PROPOSED DESIGN FOR THE RELOCATION OF

HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN CHURCH

MARKHAM ROAD, PROGRESS COURT SCARBOROUGH, ONTARIO.

takvor hopyan architect

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DESIGN ANALYSIS

1. DESIGN APPROACH

a) Objective: The purpose of this project is to relocate the existing church facilities to a larger and, more modern, new church building complex designed to meet the growing needs of the Armenian Community in Toronto.

The present church building, located in the St. Clair Ave-Yonge St. area with a seating capacity of 126, built 28 years ago, is far from meeting the demands of today's Armenian Apostolic Community of greater Toronto.

- b) Choice of location: Considering the fact that 8,000 citizens of Armenian background live in the Borough of Scarborough, thus constituting almost 65% of all Armenian Community of Metro Toronto, Scarborough became our first choice for relocating our church, next door to the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Alex Manoogian Cultural Centre.
- c) A.G.B.U.- Holy Trinity Joint Venture: The main reasoning of a side-by-side church and cultural centre project is the fact that they have a 90% common membership, and it was this body of members that expressed its ultimate desire on the following logical reasons:
 - 1. To erect a fully intergrated Canadian-Armenian centre to meet the religious, cultural, social and athletic needs of a large segment of the Armenian community.
 - 2. To coordinate and complement the activities of the two sister institutions through physical proximity...
 - 3. To provide convenience and practicality for members, thus saving time through ease of access to both buildings.

- 4. To promote the mutual use of both facilities, that way avoiding costly duplication.
- 5. To enable the use of a common parking area which will not serve two activities at the same time since all functions will be coordinated to avoid the division of the common membership into two. Shared membership will benefit from this fact and will produce a money-saving complex.

2. DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

- 1. To create a design which will reflect the classical Armenian religious architecture and at the same time blending in the contemporary techniques and concepts all in one building.
- 2. To achieve tightness and efficiency in accommodating the church and facilities in meeting present and future demands of the Armenian community in Metro Toronto.
- 3. To locate the church structure so that it will integrate with the Alex Manoogian cultural centre.
- 4. To locate the church building with due regard to the environment in terms of prevailing land topography, plant landscape, roads and buildings so that the corner of Markham Rd. and Progress Court may truly become a <u>cornerstone</u> blending harmoniously with its surrounding and yet retain its prestigious and distinct appearance.
- 5. To design a church building which is open to the outdoors and to nature, with plenty of natural light flowing in. It individual areas are continued into one another in a non-defined and limit-less way, outward-looking into the environment.
- 6. To create a church oriented to the youth, using an open planning concept, contemporary understanding of interior spaces and facilities.
- 7. To utilize the advantages of the sloping site by locating a large portion of the complex below ground level to minimize exposed areas of exterior wall thus saving energy and providing a low profile, specially from the north side.

- 8. To create a continuity and harmony, connecting the 3 levels of the of the building with an open staircase, allowing the floor levels to follow the grade elevations of the exterior.
- 9. To efficiently design an adequate number of exits for a safe public building.
- 10. To minimize the effect of the higher portion of the building on the south side by melting and diminishing it into the glazed roof of the foyer of the church hall.

ACCOMODATION

Ground Floor

- 1. Church Sanctuary: It will have a ground floor seating capacity of 373, with an additional mezzanine capacity of 224, bringing the total seating capacity to 597.
 Considering the given small site, a mezzanine was necessary to accommodate the expected number of faithful; and also utilize the traditional high dome ceiling to advantage.
- 2. Other facilities: A centrally located lobby, linking the church and basement to this level, will overlook the pastor's suite, parish council room, secretary's office, janitor's room, a small kitchenette and the washrooms, all easily accessible. The narthex is used as an internal street to connect the church to the lobby. Entrance from the parking lot is via the lobby and the narthex coming to the church. The ceremonial entrance of the church serves the people using public transportation.

Basement

The library level links the ground floor to the basement, following the natural fall of the outside, having a fire exit from this level. This level ends with an amphitheatre-like carpeted area which will be used by the youth and by Sunday School children. This level contains three committee rooms, to be used as Sunday School classrooms as well; a printing room, a kitchen, all surrounding the open-concept forum and lounge area.

