



Steve Hall Hedrich Blessing

WORSHIP WITH FLAIR

WILLOW CREEK

Building expansion achieves a 350,000-SF worship campus with a new 7,400-seat worship auditorium and a new children’s area. As one of the first to introduce a passion for the arts into the culture of their services, space design required close collaboration with architects to strike harmony for the auditorium’s interior design. In accommodating high seating capacity and a stage larger than Radio City Music Hall’s, efforts were taken to minimize the room’s footprint and volume to create an acoustically intimate environment. The ceiling was designed to counter-act the problematic fan plan shaping by introducing a rectilinear grid. The ceiling design was carefully coordinated with lighting design. Specific room shaping minimized the use of absorptive finishes required to achieve suitable environments for music, speech intelligibility (of sermons) and congregational participation to enhance the sense of excitement of people worshipping together. The volume between the ceiling and the roof was designed for effective bass trapping to further enhance the room’s acoustical support of high power sound reinforcement and intimate speaking. This volume also supported a simple low-cost/low-noise air distribution system.

CLIENT

Willow Creek Community Church

LOCATION

South Barrington, IL

PROJECT TYPE

New Construction

COMPLETE

2004

COST

\$65 M

SEAT COUNT

7,400

ARCHITECT

Goss Pasma

CONTACT

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SCOPE

Acoustics
Auditorium Planning

