredes estaban vacias. Cuando la iglesia pudo acudir sus fondos, anadieron el mural. Un crucifijo cuelga adelante del mural y detras del altar.

La ventana rosada de esta iglesia tiene un cuadro ornamentado de concreto que le anado a su belleza cuando uno la ve desde afuera. Las bancas de madera llenan espacio para que la gente pueda arrodillarse y rezar.

Esta iglesia esta situada sobre tierra pantanosa. Es por eso que se necesito 150 amontonamientos reforzados conducidos a una profundidad media de 22 pies para apoyar el edificio. La iglesia es construida con concreto y las paredes son huecos para poder reducir el peso sobre los amontonamientos de la fundacion.



This modern style Roman Catholic Church was designed by Albert C. Martin and Associates Architects. This new concrete church replaced an original wooden church which was destroyed by a fire. The lines of the church look crooked and irregular in shape, somewhat like a Picasso painting. The building is made of twelve separate columns, representing the Twelve Tribes of Israel and the Twelve Apostles, that are connected by the stained glass windows.

There is no Rose Window. Instead, the angular windows are of stained glass, but they dont tell a story or relate to a Biblical scene. The windows deliberately look unfinished to draw ones eyes toward Heaven. Their geometric shaped designs start with large shapes on the bottom and get smaller as they go up. Finally, they are only the metal frames with no glass at the top. That is what makes them look unfinished.



The wooden pews are benches with no cushions.

Not only is the architecture of the building modern, but the features inside the church are of a modern style. For example, the Crucifix above the altar

is surrounded by a very modern sculpture made of aluminum that makes it look as if it is suspended in midair. The aluminum looks like teak wood. Even the ceiling has modern designs on it. The wooden pews are benches with no cushions, but they do have kneelers for praying. In the Narthex there are two very large statues made of fiberglass, one of St. Paul and one of St. Peter.

3611 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90010
213-381-6191

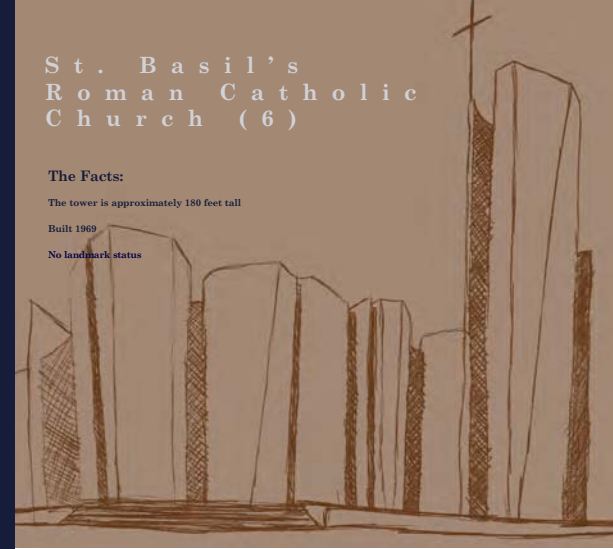
St. Basil's Roman Catholic Church (6)

The Facts:

The tower is approximately 180 feet tall

Built 1969

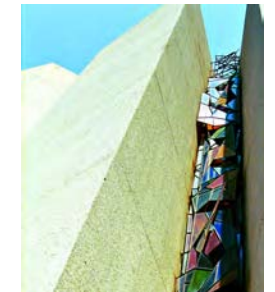
No landmark status



El estilo moderno de la Iglesia Romana de St. Basil fue construida por los arquitectos Albert C. Martin y Associates, slo reemplazo una iglesia de Madera que fue destruida por un fuego. Las lineas de la iglesia son parecidas a una pintura de Picasso ya que estan torcidas, el edificio es hecho de doce columnas separadas, cada una representando a las doce tribus de Israel y los doce apóstoles. Estas doce columnas estan conectadas a traves de ventanas de colores.