Landscape Design Synopsis

The proposed building, occupying most of the site requires peripheral landscape treatment along Progress Court and Markham Road.

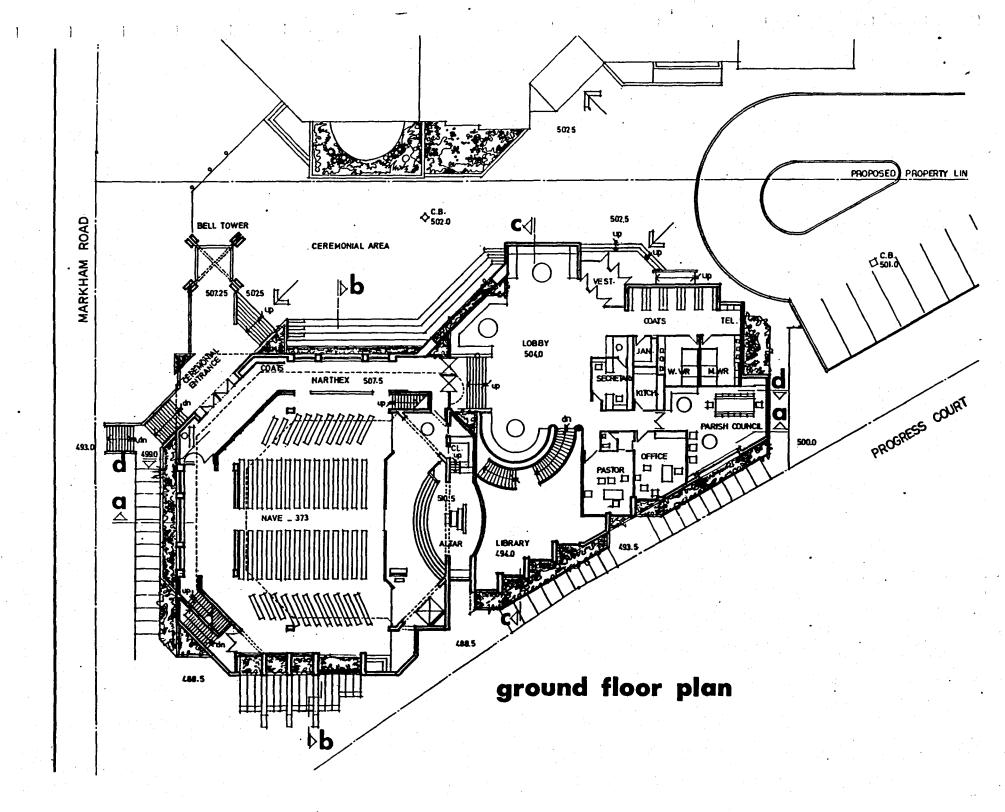
The intent of the design is to integrate the Armenian Church with the already existing cultural centre. A ceremonial, hard surface court ties the two buildings together. A screen of large evergreens blocks off traffic noise and winter winds at the western edge of the plaza and at the same time creates a strong back drop to the plaza.

