

St. Anthony's School Construction Update May 2008



Mr. Barry Johns was commissioned by Gibbs Gage Architects as design consultant, and the building's exterior is his design. Since its inception Mr. Johns' firm has received over 40 design awards from around the world and has seen its work published and exhibited throughout North America, Britain, Japan and China. The firm received the Governor General Award for Architecture in 1992. Gibbs Gage Architects was motivated to hire Mr. Johns' because his designs are drawn from a search for harmony with the land, culture and institutions of the prairie region. With the unique badlands site, they recognized that the school's design should be an interpretation of its surroundings.

Mr. Johns explained the design with the following ideas:

- The brick on the front will contain horizontal bands, with the darker blocks at the bottom of the structure as a way to ground it. The design is meant to be an "interpretation of the hills behind it rather than an imitation of it."
- The gym will be clad with a dazzling silver corrugated aluminum product. While the brick is meant to be an interpretation of the hills, the silver of the gym is meant to be an interpretation of the prairie sky. It will also be a glistening beacon celebrating the school's existence. Notice, to the right, that a cross will be patterned on the side wall of the gym to proclaim our existence as a Catholic School.
- The windows on the front of the school are mounted very low. The exterior is a boldly stated barrier against the sun. Even the windows are mounted at lower than normal levels as a means to protect against the sun. The symbolism is that the exterior protects against the sun as St. Anthony's protected and defended our faith.



The working drawings of floor plan have been finalized and the final schematic design meeting is to take place on April 24, 2008. In the next two weeks, we plan to meet with infrastructure to get approval to move forward with construction drawings. This approval will be based on our ability to demonstrate that the school can be built with an appropriate cost effective budget. If we get this approval, construction drawings will be completed over the summer, and we hope to go to tender in June. If all these hurdles are cleared construction can begin in the Fall.

*Sincerely,
Michael W. O'Brien
Deputy Superintendent
Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools*

St. Anthony's School Features Update May 2008 Padua Hall



Padua Hall will be the open area you see as you enter the building. With extensive glass and a north exposure, there will be intense light with less-intense heat. You may refer to the diagram below and notice the subtle lily, St. Anthony's flower, etched into the glass at the back of the hall. Also notice the glass wall of the chapel. To the left is the drama room. It has an operable wall so that it can open onto Padua Hall to serve as performance area. Also notice the horizontal gray lines on the right wall. These are bleachers that fold out to act as theatre seating for performances. And finally, on the floor plan to the right, notice the cafeteria area shaded in gray and the storage room for cafeteria tables, also shaded in gray. In short, Padua Hall is a faith area, a circulation area, an eating area, a social area, and a theatre.

CHAPEL WITH GLASS ON 3 SIDES

