

BRICK
SOUTH EAST
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Pleasant Hill
Baptist Church
Gainesville, GA

Architect:
Reynolds Architects, PC
Gainesville, GA

General Contractor:
Scroggs and Grizzel
Contracting, Inc.
Gainesville, GA

Masonry Contractor:
Milton D. Brown
Masonry, Inc.
Gainesville, GA

BRICK

works

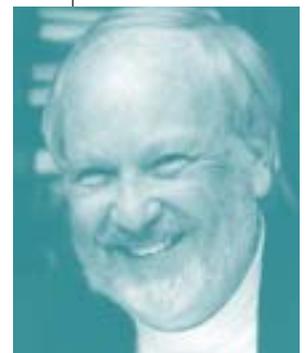


Architect Engineers Dramatic Solution for New Sanctuary

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, in Gainesville, sits alongside a former westward wagon route that led settlers to the Allegheny Mountains in the 1800s. Now that Gainesville has become the nation's fifth fastest-growing metropolitan area, that wagon route is a major highway that will soon expand to five lanes – right through Pleasant Hill Baptist Church's campus. Church officials decided to rebuild at the other end of the property, starting with a new sanctuary. The building committee worked closely with Reynolds Architects of Gainesville to create a design that is innovative, unique and distinct

“Although brick is solid and permanent, it can also be molded and shaped onto forms that people don't think are possible.”

M. Garland Reynolds, Jr., FAIA, Reynolds Architects, PC





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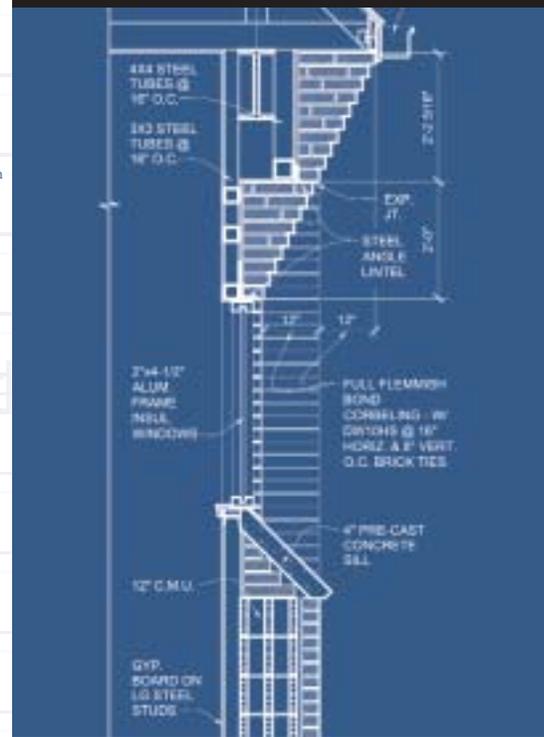
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THE DETAIL FILE

Take a closer look at how the Architect detailed this section.

Of course, this depiction is not to be construed as an exact detailing recommendation by the Brick SouthEast.



enough to set the design tone for future structures on the campus.

structural challenge that required an engineered solution.”

“The strength of the design depends on the impression of structural mass, as only monolithic masonry can impart,” says Garland Reynolds, principal at Reynolds Architects. “To honor the church’s history, Reynolds designed the sanctuary to mimic early Christian and Gothic architectural forms, where deep vertical recesses give the impression of a protective fortress for worshippers. Accomplishing this look, which features 12-inch corbelled eave cornices, sloped sills and window head brickwork, presented a daunting challenge. “I could not find examples of this being done,” says Reynolds. “ACI-530 code places a limitation on corbelling to one-half the thickness of the brick, or a total of two inches. Because the brickwork is veneer on light gauge metal studs instead of old-world solid masonry, the corbelling presented a

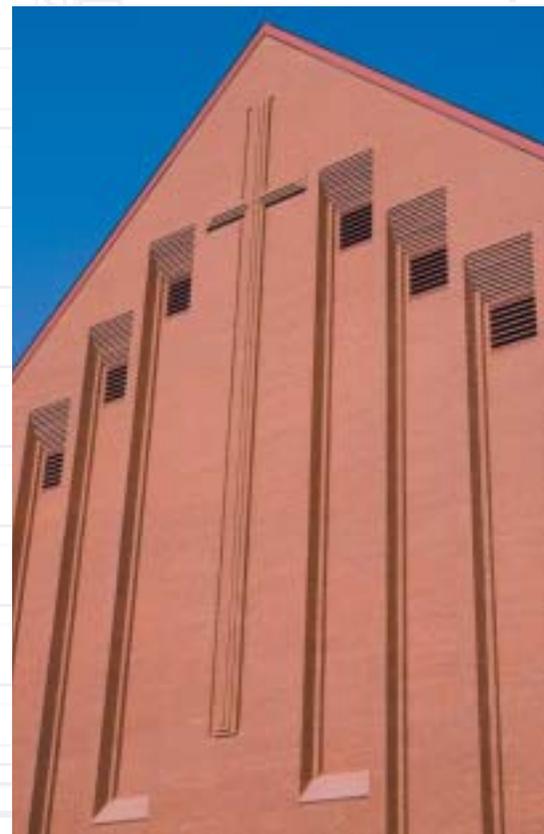
Working with a number of engineers and technical experts, Reynolds devised a solution using uncored brick with precise detailed brick coursing and placing x-seal veneer anchors with self-drilling fasteners backed with structural engineered 4"x4" steel supports and heavy-gauge metal studs. This enabled him to corbel each course 1.33 inches. “Using this approach, three corbels actually equal four inches, and six corbels equal eight inches, which allowed the corbelling to line up with the eight-inch vertical coursing of all the other brickwork,” he explains.

Another challenge was giving the sanctuary enough visual presence to be recognized by passersby on the highway. The 70-foot-high front façade features a dramatic 32-foot brick cross set in bas-relief, representing the ascen-

sion of Christ, as it rises from the apex of a triangle. The cross is flanked on either side by deep vertical recessed spires representing angels.

The sanctuary’s dry stack-stone base is reminiscent of the original church building. Pre-cast concrete sills and buttress caps, aluminum windows, gutters, downspouts, flashings and mortar joints all match the color of the brick and form a homogenous brick design accentuating its mass and strength.

The sanctuary opened to a full, enthusiastic congregation, and church leaders are thrilled with the finished product. Reynolds received special thanks from the chairman of the church’s building committee, who said, “Not even the structural engineers were convinced your proposed pattern of insets could be built without exposed steelwork, but your determination and hard work proved us all wrong.”



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