



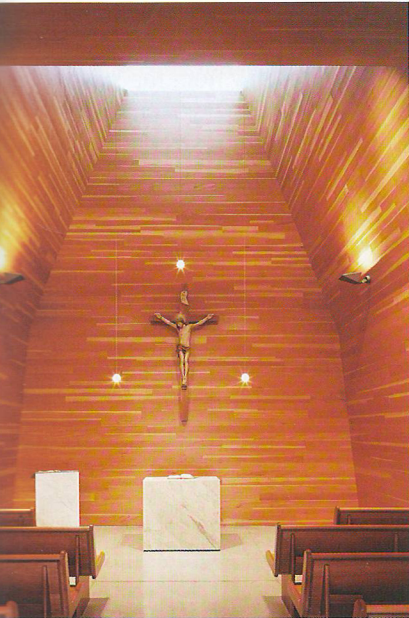
# FAITH & FORM

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Annual Awards Issue

## Sparano + Mooney Architecture

Saint Joseph the Worker Catholic Church » West Jordan, Utah



This 23,000-square-foot church serves as a place of worship for a Catholic community in Utah. The project includes a large entry and gathering space; elliptical sanctuary space that seats 800; liturgical and vesting spaces; administrative offices and conference space; a separate day chapel; and a circular courtyard with a central water/fire feature.

Named for the patron saint of laborers, this parish church has a rich history and cultural lineage rooted in the practices of construction trades and craftspeople. The design of the new church re-uses fundamental elements of an existing structure and incorporates new steel, copper, and hand-crafted wood components to reference the parish's mining and construction history. Drawing from this lineage, a palette of materials was selected that express the transformation of the raw material by the worker, revealing the craft and method of construction. These materials include

textural walls of board-formed concrete, constructed in the traditional method of stacking rough sawn lumber; a rainscreen of clear-milled cedar; vertical grain fir boards and timbers used to create the altar reredos and interior of the day chapel; flat-seam copper panels cladding the day chapel; and the skylight structure over the altar.

The sanctuary geometry is composed of two offset ellipses. The space changes throughout the day with the color of the apertures growing more intense when highlighted by the path of the sun. Reclaimed elements from the existing church and other sustainable products and systems are integral to the design, both on the interior and exterior. Green aspects of the building and construction process provided the opportunity to demonstrate tangible and natural relationships between social ethics and environmental ethics.

### Jury Comments

*The design sensitively fits the desert environment with a very timeless quality. The choice of materials is indigenous yet ethereal, connected in many ways to the congregation, producing drama through humble means. The scale is modulated with different materials. The chapel is a precious space, matching the scale of the landscape.*

#### Architect

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#### General Contractor

**R & O Construction**

#### Structural Engineer

**Structural Design Studio**

#### Landscape Architect

**Landmark Design**

#### MP Engineer

**Colvin Engineering  
Associates Inc.**

#### Electrical/Lighting Engineer

**Electrical Consulting  
Engineers Inc.**

#### Photographer

**Dana Sohm**