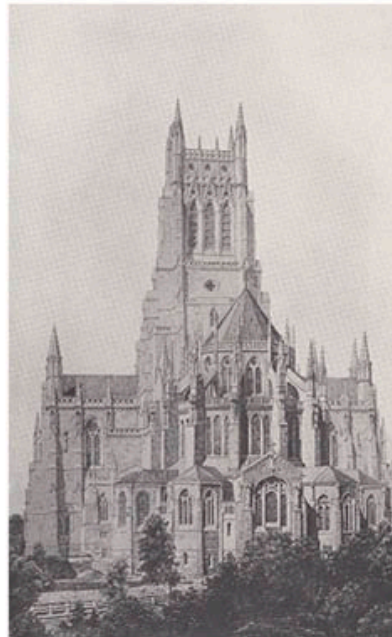
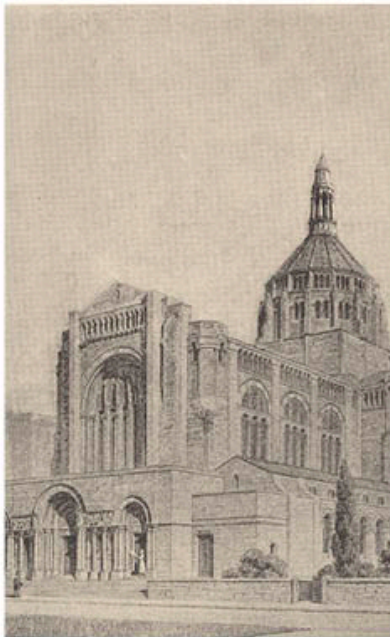


Episcopal Churchbuilding in New York City

An Architectural Overview



This lecture takes participants on a journey through the rich architectural heritage of Episcopal churches in New York City. Episcopal churchbuilding has defined Manhattan's architectural and religious life since the city began. This lecture will take a broad view of the developments over the three centuries of churches we will cover by looking at a series of the most notable Episcopal churches and their history and evolution over time through photographs and renderings from that time (whenever possible). It is hoped that after this lecture, you can go to these buildings and appreciate how their beauty came to be.

We will begin with the earliest colonial churches in Manhattan; Trinity, Saint Paul's, and St. Marks Church-in-the-Bowery, built in the neo-Palladian style inspired by Sir James Gibbs' Church of St. Martin in the Fields. Inspired by Renaissance precedent and adapted to the sermon-inspired liturgy of the time, these churches provided Anglican—and later, Episcopal—services to the earliest residents of New York City. We will also learn how they evolved to meet changing needs of the 20th century, both physically and through their services; sometimes in unconventional ways!

We will then move on to the great Gothic revival of the mid-19th century. Inspired by the rise of great advocates for the Gothic style and societal reform such as A. W. N. Pugin, religious architecture took a distinctly medieval character. To provide these buildings, parishes turned to two key architects, James Renwick Jr., architect of St. Patrick's Cathedral, and Richard Upjohn, who designed the first iteration of St. Thomas Church on this site. We will conclude this survey with a look at the first steel-structured church, St. Mary the Virgin by Pierre Le Brun, on 46th Street.

Next, we will look at the three Episcopal churches in Manhattan by Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue; The Chapel of the Intercession, St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, and the Church of the Heavenly Rest. One of the partners of the firm Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson, which designed St. Thomas, Goodhue was one of the greatest architects of the turn of the last century. These churches, some of his final projects, reflect both his talent for Gothic design and his stylistic boldness in branching out from the style.

We will conclude with a look at the complicated story behind the erection of the greatest Episcopalian building on this island: the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Through a problematic design competition, a difficult and slow construction process, and ultimately a lack of funds, we will see how St. Johns, even now the largest cathedral in the world by volume, came to its current unfinished state.

Church Addresses:

- **Trinity Church:** 89 Broadway, New York, NY 10006
- **St. Paul's Chapel:** 209 Broadway, New York, NY 10007
- **St. Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery:** 131 East 10th Street, New York, NY 10003
- **Grace Church:** 802 Broadway, New York, NY 10003
- **Calvary Church:** 61 Gramercy Park North, New York, NY 10010
- **The Church of the Transfiguration:** 1 East 29th Street, New York, NY 10016
- **The Church of St. Mary the Virgin:** 145 West 46th Street, New York, NY 10036
- **The Church of the Intercession:** 550 West 155th Street, New York, NY 10032
- **St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church:** 325 Park Ave, New York, NY 10022
- **The Church of the Heavenly Rest:** 1085 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10128
- **The Cathedral of St. John the Divine:** 1047 Amsterdam Ave, New York, NY 10025

References and Further Reading:

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- David W. Dunlap, *From Abyssinian to Zion: A Guide to Manhattan's Houses of Worship*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2004.
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- Stern, Robert A.M., Gregory Gilmartin, and John Montague Massengale. *New York 1900: Metropolitan Architecture and Urbanism 1890–1915*. New York, NY: Rizzoli Press, 1983.
- Stern, Robert A.M., Gregory Gilmartin, and Thomas Mellins. *New York 1930: Architecture and Urbanism Between the Two World Wars*. New York, NY: Rizzoli Press, 1987.
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- Smith, Christine. *St. Bartholomew's Church in the City of New York*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988.
- Wylie, Romy. *Bertram Goodhue: His Life and Residential Architecture*. New York, NY, London, UK: W. W. Norton and Company, 2007.

Useful Websites:

- The Landmarks Preservation Commission: <https://www.nyc.gov/site/lpc/index.page>
- New York Public Library Digital Collections: <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/>
- The Library of Congress: <https://www.loc.gov/>
- The New York Historical, Shelby White & Leon Levy Digital Library: <https://digitalcollections.nyhistory.org/>