Liturgy and Architecture
Factors influencing the architecture of Protestant churches in Singapore

By
LOKE PUAY YIN
HD991293Y

Submitted to School of Design and Environment on 29th November 2000 in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Masters of Architecture

Abstract

During the twentieth century, and particularly during the second half of this century, church buildings in Singapore have experienced immense change. There have been liturgical changes, witnessed by a growing emphasis upon sharing and participation by members of the church, changes in relationship between different denominations of the Church, with a greater stress upon those factors held in common rather than the debates which cause division, and changes in the way this broader church has seen itself in a social context, Christians acting as both servants and critics of the wider estate. All these changes and movements have certainly had a profound and sometimes disturbing influence upon the way the Church has understood its need for a building. Church buildings have to not only be places which function well, but needs to be able to express some of the deeper meanings of Christian experience such as love, integrity, wholeness and beauty.

This paper thus aims to discuss and address these changes, and to look at the influences of history, liturgy, technology, culture and society in determining and shaping the architecture of the Protestant churches in Singapore today.

Dissertation Supervisor : Dr Lim Sun Hock, Jon
Title: Senior Fellow