

Unit Six: Liturgical Architecture and Art

When churches are to be built, let great care be taken that they be suitable for the celebration of liturgical services and for the active participation of the faithful (SC § 124)

Architecture is more than building.

The Building: Domus Dei, Domus Ecclesiae

(The House of God and the house of the People of God)

The church building is a liturgical environment which shows

- **The presences of Christ in**
the assembly (seen in different ways through history)
the font
the priest
the word
the eucharist (includes the blessed sacrament)
- **Suitability for different liturgies**
Eucharist
Sacramental liturgies
The Hours and Private prayer

Design and the Brief:

- the perceived needs
- rules and regulations
- special needs (the deaf, the disabled)
- the exterior
- Lighting, heating, sound and smell
- Cost

Re-Ordering

- sanctuary and the building as a whole
- heritage: the benefits and restraints
- conservation: standards and procedures

Furnishing

- sanctuary, nave, the rest
- Fixed and moveable
- Posture and movement

LITURGICAL ART

Function, quality

new and existing art

Development of iconographic programmes: symbols

pictures, statues, windows, textile hangings

Decorated ceilings, walls and floors

Drama and movement

Floral decoration

Permanent and ephemeral artefacts

Documentation and Bibliography

Constitution on the Liturgy 122-129

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