En esta iglesia no hay ventana rosada. Apesar de que las ventanas angulares son cristales de colores, no nos presenta ni imagines ni cuentos de la biblia. A proposito, las ventanas se en sin terminar para que uno pueda fijar sus ojos hacia el cielo. La forma geometrica de estas ventanas comienzan bien grandes desde abajo y se hacen pequenas en la parte arriba de la ventana. El hecho de que la parte mas arriba de la ventana no tenga cristal, hace que la ventana no parezca terminada.

La modernidad de la arquitectura no solamente es evidente afuera del edificio, sino, tambien es evidente en los detalles adentro de la iglesia. Por ejemplo, el crucifijo que cuelga sobre el altar esta rodeado por una escultura moderna hecha de aluminio. Esto da la impresion que el crucifijo esta en el aire. El techo tambien tiene techos modernos. Las bancas de Madera no tiene almohadas, pero si tienen un espacio para arrodillarse. Hay dos estatuas grandes hechas de fibras de vidrio en esta Iglesia, una es del santo Pablo y la otra es del santo Pedro.



St. James Episcopal Church (8)

The Facts:

Built 1925 - 1927

No landmark status

St. James Episcopal Church was designed by architect Benjamin McDougall. It was built in a Gothic style of concrete covered with stucco.

The stained glass windows are by Judson Studios, located in Highland Park. Each window has two parts: the top part, which is larger, relates a scene from the Bible and the bottom part, which is also the part of the window that opens,



shows how that scene might be practiced by families today. The original stain glass was pale glass and the rich colors added as there was money to replace the pale windows.

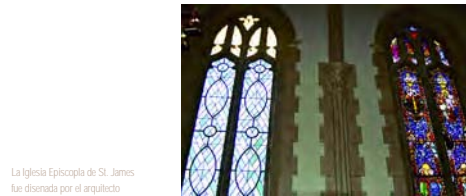
The Gothic ceiling cross beams and ceiling beams are built in the same shape as the construction of a boat, symbolizing God carrying His people through the storms of life.

The Gothic ceiling is high and pointed. The cross

beams and the ceiling beams are built in the same shape as the construction of the hull of a boat symbolizing God carrying His people through the storms of life.

Similar to Immanuel Presbyterian Church, the symbol of the ancient cross which resembles the Swastika appears in the design on the floor. The tiles with the ancient cross design in this church were designed by Mueller Mosaic Company in Trenton, New Jersey.

3903 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90010
213-388-3417
www.saintjamesla.org

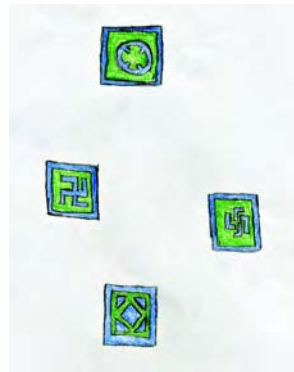


La Iglesia Episcopal de St. James fue diseñada por el arquitecto Benjamin McDougall, gótico fue construida con concreto cubierto con estuco.

Las ventanas de colores fueron creadas por los Judson Studios que son situados en Highland Park. Cada ventana tiene dos partes: la parte de arriba, que es la más grande, nos presenta una escena de la biblia, mientras la parte de abajo, que es la ventana que abre, nos presenta como la escena puede ser practicada por las familias de hoy en día. Originalmente, la ventana no tenía color. Apenas la iglesia obtuvo dinero, la iglesia amado los colores ala ventana.

El techo gótico es alto y termina en una punta. Los rayos de la cruz y el techo están construidos de tal manera que tienen un parecido al casco de un barco. Esto simboliza Dios ayudando a su gente mientras existen las tormentas de la vida.

Esta iglesia comparte un detalle similar a la Iglesia presbiteriano emanuel ya que en el piso se ve el símbolo de la cruz antigua, muy parecido al Swastika. Ernest A. Batchelder, cuyo compañía queda situada en Pasadena, es responsable por crear las baldosas con cruces antiguos en esta iglesia.



Today's Wilshire Boulevard Temple is the third home of the oldest Jewish Congregation in Los Angeles. It was designed by Adelman, Allison and Norton Architects in a Byzantine style. It has a very large dome on the top which makes you think that the whole building is round. But it's actually an octagon.

