



An architectural stained glass window and processional cross problem
by Les Keith Kinzell

A thesis submitted to the Graduate Faculty in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
MASTER OF APPLIED ART
Montana State University
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Abstract:

The project presented in this "document" is in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Applied Art at Montana State College in Bozeman, Montana, With the need for a building design for Christ the King Episcopal Church in Palmdale, California, the parish members and vicar of that group were convinced that the esoteric and aesthetic forms of detail" concerned with liturgical architecture were far more important than an impressive structure alone. The church design itself was temporarily abandoned along with several of the details that were to go with it in favor of a simple parish hall church. What resulted were the detail decorations for that building, Details of the ideas, research and work procedures for a stained glass window-wall and a processional cross that belong- to the parish hall are written into the body of this paper. Also contained are impressions and visions for probable continuation of this manner of art.

Materials and ideas dealt with in this paper are as follows: 1. Glass that is heavy enough to become a wall structure through its own thickness. By laying pieces of this material near one another with arranged colors the author was able to let the viewer's eye blend the composition into one continuous, softly-changing pattern.

2. A plastic, that will bond a vitreous material like glass" so that it becomes" stronger "than", the glass itself, yet have the physical properties that are required of glass.

This was Epoxy Resin.

3. Combinations and method's of handling of more" common materials in better"creative forms so that they will become a springboard for further projects in liturgical art.

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AND PROCESSIONAL CROSS PROBLEM

by

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1930-

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My wife, La Moyne, who has helped me continually through
this project



TABLE 1. fig. 1 window-wall. 

 fig. 2

fig. 3 

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INTRODUCTION

This problem originated in 1960, with the need of Christ the King Episcopal Church in Palmdale, California for ideas and designs that could be used in and for a 300-seat mission church. Father Landis, the vicar, wanted the church to incorporate modern features that would not become sterile in concept and yet hold to the idea of traditional serenity and inspiration. No amount of money for the construction of the church was specified. A free-standing altar, or one that stood away from the rear wall of the church and also a Christus Rex figure that could be installed above the altar in place of the traditional altar cross usually seen in Episcopal churches were desired features.

Many physical factors had to be taken into consideration in designing a structure such as this. Palmdale lies almost directly over the San Andres earthquake fault. It is on the Mojave Desert with extremes of wind, cold, heat and sunlight along with some blowing sand.

With these elements in mind the author spent one summer designing and constructing several models of churches, incorporating the Christus Rex and free-standing altar in each. A portion of the designs are located on Table 2.

Soon after the designs for the church were completed a parish member offered to donate money for a processional

cross that could be used in the services of the church as a memorial to a member of the family. The problem of designing and execution of the cross was given to the author, who will explain the aesthetics and technical problems in the body of the thesis. Three of the crosses shown on Table 3 have been completed or are in stages of completion at the time of this writing. Color photos showing more detail can be seen on Table 1.

After much deliberation and consultation about the proposed church, Father Landis and Mr. Carleton Winslow, a California architect, concluded that it would not be feasible to go on with the church at present because of the parish finances. It was decided instead that an all-purpose structure could be used temporarily for services and later become the parish hall.

As a result of the decision to curtail the church and Christus Rex project, the only tie with the original idea was the processional cross commission. The job of designing the parish hall was given to Mr. J. R. Petridge, an architect in Palmdale, California. Mr. Petridge had tentative drawings made by April of 1960 and then consulted about any changes or additional detail for the proposed building.

