

**Acoustics of Worship Spaces**  
David Lubman and Ewart A. Wetherill, Eds.  
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**Introduction**

**1. For Whom this Book is Intended**

This book is intended primarily for people involved in the practical acoustical planning of worship space interiors of buildings such as chapels, churches, mosques, temples, and synagogues. Acousticians, architects, building committees, clergy, choir and music directors, and sound system designers are among the intended audience.

**2. The Use of this Book**

From these drawings, photographs, and accompanying data one may gain insight into the nature of worship space acoustics and its current practice. In this book readers will find a rich variety in the approach taken to worship space acoustics arising from differences of denominational and congregational style and budget. Within each style, the alert reader will also find recurring issues, problems, approaches, and compromises arising from an underlying similarity of concerns, objectives, and technology.

Readers involved in planning their own projects may find more immediate and practical benefit from this collection and distillation of worship space project experiences. We hope they may

harvest valuable ideas and inspirations for the prevention as well as the solution of a wide variety of worship space acoustical problems.

Since the projects shown cover a wide variety of new constructions and renovations made over a narrow span of time and also cover a broad denominational base, this collection can also be seen as a period piece documenting current acoustical practice in sacred architecture circa 1983.

To increase the value of this book for those persons with little background in acoustics, we have included brief essays on some aspects of worship space acoustics that are implied by the recurring themes inherent in the Poster Papers.

### 3. How it Came About

The collection of drawings, photographs, and technical data on worship facilities contained herein is an outgrowth of three Special Sessions organized around the theme "Acoustics of Worship Spaces," which took place at the 106th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, 7-11 November 1983 at the Town and Country Hotel in San Diego, California. The theme was organized by the Technical Committee on Architectural Acoustics, with the participation of the Technical Committee on Musical Acoustics and other elements of the Acoustical Society.

The theme's centerpiece was a Poster Session that presented in visual form over forty acoustical projects involving worship facilities as described by the acoustical consultants and architects who were responsible for them. The Posters--on display throughout the meeting--drew enthusiastic audiences from all disciplines of acoustics, as well as architects, musicians, and related professionals from throughout the United States and abroad.

Related sessions on "Organ Technology Today" and "Architectural Acoustics for the Organ" rounded out the theme.

### 4. What the Poster Papers Tell Us

The Poster Papers collected for this publication show sectional and plan drawings of worship space interiors, using standardized scales throughout. Architectural drawings are supplemented with photographs intended to aid in their interpretation and to provide an overall impression of the finished interior. A visual format was chosen to facilitate communication with architects and others involved in the practical planning of worship space interiors. The standardized scales were chosen to facilitate rapid visual comparison of different facilities. A one-page written description of each project is also included. This fact sheet identifies the building, architect, acoustical consultant, and project completion date. In some cases a brief description of acoustical design features and measured data is included. In a few cases, a concise statement of the problem, objective, and approach is also provided.

Acoustics of worship spaces. David Lubman and Ewart A. Wetherill, Eds. Drawings, photographs, and accompanying data of worship houses provide information on the acoustical design of chapels, churches, mosques, temples, and synagogues. 91 pp, paper 1985. Price: \$23. Out-of-print. Acoustical design of theaters for drama performance: 1985-2010. David T. Bradley, Erica E. Ryherd, & Michelle C. Vigeant, Eds. Descriptions, color images, and technical and acoustical data of 130 drama theatres from around the world, with an acoustics overview, glossary, and essays reacting on the theatre design by Acoustical consulting firms, architects, and worship space designers from across the world contributed their recent innovative works in the area of worship space acoustics. The contributions include detailed renderings and architectural drawings, as well as informative acoustic data graphs and evocative descriptions of the spaces. Filled with beautiful photography and fascinating modern design, this book is a must-read for anyone interested in religious architecture, acoustical design, or musical performance. Provides detailed acoustic and architectural information for 67 worship space venues -Worship Space Acoustics: 3 Decades of Design is a beautiful collection of recent work. This is a comprehensive compendium that far surpasses previous publications in the field in its depth, design, and information. Worship spaces of all major U.S. religions are covered. This book should be an obligatory reference for any consultant involved in church architecture and acoustics. -Mendel Kleiner, author of Worship Space Acoustics, Acoustics: Information and Communication Series (J. Ross Publishing 2010). -All involved in their design will appreciate this presentation of recent rooms for religi