On the inside, the dome is awesome. It rises up from the sanctuary walls as an octagon and joins at the top as a circle.



There is a Rose Window, called a Rosette, that has a Star of David in the middle. A mural, by Hugo Ballin, that goes around the sanctuary tells the history of the Jewish people.

This is very rare in Jewish tradition because Jews do not usually permit representations of human forms in their temples.

The Ark is decorated with small circles that somewhat resemble a rosette. In front of the Ark hangs the eternal light.

The pews are somewhat like those at Immanuel Presbyterian church, with bench backs and blue-cushioned theater seats.

3663 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90010
213-388-2401
www.wilshireboulevardtemple.org

Wilshire Boulevard Temple (7)

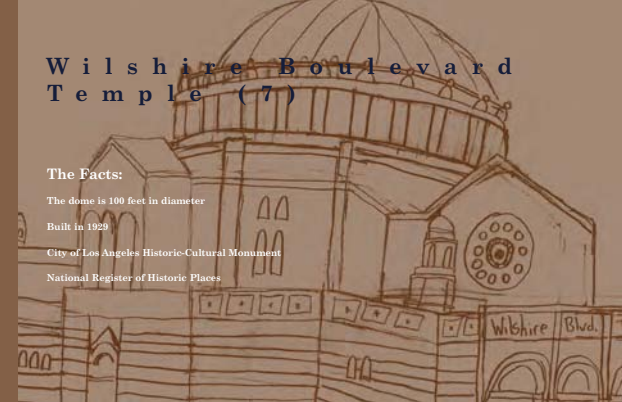
The Facts:

The dome is 100 feet in diameter

Built in 1929

City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument

National Register of Historic Places



Hoy en día, el Templo Wilshire Boulevard, está en terror lugar como el templo más antiguo de la comunidad Judía en Los Angeles. Fue diseñada en un estilo bizantino por los arquitectos Adelman, Allison y Norton. La cúpula es enorme que le hace pensar a uno que todo el edificio es redondo. Actualmente, la forma del edificio es un octágono.

La cúpula es maravillosa. Al principio del santuario, la cúpula parece ser un octágono, pero es obvio que es un círculo cuando uno ve hacia arriba.

Existe una ventana rosada llamada Rosette, en la cual vemos la estrella de David en todo medio de la ventana. También se puede observar un mural hecho por Hugo Ballin. En este mural, que se extiende alrededor del santuario, podemos ver la historia de la gente judía. Esto sí es algo raro ya que los judíos no permiten representaciones de formas humanas en sus templos.



Wilshire Christian Church (5)

Wilshire Christian Church was the first church to be built on Wilshire Boulevard. In 1910 the congregation met in a tent and in 1911 they moved into a bungalow type building. The present church was built in 1926. Robert Orr Architects designed the new Romanesque and Byzantine style building for this Protestant congregation. The architect, Robert Orr, was a member of this church.

The pews of the church which have the original cushions are made of cherry wood, now a wood illegal to cut. The church has the original carpets. The Rose Window made by Judson Studios is a copy of the Rheims Cathedral window in France. It has twenty-four stained glass rose petals around a large circular stained glass center.

The church has an interesting golden cross that looks like sand but is made of metal behind the baptismal font. In this church the baptismal font is larger and more like a pool because they believe in immersion baptism. This is when the entire body is covered with water.

634 South Normandie Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90005
213-382-6337
www.wchrisla.org

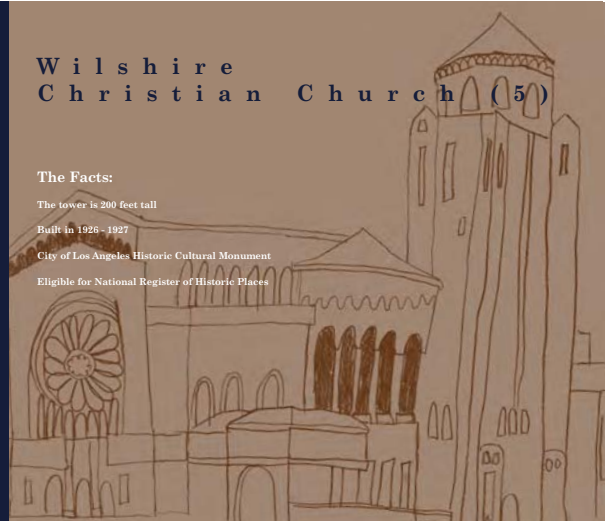
The Facts:

