

Church proposals

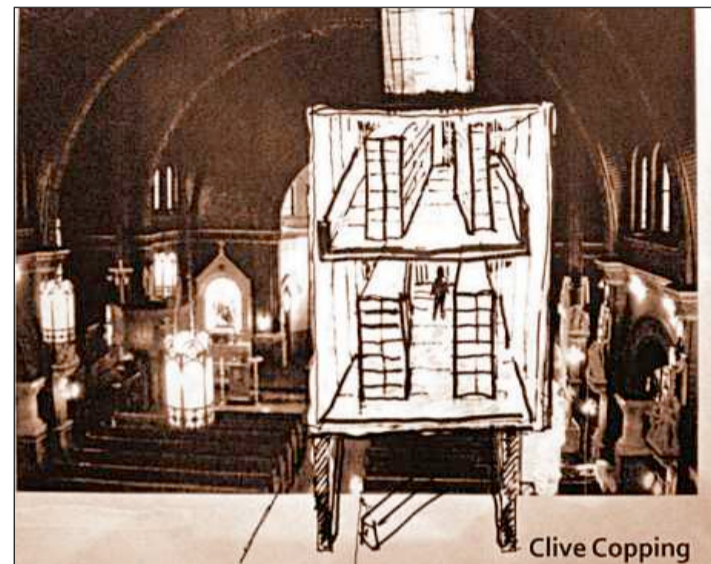
This box includes renderings and summaries of architects' comments concerning potential future uses of the three closed Cambria City churches, and visuals developed following a series of meetings held Nov. 18-20 to share ideas.

Information here was provided by the Johnstown Area Heritage Association and Partners for Sacred Places.



Ss. Casimir and Emerich

Concept 1: Columbarium - a place to inter ashes.



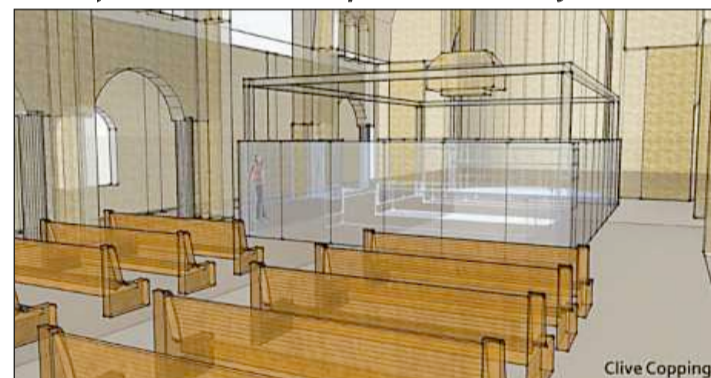
Clive Copping

Designer: Clive Copping; project manager in architecture with TranSystems of Philadelphia. Since early in his career, Copping has been involved in the rehabilitation of historic structures. He has undertaken master plans for historic properties, developed plans for additions, and has overseen restoration of existing complexes. He is a specialist in exterior envelope repair and the integration of new architecture into existing buildings. He has served as project manager on restorations on the American Museum of Natural History in New York, the main capitol building in Harrisburg and many church projects in Philadelphia and New York.

Comments:

- Came from suggestions from the Johnstown community.
- The actual structure would be like a "box" inside the church, which would be a minimal impact on the existing building; would have more than one level.
- Like selling real estate - there is the one-time acquisition fee, and then an annual fee, which helps for viability of concept.
- Limited climate control would be required.
- Intimate space lends itself to this.
- Would include a chapel.

Concept 2: Ethnic food factory/café/food learning center



Clive Copping

Designer: Copping.