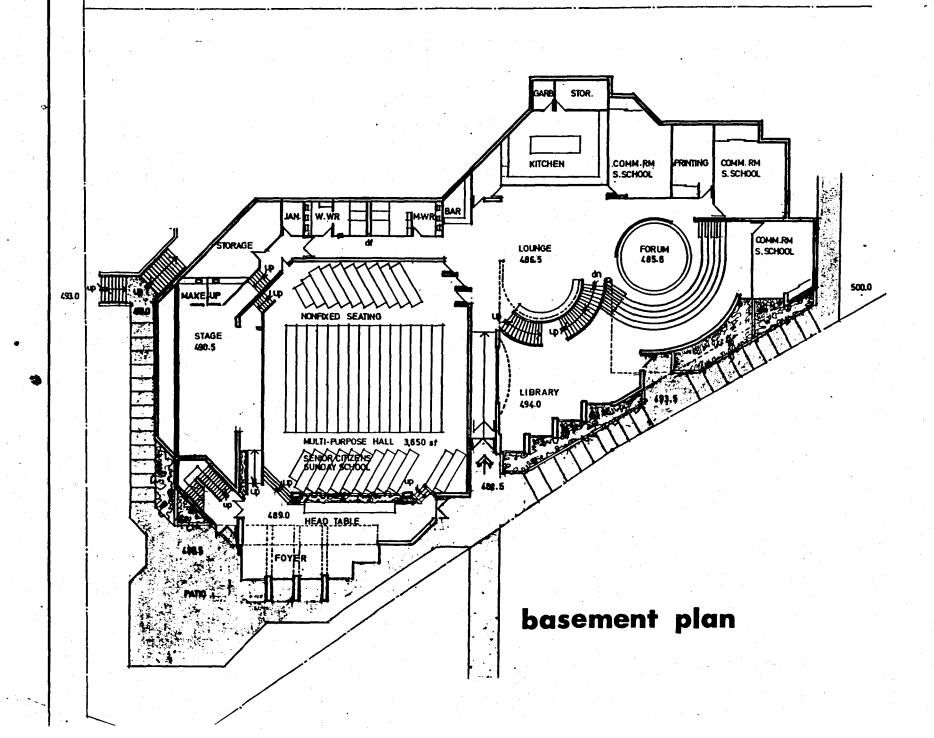
The western and eastern edges of the site, frame the building with large deciduous trees. The southern most section of the site accommodates a small forest and plaza for sitting and resting.

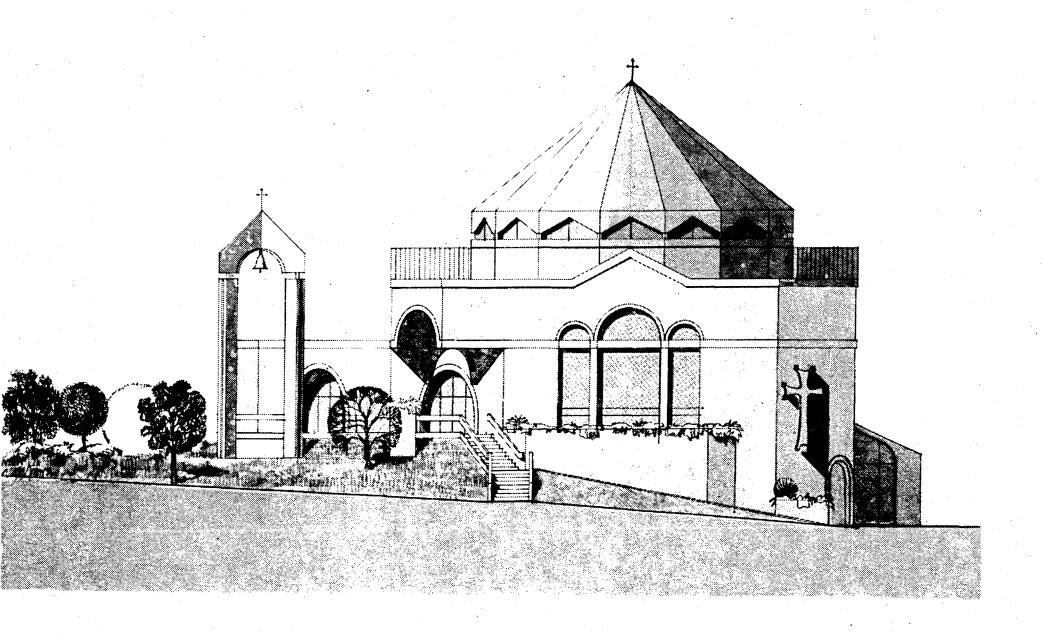
The building is totally surrounded by plaza and walk which creates a pleasant institutional landscape, accessible to people from all sides.

Due to building constraints much of the existing vegetation has been eliminated, however the high level of landscapeing proposed will make this prominent corner more accessible for people.

