

Program Summary:

New chapel in New Orleans for an all-boys preparatory school

Program Statement:

Conceived as an austere, quiet building, this new chapel focuses first on light. The airy narthex is replete with natural light and offers views to new landscape improvements and access to a terrace for gatherings. The chapel is filled with indirect light from a narrow skylight that stretches the length of the worship space, sloping ever upward. At the skylight's terminus is a full-height wood reredos. Frosted glazing casts subtle patterns and colors across the chapel walls, filtered through multiple glass types arranged in the reredos. The two exterior walls of the worship space feature strong and vertical windows, deeply recessed in the massive walls to admit light but gently limit views. A polished concrete floor, austere white walls and acoustical plaster on the sloped ceiling make for a numinous environment in the glow of the skylight. Warm wood at the stations of the cross provide a bright accent.

A-30.01

Building Area: (sf)
5,925 sf

Cost per Square Foot:
\$473

Construction Cost
\$2.8 million

Date of Completion:
November 2011

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South and west façade with new grove of trees in the foreground. The building's materials differentiate it as a landmark in the center of campus.



A-30.03

Longitudinal Section

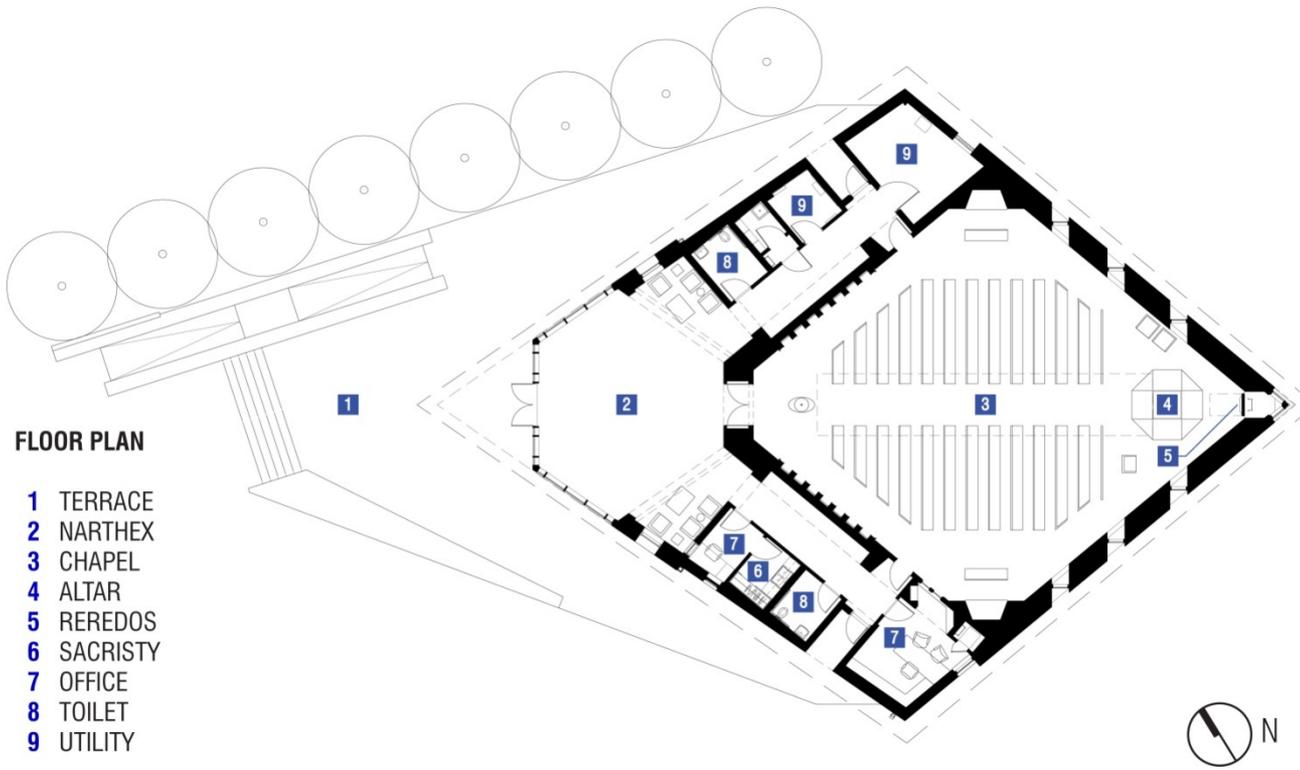
Visitors are greeted by a light and airy narthex. Through a massive wood door in a thick double wall, the section opens up dramatically. The chapel is focused around a single narrow skylight with a diffuser to provide an even glow of natural light. Strong and vertical deeply recessed windows lead up to the reredos which is backlit by translucent lighting.



