

July, 1970

"Saint Mesrob Church"
Racine, Wisconsin

Comments based on preliminary plan and elevation dated May, 1970.

Please be advised that the schematic plans as submitted are insufficient in detail to be reviewed properly by this Architectural Advisory Committee, or by the Parish Building Committee of St. Mesrob.

However, based on the data submitted thus far we offer the following suggestions for the building committees consideration:

- A. A Site Plan be prepared by the Architect and submitted, indicating site characteristics, building location, parking, parish house and any projected future growth.
- B. Floor Plan - Every space should be designed and built to be used as many hours during the day and as many days during the week as possible.
 1. Is the office between the nave and narthex necessary?
 2. Are three separate offices as indicated necessary; we assume the conference room will double as a class room.
 3. A Baptistry can be designed as a separate room, however from an economy and practical point, location of the font in the sanctuary should be considered, Remember large groups of people cannot be accommodated in a small room, and that the child will be taken to the Altar for 1st communion during the ceremony. Also, remember to provide a water source to the Font, and that the Font and/or the Sacristy Sink drain to a dry well.
 4. Eliminate at least one door to the exterior from the vestry and one door from the choir room.
 5. The choir platform should be raised one step from the nave.
 6. Bema-Altar platform is normally raised three feet above the choir platform. Three (3) steps as indicated are inadequate.
 7. Altar dimensions should be studied for use. Normally the Altar is more square in shape, with gradines for candles and flowers. The Altar is also free standing for required processions and movements during the Mass.
 8. Design and locate niche for reservation of the Chalice.
 9. Study and design the support system of the curtain rod for an esthetic and functional solution.
 10. Vestry and connecting link to choir room occupy too much area. Study and redesign.
 11. Study location of votive candle stands. Rear or front of church.

12. Class rooms - Are the sizes and number of rooms adequate for capacities intended? Should all class rooms be approximately the same area? Do class sizes vary? Are interior class rooms as indicated desirable? Will mechanical ventilation be adequate or too noisy?
13. Parish Hall - Provide table and seating layout to verify desired capacity and table arrangements. Consider requirements for sound system, lighting, ventilation, and interior finishes. Eliminate parish hall connection to toilet rooms to maintain control and noise in the parish hall.
14. Kitchen - Consider with great care. It is imperative that the kitchen be completely designed and approved by the Parish Council prior to completion of the working drawings. Consider provision for outside access and service to kitchen and provision for storage of garbage outside.

This Advisory Committee questions the feasibility of the time schedule proposed. Parish approval of preliminary drawings on September 1st will not allow for construction start this fall. We feel that considerably more time, effort and design has to be put into the preparation of the preliminary drawings. Particularly the church interior and exterior. The plan and shape is uneconomical and costly. It would also be desirable to give some consideration to and reflect in the design something of the rich history of the Armenian Church and Armenian architecture.

The Committee also questions the tentative budget of approximately \$250,000 as being adequate for the present size of this project. Request the Architect to prepare and provide the building committee with a separate budget for furnishings and decoration, equipment for classrooms and kitchen, required to complete the church.

We advise that the Building Committee proceed with caution and plan for an early spring ground breaking as a more realistic date.

This Committee requests that the St. Mesrob Building Committee submit duplicate copies of the following for further review:

- A. Revised preliminary plans, sections, elevations, site plan.
- B. Final preliminary plans, sections, elevations, site plan.

Outline specifications including mechanical systems.

Finish schedule.

Cost estimate.