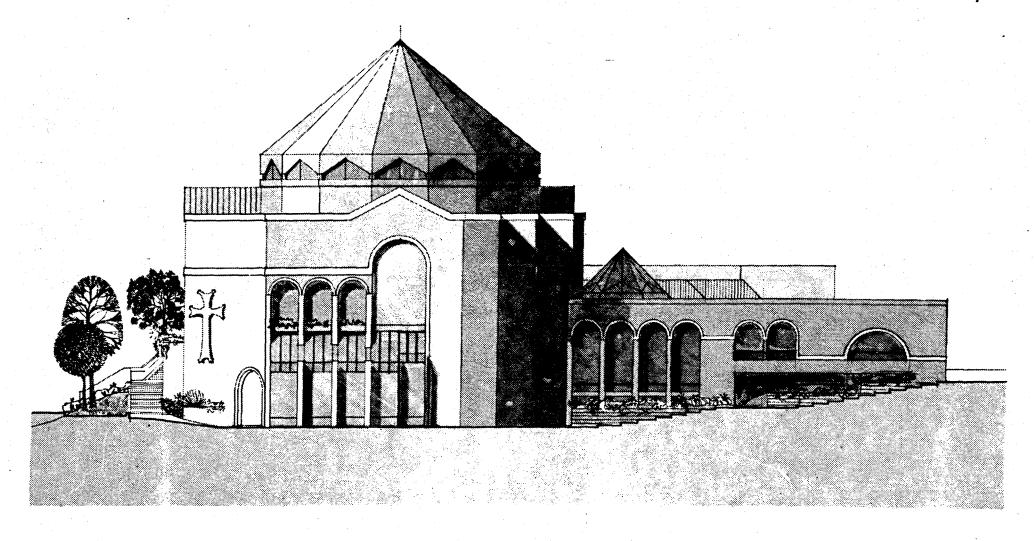
A conscious effort was made by the landscape architects to keep the plant material consistent on both adjoining sites.



