

PROFESSIONAL ALLIANCE SPOTLIGHT

Jaeger, Nickola & Associates, Ltd.

Jaeger, Nickola & Associates
350 S. Northwest Highway
Suite 106
Park Ridge, IL 60068
Office: (847) 692-6166
www.jaeger-nickola.com

Partners for Sacred Places always encourages congregations to choose professionals that have expertise in working with historic religious properties. Jaeger, Nickola & Associates (JNA), an architectural firm from suburban Chicago and a member of Partners' Professional Alliance, is an excellent example. In fact, JNA serves churches and faith-based clients exclusively. Over its 48-year history, the firm has completed more than 400 church projects in six states. JNA has produced master plans and construction feasibility studies, and designed worship, education, and administration buildings encompassing new construction, additions, historic restorations, renovations, accessibility, and adaptive re-use.

Jaeger, Nickola & Associates has also sponsored Partners' *New Dollars/New Partners for Your Sacred Place* training in Chicago, making it possible for ten congregations from several faith traditions to benefit from the intensive program. David Kuhlman, JNA Principal, presented a 90-minute talk titled "Learning to Look at Your Building with a New Eye," on architectural and engineering assessments for existing church buildings, at both the interfaith training and one held for ten Catholic parishes.

Kuhlman's desire to specialize in religious architecture was inspired through his studies at the University of Notre Dame. He explains, "Notre Dame's [School of Architecture] Rome Studies Program immersed us in the history of art and architecture in Rome. The city was our classroom." Third-year architecture students spent an entire year in Rome, "so



The award-winning, context-sensitive elevator addition to Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago, IL, designed by Jaeger, Nickola & Associates.

whether we were studying the Early-Christian, Medieval, Renaissance, or Baroque periods, we were constantly visiting and studying the great churches of Rome." Mr. Kuhlman said he experienced a strong "awakening" in his personal faith during that year in Rome, particularly after visiting the tomb of St. Francis in Assisi and on a personal pilgrimage to Medjugorje in Bosnia-Herzegovina. "It was the impact of these experiences that naturally led me personally toward a specialization in religious architecture – it provided a way for me to live my faith through my work."

His respect for traditional architecture and contextualism is integral to his design process. "Contextualism," Kuhlman explains, "is about designing buildings or additions to be 'good neighbors' to existing buildings in relation to their surroundings. It is an approach to design based on respect for the broader community. It's the opposite of designing within a vacuum, and can benefit from community input about what is of value within a certain context."

JNA recently completed multiple projects at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago, for which the firm won a 2010 Association of Licensed Architects (ALA) Silver Medal Award. Work included a context-sensitive elevator addition designed in the same gothic style as the historic cathedral. JNA also completed a three-story addition to St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Park Ridge and the adaptive re-use of the Quigley Preparatory Seminary High School for the Archdiocese Quigley Center, a new pastoral center and office building for the Archdiocese of Chicago. This project also garnered a 2009 ALA Silver Medal Award.

Part of the Quigley Center project included the restoration of historic St. James Chapel. Kuhlman believes it's important to recognize "that the original chapel, which was constructed in the early 1920's for the former seminary high school, was sensitively restored while also being modified to accommodate its new use as a daily chapel for the employees of the Archdiocese of Chicago and the general public. The new stairway, elevator, public bathrooms, and mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems were integrated into the existing structure. The original stained glass windows, period light fixtures, and plaster finishes were restored. The project maintains – and extends the life of – the embodied energy of the original building."