



**Committed to Capturing the Vision of Your Church**

by Jo Wells

What began a few years ago as a loose knit group of companies from across the county that met four or five times a year to develop “best practice” ideas has grown to a well known and respected nationwide association of firms committed to sharpening one another’s skills for the benefit of the churches they serve. Since its inception in 2002, the National Association of Church Design Builders (NACDB) has expanded its membership base from the initial eight members, to more than 40 companies across the nation.

“We’ve been pleased with our progress,” states Greg Barron, NACDB president and founding member. “We are right on track with building the organization with qualified companies that represent and add to the integrity of the marketplace. Our church building commitment is one of integrity, helping the church to be good stewards of God’s provision by offering services that are honest in appraisal and affordable.”

#### **“Best Practice” Foundation**

The NACDB was established to create a nationwide association of firms committed to the practical application of biblical values resulting in their excellence as specialists in consulting, designing and building church facilities that focus on the ministry needs and styles of the churches they serve.

“In short, we exist to educate local churches in evaluating their needs regarding buying, building, expanding, remodeling or leasing facilities that promote their ministry’s mission, vision and values,” Barron explains.

Twenty-first century churches have very specific design needs. As important construction decisions are made it is essential to understand the heart of the ministry that is being built. “The nuances of each church are very different, but there *are* common trends that affect the design,” states Barron. “We educate church leaders on these nuances. For example, when do you engage an acoustical engineer—when you start the architecture, not when you have already designed the building.”

Although there is a vast array of church building firms across the United States, there wasn’t an association serving the industry until the formation of the NACDB. Barron, who in addition to serving as president of the association is the CEO and president of GL Barron Co. in Fort Worth, Texas, explains: “It’s a fractured industry, meaning there are a lot of companies doing the same thing, but not helping each other to develop best practices. There wasn’t a benchmark in our industry for design or construction parameters. We wanted to offer churches a clearinghouse of information and our members the opportunity to build better facilities based on each others historical experience.”

In its quest for excellence and to create an environment that fosters ethical behavior and the highest levels of quality in all products or services rendered by members, the NACDB annually recognizes members that demonstrate these traits. The 2005 award winners were recently announced during the annual NACDB members meeting in Arlington, Texas.

“The NACDB serves as a resource for church design builders and executives to come together in one venue, and our awards provide an excellent opportunity to recognize outstanding achievements,” says Victor Erwin, executive director of the NACDB. “This year’s winners have clearly demonstrated their commitment and understanding of how to assist church leaders plan effectively for their growth and ministry expansion.”

Awards were presented for the following categories: projects less than \$1 million; projects between \$1 and \$5 million; projects over \$5; best new construction; best renovation or addition; best ancillary facility; industry award for innovation; most published or best original article; and best testimonial.

### Vital Role of Technology

Members of the NACDB are committed to capturing the vision of your church. They understand current trends in church architecture and construction and couple this with your specific needs to provide each congregation with an aesthetically satisfying and functional worship facility—within your budget.

“One of our goals is to educate churches about designing and building worship facilities so they can be the best possible stewards of the funds with which God has trusted them,” says Barron. “One way we accomplish this is

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by providing analyses of member projects for purposes of comparison and benchmarking against similar projects within specific regions.”

Because many factors, such as land condition and size, utility access, zoning restrictions, etc., can affect the amount you will ultimately spend, the NACDB member project profiles are intended to provide very general guidelines. For more specific guidelines, the NACDB Website also offers a “Project Pricing Profiler,” also referred to as P3, to assist in your planning. By inputting answers to a list of key questions that must be addressed in the cost planning stage of development, the association’s benchmarking data is accessed to develop and provide you with a general idea of the cost for your project.

Technology plays a vital role in achieving the association’s mission. “While our business is a relationship business,



Professional Building Services (PBS) was recently honored as a recipient of two 2005 NACDB awards for its work on Believers Church in Matteson, Ill.

plain and simple, technology is vital in this process as it allows us to gather information, categorize it, and then utilize it in each phase of the development process,” explains Barron.

