



First Presbyterian Church,
Encino
The Community of New
Possibilities

A Tour Through Our Award-Winning
Sanctuary

Our sanctuary, built in 1954, underwent a major change in 2002. Working with Abramson Teiger Architects and A J Engineering & Construction, our space for worship was incredibly transformed.



The original design was traditional 1950's ecclesiastical architecture. Choir and clergy were separated from the people who sat in pews structured to watch worship. The décor was dark and the light subdued.

We asked the architects to completely redesign the interior to provide space that was light and welcoming, structurally revealed our understanding that worship is an experience in which all can participate, and indicated this was a holy place.





The hands of the Madonna folded in prayer inspired the facing curved surfaces which give primary form to the space.



It comes alive as natural light (from 14 different skylights—one shown above) moves through the sanctuary.



The choir and congregation directly face each other, while the pastors and other worship leaders sit with the people.





The three dimensional cross reaches out with God's love, further manifested by the Communion Table and Baptismal Area. These were designed to serve as the focal points for our worship.

Visually, the Communion Table and Baptismal Area appear to be the same size, symbolically conveying our two Sacraments are of equal significance.





Coupled with impeccable acoustics and state of the art light, sound and media technology, our sanctuary provides the opportunity for awesome worship.

It has been awarded local, state and national A.I.A. (American Institute of Architects) honors for interior design.

