

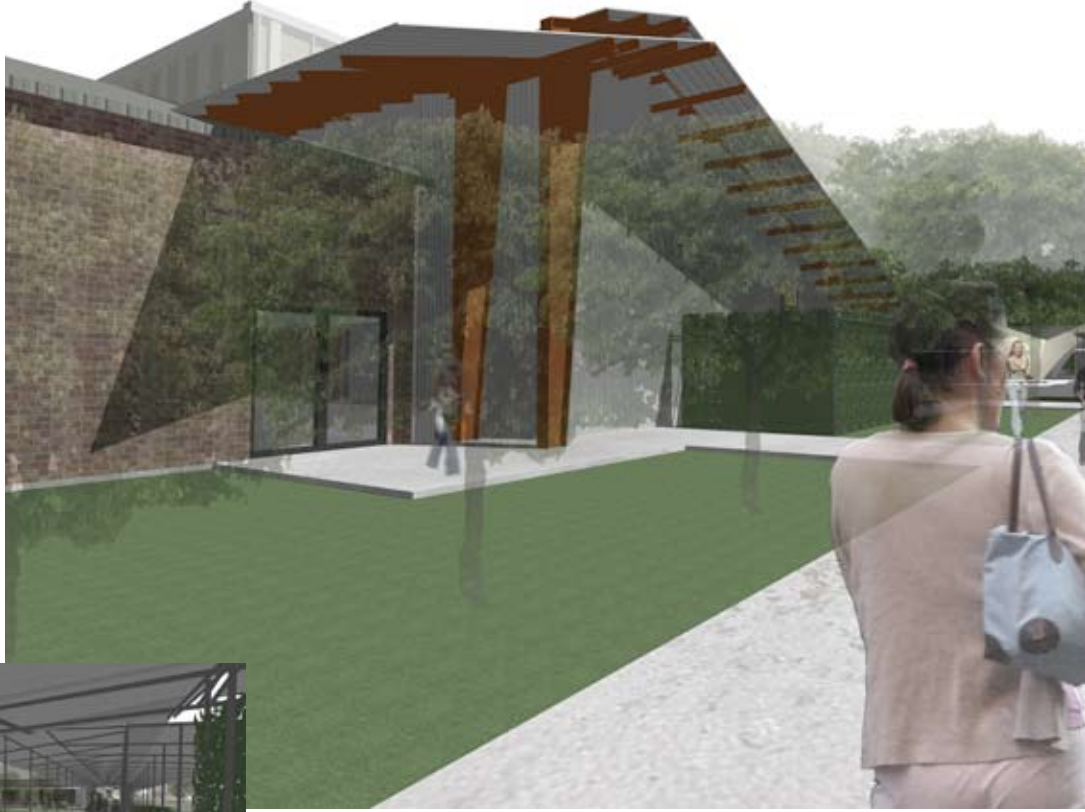


TRINITY BIBLE CHURCH • PHASE I ADDITION

LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA

Upon completing the masterplan for Trinity Bible Church - a growing non-denominational church of around 500 congregants - sgsa+d was asked to execute Phase I of this work: a roughly 4,000 SF addition to the rear of the sanctuary that would provide much needed communal space. A renovation of the existing site and buildings were also included in the brief.

MAY 2006 - PRESENT





In concept, the design for the project is based upon the beliefs of the church itself, values which centered upon ideals like openness, integrity, and authenticity. The honest, honed-down expression that results from this focus places great importance upon architectural strategies that celebrate the natural beauty held by common materials and reveal the mystery of everyday occurrences. Aside from creating a fitting architectural position, these strategies allowed the project to meet the strict spatial and economic demands of the client while remaining sensitive to the humble stand assumed by the existing building.

The program of the addition further develops this burgeoning, yet unlikely, marriage between common and sacred elements. Instead of a facility that is only occupied during religious ceremonies, the new work proposes a church that effectively functions seven days a week: classrooms double as spaces for community centered workshops, offices serve not only the church staff, but other organizations within the community, and the grounds are as much a place for dog-walking and picnics as they are for baptisms and religious festivals. The questions that result from this seemingly paradoxical marriage (Can a dog drink from a baptismal pool without it losing its sacred quality? If a space is intended for both prayer and meeting, which expression should be given priority?) forces the architecture to act as a mediator, synthesizing the beliefs of both communities. In so doing, the proposed addition remains faithful to the values held by the physical, cultural, and natural systems already in place.







