

Renovation Reminiscences

I am aware that while sitting in church one should be focused on the worship service, the sermon, the music, etc. Yet, it is difficult to sit in our church, Lawrenceville First Baptist and not allow the eyes to wander and behold the beauty of the sanctuary.

This just past Christmas season I have attended the several special Christmas programs and while sitting there enjoying the activities my mind could not help but wander back to Easter of 1999. That date, you may recall was the deadline assigned to you our architect to have the sanctuary renovations completed. What a grand day that was, to rededicate the newly renovated, 37 year old sanctuary.

It is pleasing to recall the initial early meetings between the Renovation Committee and Frandsen Architects. You, Mr. Frandsen made it quite easy to garner the complete trust of the committee and thereby establishing an enduring and mutually trusting relationship.

Your original hand drawn rendering of your vision of the renovated, redesigned sanctuary enamored us all. Your design, converting a very pedestrian 1960's contemporary structure to a beautiful traditional church design was astounding and at first unbelievable. No one could visualize how that would be accomplished. Yet, as you served the church as architect as well as builder it came to fruition. Your concept of Design & Build was brilliant and added to that you provided the "hands-on" management of the project. As mentioned earlier, you were assigned the deadline of Easter 1999 and I am pleased to recall that you delivered, on time.

To this day, the beautiful (185 ft.)steeple that you designed is used by many in the community as the landmark to look for when approaching Lawrenceville. One can see the steeple from great distances on all points of the compass and even as far away as Snellville, a good 5-6 miles. The Church has received many, many accolades regarding the church's architecture over the years. Additionally, upon entering the church, passing through the warm and welcoming vestibule / narthex area, one enters into a very worship inducing, bright, beautiful sanctuary. Having worshipped in that sanctuary since 1988, to this day it is still so amazing to me how your design changed the dark, dreary sanctuary to what it became after the renovation. Again, to this day, even after 12 years, visitors are overwhelmed and awed with the beauty inside.

In summary Mr. Frandsen, it should noted, that the experience we had with your firm has been and remains very pleasant. As a committee we really took note of the fact that you did not demonstrate the standard overbearing attitude that many architects exhibit. The committee and the Church appreciated that. You listened, you took notes, you excelled in design, you excelled in delivery. You delivered the product as promised, on time.

As former Chair of the Renovation Committee, I thank you again for excellent service rendered and congratulate you on your firm's ongoing success.

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