

The Symbolic Church

A sketch on building programs gone wrong

Rick Armstrong

Deacon Todd: The meeting of the executive building funds sub-committee on "community perception and cultural symbolism" will now come to order. We will not bother to pray as we have too much work to do. First Brother Craig, can you tell about your project.

Deacon Craig: Thank you brother Todd. I am proposing that we build a 30-foot waterfall cascading over natural boulders to a 5000 gal koi pond filled with 200; \$1000 koi. This will symbolize that our church believes in being fishers of men and that we really value men.

All: Nod and improve their agreement, except sister Julie, who just looks somewhat confused.

Sister Jeri: I propose that we install stained glass windows depicting our elder board as they have so faithfully, and may I say humbly, labored to make this building come to life. This will of course symbolize the fact that our board is Transparent.

All: once again nod their agreement a few amen's. Sister Julie sill looking confused.

Deacon Todd: I feel that we should carpet the halls with Natural Peruvian Alpaca hair carpet. This will symbolize our commitment to indigenous peoples everywhere.

All: (high fives)

Jeri: I propose that we have a golden spire with a statue of our beloved business manager, brother Russ, setting atop a magnificent 20-foot pole holding a calculator in one hand and an abacuses in the other symbolizing our commitment to..... new math.

All: (except Julie stand and applaud).

Julie: Excuse me.....Excuse me (meekly raises hand).

Deacon Todd: Yes sister Ahhhhh Julie, yes sister Julie.

Julie: All this symbolic stuff is Ok....I guess but what about the real Church Like What about real rooms for the real children?

Deacon Todd: Children?

Julie: You know those "little people".

Craig: Never, too messy, peanut butter all over our symbolic Peruvian flooring.

Sister Jeri: Poopy diapers yuck.

Todd: M&Ms. *(all shaking heads in amazement at such a foolish request)*.

Julie: What about the real youth?

Sister Jeri: That's worse than poopy diapers.

Julie: A real place where they can hang out, make friends, play games and learn about God?

Todd: Funny hair, you know those body rings and things.

Craig: Music WAY too loud. Hip-hop and all that stuff. You know where that leads.....right to all those post moderns kind!

Julie: Well.....how 'bout REAL worship, real outreach, real community events, have you even considered...

Todd: Miss...you don't seem to understand. We're building a mega-fortress here, a modern day cathedral.... This is not for mere people; it's for all time! This god structure will stand in lasting testimony..... just like the great cathedrals of old....

Julie: You mean cold and empty? (Fast black)