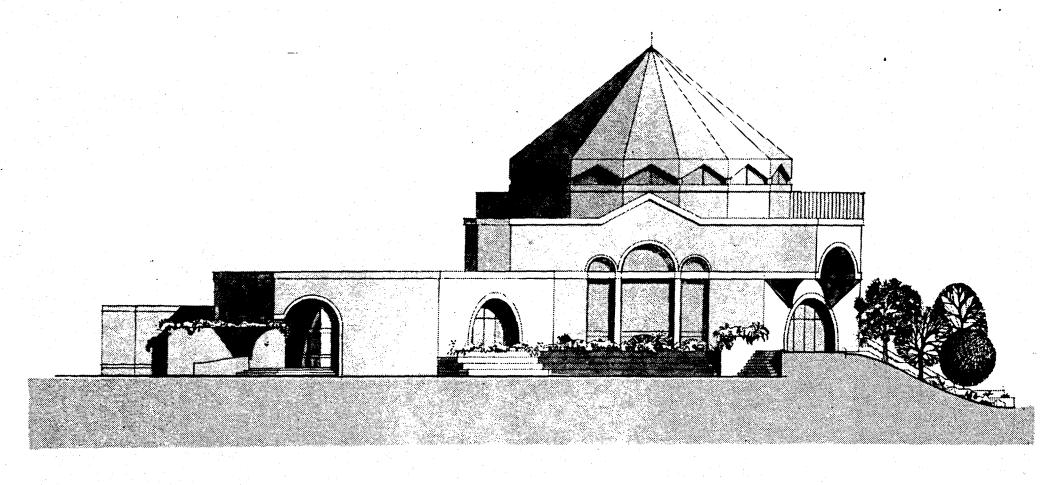




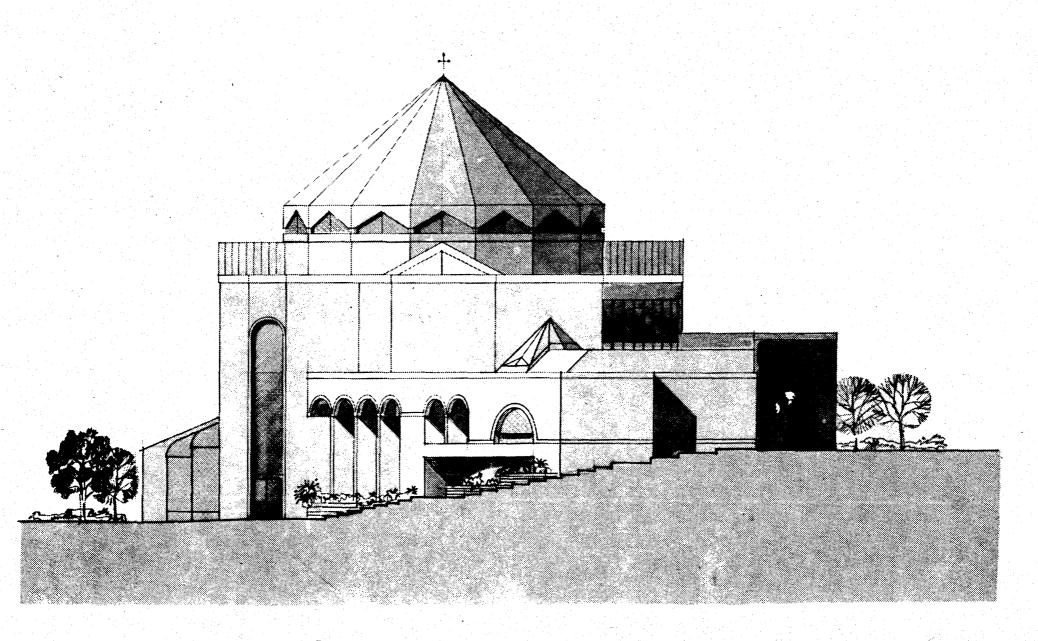
west elevation



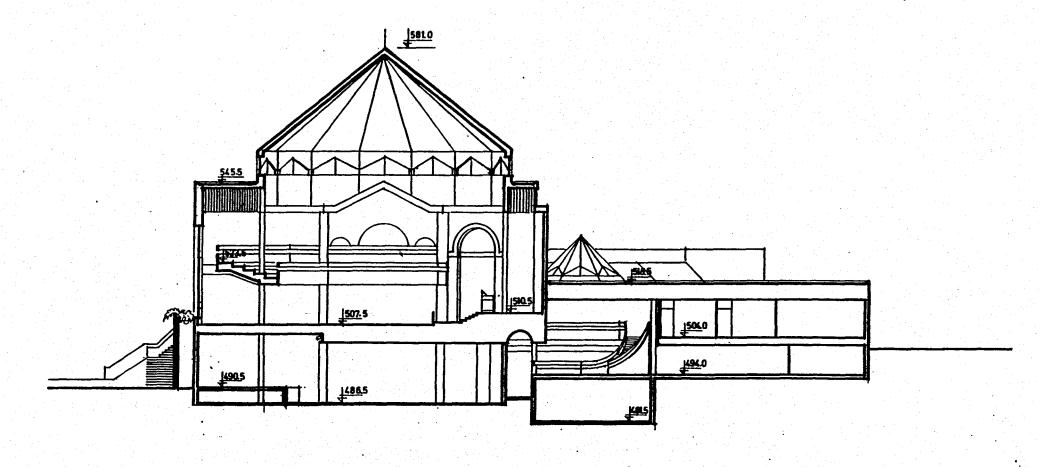
south elevation



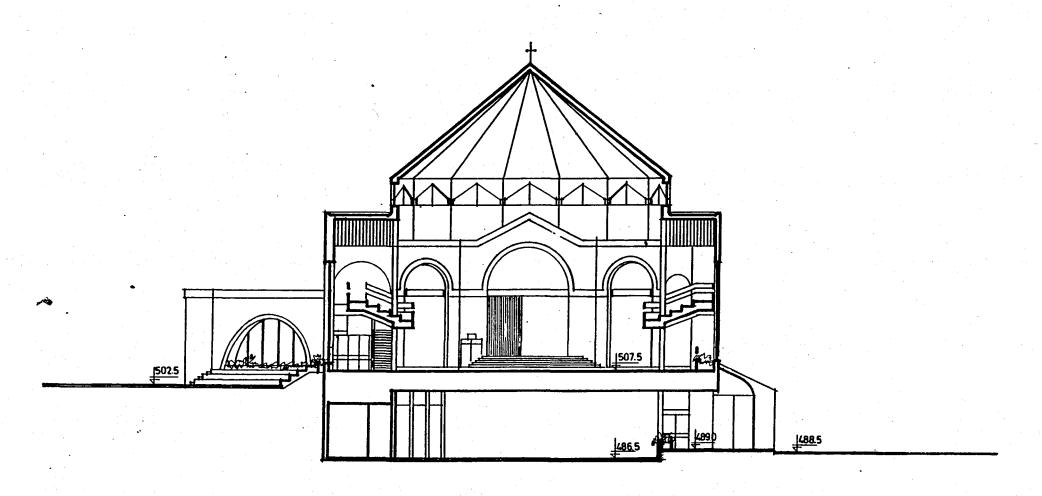
