

BUILDING® BRIEFS

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Petra
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WINTER, 2010

A Dream Is Realized

Sometimes it takes many years for a dream to be realized. Such was the case for the members of the Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Orange, Connecticut. This vibrant church community of nearly 700 parishioners truly enjoyed getting together to worship, to celebrate special events, and to rejoice.

However, their facility could not accommodate the number of people who typically gathered for wedding receptions and other special events.

In 1999, a group of interested church members, led by Gregory J. Stamos, President of the Parish Council at the time, decided to take proactive steps to enlarge the Church's facilities, to allow these wonderful gatherings to take place right on the Church's property.

The group met many times, identifying the needs of the congregation, discussing sources of funding, and considering various design options. In 2003, the Church engaged Petra Construction Corporation to assist them with preconstruction services, so they could better understand the cost and schedule impacts of the various options under consideration. Petra assigned Al Pacelli, Project Executive and Linda Siclari, Senior Estimator, to assist the Church in bringing the project from concept to reality.

The Building Committee selected BL Companies as their architect, and the design progressed from schematics to design development to construction documents. In March of 2008, Petra was selected as the Church's Construction Manager, and the budget and schedule were finalized. On



New facility of the Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Orange, CT

Sunday, July 20, 2008, ground was broken and construction began. Work progressed over 12 months, and the project team, led by Senior Project Manager Dan Roth and Superintendent Walter Moore, worked together to overcome a number of challenges.

The first challenge was to ensure that the exterior materials of the addition, including brick, limestone and lead-coated copper, matched those of the existing church as closely as possible. This was not an easy task, as the New England climate had weathered all of the existing exterior materials over the years. With the help of the manufacturers' representatives, and careful review by the Building Committee, excellent matches were

identified and approved.

Another challenge was the integration of the agora, an exterior gathering place often used for traditional dances, into the site design. The site contains significant grade changes, and the agora must be level and symmetrical with the facility's main entrance. Again, with careful planning and a collaborative effort, all of the requirements were met. A future gymnasium is also planned, and its foundation was installed as part of the recent addition project. To assist the Church in its fundraising efforts for the gymnasium, Petra's Building Information Modeling (BIM)

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Manager, Jason Tabak, developed an electronic three-dimensional model from BL Companies' gymnasium drawings, to allow Church members to get a preview of the finished project. This proved to be very helpful to those not familiar with reading two-dimensional drawings.

On August 5, 2009, the work of the addition was completed and the project was dedicated on October 3, 2009, with Archbishop Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in America, in attendance. Due to the careful planning of the Building Committee, the completed facility addresses all of the Church's needs. The new complex includes a sizable social hall with seating for up

to 350 people, a full commercial kitchen, a lounge and classrooms. It is already fulfilling its mission, with a number of events being held and planned.

This new facility is a true testament to the dedication and commitment of the Church members. They had a dream, and they were willing to do whatever was necessary, over quite a few years, to realize their dream. Their efforts have produced a beautiful and very useful new facility, which will serve their congregation well for decades to come.

If you need professional assistance in bringing a dream from concept to reality, please call Guido Petra, President or Terry Wooding, Executive Vice President at 203-865-6043.



New social hall seats up to 350 people

Project Profile

Owner:

Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church
Orange, CT

Project:

Building Addition

Project Delivery System:

Construction Management

Project Team

Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church

Rev. Peter Orfanakos, Parish Priest,
Building Committee Member (BCM)
Dr. John Loucopoulos, Secretary
Nick Loussides, President of Parish
Council, BCM
Paul Redding, Vice President of Parish
Council, BCM
Alex Alexiades, BCM
Robert Loskant, BCM
Theodora Maccone, BCM

Evans Mountzouris, BCM
George Scarveles, BCM

Petra Construction Corporation

Al Pacelli, Project Executive
Dan Roth, Senior Project Manager
Rob Westrin, Assistant Project Manager
Valerie Murray, Assistant Project Manager
Mike Mertz, Superintendent
Walter Moore, Superintendent
Ken Woodward, Director of Estimating
Linda Siclari, Senior Estimator
Walt Tucker, Director of Safety

Jason Tabak, BIM Manager

Architect

BL Companies

Rainer Muhlbauer, AIA, LEED AP,
Principal Architect
Kalyani Baxi, RA, Senior Project Architect
Chris Albino, Structural Engineer
Clive Leavstrom, Electrical Engineer
Greg Longo, MEP Engineer
David Noyes, Construction Administration
Gina Leo, Construction Administration

Special thanks to all of Petra's jobsite personnel, subcontractors and material suppliers

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