Comments:

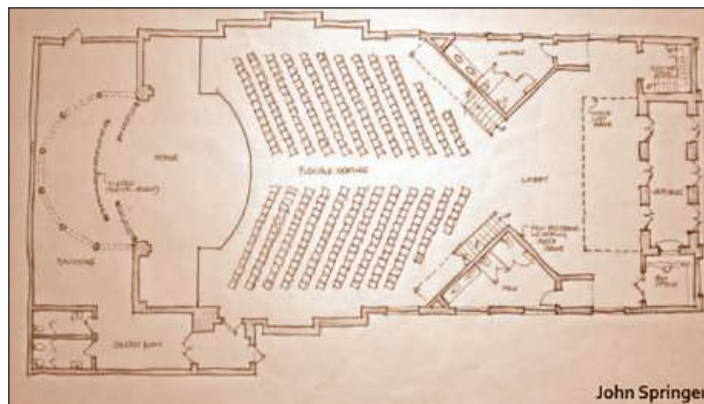
- The idea is to have an ethnic food factory that manufactures the delicacies this region is known for - pierogies, halupki, haluski etc. for resale in supermarkets, to restaurants, etc.
- Concept would allow people to come in and watch the food being made.
- Could include a TV show to help market the food and the region.
- Could include a café where food is served.
- Large basement would help in the implementation of idea - much of factory could be there.
- First floor would include demonstration area.
- Would build on the ethnic food tradition that the area is known for, bring people here, and help prevent those food traditions from being lost as older generations pass on.
- Includes educational component to teach others these culinary traditions; potential for food service training programs also.



Immaculate Conception

Concept 1: Performing arts center

Designer: Fred Watts; architect with Celli-Flynn Brennan Architects & Planners of Pittsburgh. He has more than 20 years of experience designing facilities for educational, judicial and medical uses, as well as historic preservation.

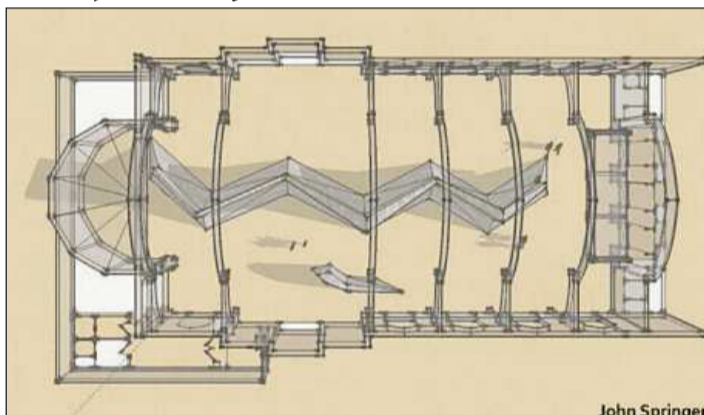


John Springer

Comments:

- Space has magnificent, functioning organ.
- Large space and beautiful acoustics, no columns intruding on sightlines.
- Location in relation to Bottle Works, Art Works and Concert Ballet lends itself to a performing arts use.
- Could also be used concurrently as a church by smaller congregations.
- There has been passing interest in using IC as a performing arts space by several arts groups.
- Concept included creating bathrooms and a lobby division in the main open space, since the entry hall into the church is so small, and existing bathrooms are inadequate.
- Plan includes flexible seating, so that the audience can face either the stage (where altar is now), or the organ if the program is an organ recital.
- A screen in front of the recessed area where altar is now could create backstage space.
- Could also include a wedding/special event rental business - the space could be rented for holding weddings, both the ceremony and the reception, and other special events.
- Potential for local arts groups to collaborate on use of the space; potential for other live events to be simulcast there (i.e. major opera companies, Prairie Home Companion, etc.).

Concept 2: Climbing wall



John Springer

Designer: John Springer; architect with Upstreet Architects, Springer has more than 15 years of experience in all aspects of architectural practice. He has worked for a variety of firms in western Pennsylvania and Massachusetts while completing his studies at Boston Architectural Center. He won the Boston Society of Architects scholarship design competition for outstanding design of a community center/art school/public library complex in 2001. Springer is also part owner of In-House Architects.