A-30.04

Floor Plan

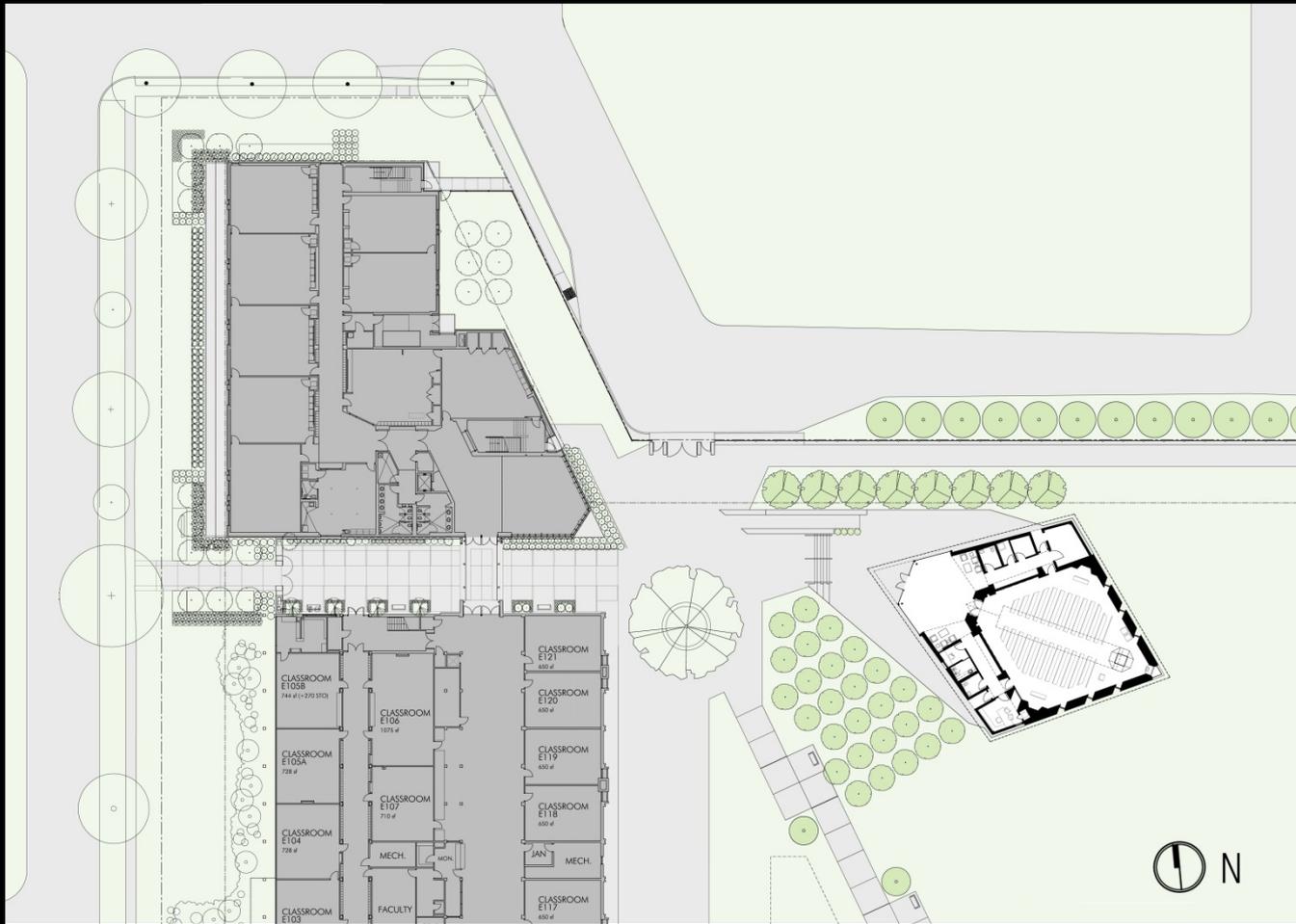
The plan is appropriately simple for a minimal worship space: the narthex branches off in two service wings which cradle the chapel. Thick massive walls and careful orientation of windows provide daylight with gently limited views.



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Site Context

The chapel site location aligns with the campus master plan developed by the firm. The main chapel axis and entry geometry play off a building previously designed by the firm to create a new gathering point at the rear of the campus.



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Entry and Terrace

The exterior form picks up cues from nearby buildings on campus.



A-30.07

Narthex with views across the terrace to campus beyond.





A-30.08

Indirect and filtered light lend a diffuse glow to the worship space.



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A custom light diffuser in an aluminum frame provides plenty of evenly dispersed light during the day.



A-30.10

Multiple glass types in the backlit reredos cast subtle patterns and colors across the chapel walls. The austere altar is furnished simply and minimally.



A-30.11

Deep window openings provide indirect light.



A-30.12

Custom stations of the cross are integrated in the chapel design. Bright wood at the pews provide a warm focus within the numinous and minimal worship space.

A-30.13

South façade view of the entry
sequence



A-30.14

East façade with views of the existing campus and beyond.



Project Name:
James B. Branton Chapel
Brother Martin High School

Photographer(s):
Jeff Johnston (Slide 5)
All other photographs by Will Crocker.

A-30.x

Credit Slide

Project Location:
New Orleans, Louisiana

Owner/Client:
Brother Martin High School

Architect(s) of Record:
Waggonner & Ball Architects
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New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Project Team:
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Landscape Architect:
n/a

Consultants:
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GVA Consulting Engineering
Gracenote Consulting, Inc.

General Contractor:
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