For example, the NACDB has a dedicated FTP site where various plans reside with specific details pertaining to church projects. These details may include the proper slope of floor systems, the angle of walls in the auditoriums to accommodate sound reverberation and the size of the stage and platforms to accommodate the emphasis for drama.

“With this information our members are designing and building better facilities,” Barron says.

### Educational Seminars

Success for the organization can also be measured by the hundreds of churches attending NACDB conferences to become better educated about the development process. Intended to help congregations design and build better churches in the 21st century, NACDB seminars and events cover a wide range of topics. Geared toward pastors, associate pastors, strategic planning teams, finance teams, building teams and administrators, conference attendees learn church building trends as well as how to best manage the physical, financial and organizational challenges of a church building project.

“During our seminars, you will hear from pastors who have built churches, as well as experts in the area of church growth, needs assessment, finance, fundraising, committee structure, church building and much more,” says Barron. “This is an excellent opportunity to learn how to best serve your congregation’s needs in the 21st century. We reach literally hundreds of churches that will make them better stewards.”

Seminar attendance ranges from 15 to 50 attendees, depending on the topic and location of the seminar. “Our seminars have really taken off,” says Barron. “Our audio-visual seminars are very popular and always seem to fill to capacity.”

At the 2005 WFX Worship Facilities Conference and Expo held last October in Nashville, Tenn., NACDB members again shared their expertise. Four presentations were given by association members with high marks given for all sessions. More than 1,600 church leaders, church tech team members and trade professionals from the church A/V and facilities building industry attended the event. ❖

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*Profiles of member projects can be accessed on the NACDB Website at [www.nacdb.org](http://www.nacdb.org). For more information on what the NACDB has to offer, visit the Website or call 866.416.2232.*

## Certified Church Consultant Program

The National Association of Church Design Builders (NACDB) recently announced that 29 members have been awarded Certified Church Consultant status after completing the organization’s rigorous certification process.

The NACDB Certified Church Consultant (CCC) program is designed to help facilitate the education of professionals and staff in becoming church development experts.

To achieve certification, members are required to attend a multi-day training session featuring nationally recognized leaders in church lending, stewardship, facilities management, architecture, construction and project management. Candidates were also required to write a thesis creating expansion solutions for a fictitious church. In addition, they were required to pass a written exam.

Successful candidates are certified for a two-year period. They can update their certification by completing a one-day refresher course.

“To earn the certification, a member must meet stringent standards, and only the best of the best qualify, says NACDB President Greg Barron. “These members are truly committed to providing superlative church-facility expertise, and we’re proud that they’ve received this prestigious designation.”

NACDB members who are the first to receive certification include: Tonii Rizzo, Abel Construction; Rick Britton, Britton Construction; Rene Charest, CharestCorp; Lee Corcoran, Corcoran Construction; Jeni Smith, Derrick Companies; Mark Johnson, Derrick Companies; Larry Breen, Dorman and Breen Architects; Daniel Sherfy, J&S Construction; Paul Spite, J&S Construction; Jack Stites, J&S Construction; Gary Hutchins, J H Batten Inc.; Bob Adams, J H Batten Inc.; Harold Batten, J H Batten Inc.; David Batten, J H Batten Inc.; Colleen Simmermaker, Lincoln Builders; Ken Henry, Lincoln Builders; Mark Graham, Lincoln Builders; Bill Warren, Professional Building Services (PBS); Chad Charon, Professional Building Services (PBS); Dale Reiser, Professional Building Services (PBS); Jeffrey Packard, Richard D. Poole LLC; Kurt Williams, T&W Church Solutions; Stephen Shehorn, T&W Church Solutions; Jody Chorba, Chorba Contracting; Scott Loughridge, SR Construction; Bobby Lee Bobbitt, Prime Construction; Greg Barron, GL Barron Company; and Victor F. Erwin, GL Barron Company.

*For more information on the NACDB Certified Church Consultant program, call 866.416.2232.*