The tower is 200 feet tall

Built in 1926 - 1927

City of Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument

Eligible for National Register of Historic Places



La Iglesia Cristiana Wilshire fue la primera iglesia construida en la Avenida Wilshire, en el 1926. En el 1910, los fieles se reunieron en una carpá. Un año después, los fieles comenzaron a reunirse en una casa de una planta. Un feligres de esta iglesia llamado Robert Orr, fue el arquitecto que construyó la Iglesia Cristiana Wilshire. El estilo de esta iglesia protestante es romano-bizantino.

Las bancas, que tienen sus almohadones originales, son hechas de tipo de madera cherry, el caul es prohibido cortar. La alfombra de la iglesia es original también. La ventana rosada hecha por Judson Studios es una replica de la Catedral Rheims en Francia. Esta ventana tiene veinte-cuatro cristales en forma de pétalos de rosas que rodean un cristal coloroso en el centro.

La Iglesia tiene una cruz dorada que parece ser de arena, sin embargo, es hecha de metal. La razón por la cual la fuente bautismal es grande como una piscina, es porque aquí se acostumbraba cubrir el cuerpo entero en el agua, o bautismo de inmersión.



G l o s s a r y

Altar

The table in a Christian church where communion is offered. It symbolizes the Last Supper.

Arches

A curved structure for spanning an opening. Arches can be rounded or pointed.

Architecture

The art and science of building structures, conveying values as well as fulfilling needs.

Ark

The cabinet in a synagogue that holds the Torah.

Baptismal Font

A pedestal with a basin for water that is used for baptism, which symbolizes being cleansed of sins.

Bas relief

A kind of sculpting that requires carving away the surface of a stone or metal so that the resulting shape projects out from the surface.

Bimah

A raised platform with a wide table on top of it. The Torah scrolls are unrolled on the table so that they can be read.

Bronze

A mixture of metal and other elements that usually includes copper, zinc, and tin.

Byzantine Revival

A style from the Byzantine Empire (400-1200) that blended Roman and Turkish architectural styles. Characteristics include: domes, round arches, circular windows, and elaborate carvings and mosaics.

Chancel

The area around the altar of a church, for the clergy and sometimes the choir.

Concrete

A building material that is a mixture of cement, sand, crushed stone or pebbles and water that is cast in slabs or poured into molds.

Congregation

Members of the church or temple.

Crucifix

A cross with the figure of Jesus on it.

Cruciform

A building, such as a church, built in the shape of a cross.

Dome

A half-sphere roof or ceiling. From the inside, a dome is concave (curved like a segment of the interior of a ball). From the outside, a dome is convex (like the outside of a ball).

Eternal light

A light that never goes out.

Fiberglass

A material consisting of extremely fine threads of glass used for making various products (structures, fabrics).

Gothic Revival

An architectural style from Europe of the late 12th through 16th centuries. Characterized by vertical structures, pointed arches, and inventive sculptural detail. These features also help focus attention on large stained glass windows.

Hebrew

The ancient language used by Jews in worship.

Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument

The City of Los Angeles recognizes buildings (as well as other kinds of structures or sites) of special historic or architectural value by designating them as monument. Several of the religious buildings in our project are designated as Historic-Cultural Monument.

Modern

In the 1950s, some architects tried to create new architectural styles that did not copy from the past and that tried to avoid extra decorations. Modern churches try to express feelings and meanings through simplified, sometimes abstract shapes and forms.

Mosaic

A picture made from small pieces of colored glass or tiles.

Mural

A large picture painted on a wall.

Narthex

The entrance hall leading to the central space or aisle of a church.

