

St. Philip Neri Catholic Church Renovation

PORTLAND, OREGON

Services

MEP Engineering
Lighting

FAST FACTS

Architect

Bumgardner Architects

Completion

December 2000

Building Size

14,000 sf

Project Cost

\$1 million

Contact

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Famous architect Pietro Belluschi designed many well-known buildings throughout the Pacific Northwest. Less known is the fact that Belluschi devoted a good deal of energy to the creation of places of worship. One such church is the basilica-style St. Philip Neri Catholic Church in the Southeast section of the city.

The building lost some of the simplicity the architect intended as it was remodeled and reworked. The congregation decided to renovate the church, restoring the architecture and atmosphere of the building to its origins while updating its systems to meet the needs of modern worshippers.

Renovations of various spaces within the church were completed with great sensitivity to the original design of this

historically significant building. Interface was tasked with replacing aging electrical, HVAC and plumbing systems. They also had the challenging task of restoring and updating much of the church's lighting. The church was built in 1950 and today's lighting fixtures are about half the size of those in the mid-century. That meant custom making and modifying light fixtures that would fit in the gaping holes left after the older fixtures were removed.

Lighting designers also focused on the church's exterior lighting. Since the building is situated in Ladd's Addition, a heavily populated neighborhood, they were careful to select fixtures that complemented the building but did not disrupt the surrounding homes. A dimming system was also installed.



An historical wall of glass was reopened, allowing for daylighting and dimming controls.