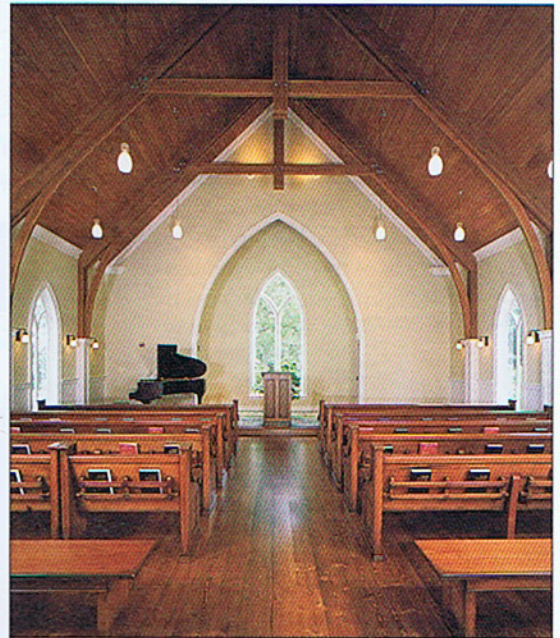


MILLENNIUM FAITH & FORM/IFRAA RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE AWARD



Architect and Interior Designer
Lewis Architects + Interior Design
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Project – New Facility
Orcas Christian Church and School
Eastsound, Orcas Island, Washington

Structural Engineer: Chuck Morris, Richard Hudson Engineers
Contractor: Pearson Construction
Photography: J.K. Lawrence, Horse Creek, Montana

The Orcas Christian Church and School, located in Eastsound on Orcas Island, Washington, fulfills the worship needs of the Adventist congregation and provides a private school open to all K-6 children on Orcas and the San Juan Islands.

The Orcas Adventist Congregation wanted to have a small “country church” facility in a separate building yet close in proximity to the school building. Their site was on a partially wooded three-acre site just north of Eastsound.

The building requirement was a small, separate church for a maximum of 68. The church is 1,620 square feet. A separate school building, with two classrooms, office restrooms, and a fellowship space for the church, school, and community, is 4,588 square feet.

The design requirements were “country church,” “simple but elegant,” “school and church building to be similar in form but expressive as to their use, friendly in scale to the user,” “the school should have a fun and learning environment.”

The church building has a full-emersion baptistery. It is bridged by oak planks and is located under the pulpit. There is an authentic antique brass bell, rung by a pull rope in the foyer of the church building.

The sound system is balanced with



through-the-wall speakers and bass traps in the corners above the cry room and music room. The sound is rich and bright off the real wood surfaces.

Jury: This is a church that looks like it belongs, as though it has always been there. It is well integrated into its environment. Its simple form fits the setting well, and it is very appropriate for a small congregation. It contains a beautifully simple worship space that also relates to the local vernacular. The architect has fulfilled all design requirements with a direct, elegant solution reflecting the traditional, simple country church.