Comments:

- Your eyes are drawn upward at Immaculate Conception, high interior open space creates an ideal climbing room; space seems to defy gravity.
- A recreational space of this kind doesn't exist in Johnstown.
- Putting a climbing wall in there would be a minimal impact on the existing building.
- Minimal climate control would be required.
- Could be an all-sports training and sales facility - could include river sports, for example.

Concept 3: Brewpub



John Springer

Designer: Springer.

Comments:

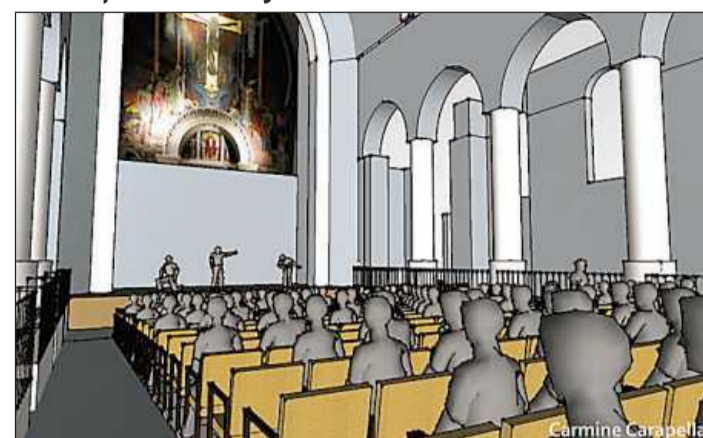
- Brewing apparatus could be in the middle of the space.
- Has been successfully done across the country, such as Church Brew Works in Pittsburgh.
- Could tie the beer varieties into different ethnicities, building on the neighborhood's existing identity; or the churches themselves.

- A lot of interest in having more destination food establishments in Cambria City.



St. Columba

Concept 1: Performing arts center



Carmine Carapella

Designer: Carmine Carapella; native of Italy who was trained in Rome, Carapella also holds a master's degree in architecture from Notre Dame. Carapella is a practicing architect in Pittsburgh who specializes in historic preservation, residential architecture and urban planning.

Comments:

- Sinking the floor several feet would create a stage; floor would be sloped.
- Preserves the altar painting.
- Acoustics and arched architecture lend themselves to performing arts.
- A standing stage in along the aisles.
- Organ would be removed, as it is not functioning; additional seating added in balcony.
- Sacristy area would become a green room/backstage area.

Concept 2: Interior conservatory



David O. Lose

Designer: David O. Lose; president emeritus of Lose & Associates, a landscape architecture, engineering, architecture, and land planning firm in Nashville, Tenn. A fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects, he has facilitated numerous planning and neighborhood charrettes.

Comments:

- A lot of interest in having an indoor green space.
- Quiet and meditative space - existing acoustic quality lends itself to this.
- Preserves altar painting and stained glass windows; glass block windows would be removed and replaced with pane glass for more light.
- Two levels of windows let in maximum sunlight.
- Conservatory could include upscale restaurant.
- Could include a water feature in the altar area.
- High visibility of site along Route 56 would help drive traffic.
- Diagonal parking already available along street.
- Space in the front, close to the altar area, could serve as a place for weddings/meeting rental functions.



Other design professionals who are volunteering their time to take part in the process:

■ **Ryan Kolar;** Johnstown native who graduated summa cum laude from North Carolina State University in 2003 and 2004 with degrees in architecture and planning. He has worked under notable architects including Rafael Vinoly, and he has completed award-winning projects in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, North Carolina and Scotland.

■ **Ben Policicchio;** graduate of Penn State in architecture and art history, and director of architectural planning/design and safety officer at Memorial Medical Center. He has won restoration awards for projects such as Central Park Commons in Johnstown and Noon-Collins Inn in Ebensburg. He is a registered architect and also a certified interior designer.