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Resources for: Effective Building Projects Prepared for Sacred Space Grants Initiative Session 2

The Sacred Space classes focus on three essential steps to linking a congregation's facility to their mission – reflection, planning and action. In the context of the Sacred Space program the planning step consists of congregations thinking and planning how aesthetics will impact their decisions; planning for use of architects and contractors, and deciding appropriate project delivery methods. The following resources are recommended for undertaking the initial planning stage of a congregational building program.

Elliott, Jon. *Disaster Prevention Guide for Church Building Projects*.
Oxnard, CA: Church Growth Institute, 2003.

This resource, in three-ring binder form with two accompanying audio compact discs, provides a comprehensive overview of what is involved in congregational building projects. The focus of the resource is on planning, including the funding plan, design plan, management plan, schedule, and communication plan. Details often overlooked in congregational building projects, such as communications with the congregation and relating to the neighborhood association, are included. The guide contains a lot of helpful information for congregations who are planning to build and/or expand their existing facilities.

Goldberg, Shari P. *Managing Repair & Restoration Projects: A Congregation's How-to Guide*. New York, NY: New York Landmarks Conservancy, Inc., 2002.

This resource is written specifically for lay people working to preserve their historical houses of worship. It offers step-by-step details for assessing the building, planning the work, handling contracts and overseeing construction. An appendix includes sample documents, a glossary and a list of resources. Congregations planning to do repair and/or restoration of their facilities will find very practical, yet detailed information to help guide them.

InterDesign: Total Architectural Development

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InterDesign is an architecture/engineering firm with extensive experience building religious facilities. In addition to architects and engineers, they also have professionals in construction administration, information technology, owner advocacy, education and communications.

Pahl, Jon. *Shopping Malls and Other Sacred Spaces: Putting God in Place*.
Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2003.

Jon Pahl offers an engaging exploration of theology and its relation to sacred space in American culture. In Part 1, Pahl critiques the way American culture has assigned sacred meaning to places such as the shopping mall, Walt Disney World, and the suburban household. In Part 2, the author explores how Biblical metaphors for God – living waters, light of the world, rock of salvation—can connect people with a place of grace. Whether or not congregations are involved in building projects, this book provides an excellent basis for discussing theology and sacred space.