north elevation



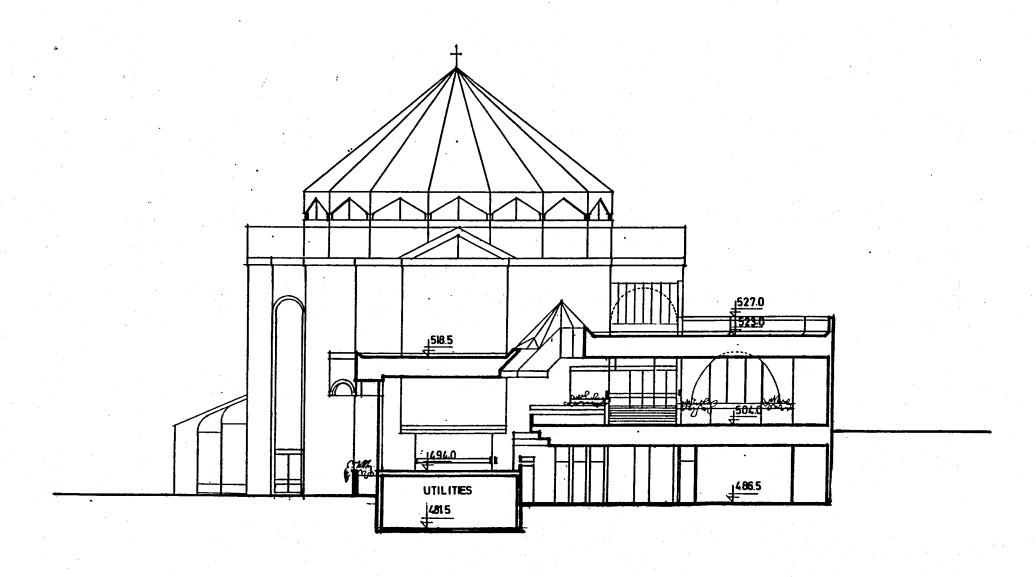
east elevation



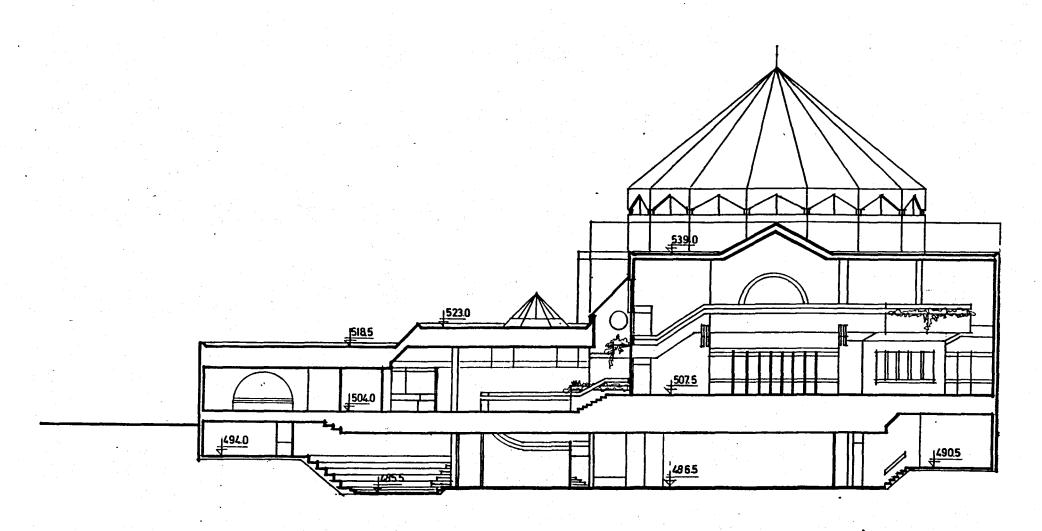
section a.a



section b-b



section c-c



section d-d