National Register of Historic Places

The official federal list of cultural and historic resources worthy of preservation. Some Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Landmarks are also on the National Register of Historic Places.

Nave

The body of the church building where the congregation sits. (from the Latin word for ship).

Pew

The benches or chairs in the church where the congregation sits.

Preservation

Maintaining or saving from destruction buildings, sites, neighborhoods, or objects that are important in American local, regional, and national history, culture, or architecture. People practice preservation for many reasons. Preservation helps maintain identity, educates people about history, is an economic tool, and creates dialogues about shared values.

Reredos

A screen or decorated part of the wall behind an altar in a church.

Romanesque Revival

A style of architecture used for churches of Italy and Western Europe in the 9th century through 12th century that were based on ancient Roman styles. Characteristics include heavy brick or concrete blocks, round or slightly pointed arches for door or window openings, and vaulted ceilings.

Rose window

A round window made with panes of stained glass resembling the petals of a rose, which looks beautiful when the sun shines through it.

Sanctuary

A sacred or holy place; also used to refer to the area where the principal altar is placed, or the main room where the congregation sits.

Star of David

A six pointed star believed by Jews to have been the symbol of King David.

Stations of the Cross

Visual depictions of the path Jesus took from His arrest through to His crucifixion.

Stucco

A fine plaster or cement used to coat walls or for decoration.

Synagogue

A Jewish place of worship, designed so that the congregation faces Jerusalem.

Torah

The Jewish scriptures, handwritten on a scroll of parchment.

Transept

The crosswise part of a cruciform church.

C r e d i t s

The Sacred Spaces of Wilshire Boulevard: A Guide for Kids, by Kids represents the culmination of a semester-long collaborative project between CityLife Downtown Charter School and the Los Angeles Conservancy.

Located in the Historic Core of Downtown Los Angeles, CityLife Downtown Charter School is a neighborhood school that draws on the city's cultural, artistic, political, business, and community resources to provide a challenging, college-preparatory, academic program. In collaboration with parents, CityLife promotes educational practices that encourage students to find their own voices, to become independent thinkers, to be leaders within their community, and to develop into adults who are good neighbors and active citizens who will value learning as a means to personal growth, economic benefit, and social change.

The Los Angeles Conservancy is a nonprofit membership organization that works through education and advocacy to recognize, preserve, and revitalize the historic architectural and cultural resources of Los Angeles County. Founded in 1978 as part of a community-based effort to save the Los Angeles Central Library, the Conservancy now has more than 8,000 members and over 400 volunteers, making it the largest local historic preservation organization in the country. The Sacred Spaces project with CityLife represents the first of a series of public events that will be part of the Conservancy's Curating the City: Wilshire Boulevard, a new program combining a tour on October 2, 2005, with other events, a website, and guidebooks for adults and youth.

All 76 of the sixth-grade students at CityLife participated in the Sacred Spaces project, visiting the churches and temple, conducting research, and writing and illustrating this guide. They are to be commended for their diligence. For their work with the students, thanks are due to CityLife teachers Barbara Aviles, David D'Lugo, Tim Franklin, and Annie Lelkowitz; Library and Reading Consultant Jan Powell; Office Manager Ramon Aguilera; and Principal Luz Padua.

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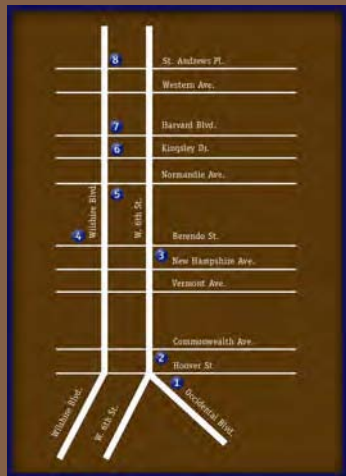
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Map/Legend

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Precious Blood | 5. Wilshire Christian |
| 2. First Congregational | 6. St. Basil's Catholic |
| 3. Founders Church | 7. Wilshire Blvd. Temple |
| 4. Immanuel Presbyterian | 8. St. James Episcopal |



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