



**A BUILDING DESIGN CONCEPT for
PARKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OTTAWA.**

**JOSEPH W. FRANCIS.
ARCHITECT, R.I.B.A., A.R.I.B.S.**

A Message from the Minister

It is a pleasure for me to introduce an exciting building concept to you. We are very much indebted to Mr. Joe Francis and the building committee for incorporating so much within such a limited budget.

The struggle to reach this present hour of opportunity has been a long, difficult one. There have been setbacks and disappointments. But God has been leading us as certainly as He led His ancient people through their wilderness wanderings to the south of Palestine. Difficulties like these afford an opportunity for experience and maturity. And now we, too, stand on the borders of a better day. Like Israel, we need to call for courage and go up to seize our day of faith and hope. The Lord seems to be setting an open door before us which no man may shut.

We need a church structure, if we are to arrive at our full potential. We need a home of our own. We have had to see worthy children's work set aside. We have had to forego a deeper ecumenical involvement where we could have contributed something distinctive to the larger witness for Christ. Other assorted ministries, not least of which is our ministry of music and praise, have not been expressed as we would want. We have to thank God and a great many people who have helped to contribute to so much that has been done. But I believe now our time has come. We are being called to greater spheres of service. And I think that our building committee has outlined in this brochure a meaningful way in which we might achieve this greater witness for Christ.

It ought to be clear that our ultimate task is not the building of a structure in mortar and steel. But it has been brought home to us time and again over the past seven years that the work of Christ is done through down-to-earth, practical means. Let us push forward, then, with a vision for what must be done. Let us dedicate ourselves to erecting a church where men will have cause to say: "Surely the Lord is in this place!...this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate to heaven!" (Gen. 28.16v.)

Will you prayerfully consider this proposal and your part in the vision behind it? And may God richly bless you in your response to the matchless gift of His Son, our Saviour.

Yours in the Service of Jesus Christ.

Leslie Files, Minister.

A BUILDING CONCEPT FOR PARKWOOD CHURCH

The building illustrated in the accompanying sketches will provide space accommodation for some 4480 square feet and is estimated to cost \$100,000 including site development, furniture and organ etc. The sanctuary will seat 200 worshippers and the Christian Education Hall and other subsidiary areas will support a Church School enrolment of 190 pupils.

For budget reasons the building is somewhat smaller than the original proposed joint venture project with Bethany Baptist but it should be noted that the design is capable of maximum expansion should this be required in future years.

And now a few brief comments concerning the design itself.

Successful architecture should convey the feeling that its forms grow out of and belong naturally to the ground it occupies, rather than be thrust or forced upon it.

In this instance the shape of the building was dictated as much by the site circumstances as by the purpose for which it is intended. The diagrid pattern repeated throughout the building for example reflects the shape of the site and also provides an eminently suitable shape in the form of a hexagon for the sanctuary.

The Chancel projecting out into the "body of the Kirk" so to speak, follows modern liturgical concepts, permitting the worshippers to surround

the communion table on three sides thus symbolizing a deeper sense of participation and personal involvement. This idea is further enhanced by aligning the soaring conical shaped roof asymmetrically, so that its peak will focus directly over the communion table itself. The nave, horseshoe in shape, has a carpeted floor and will accommodate some 200 worshippers. In like fashion other supporting accommodations including social rooms, vestry for the Minister and classrooms, etc., will surround the sanctuary with access emanating from a central narthex or entrance hall. This accommodation will be suppressed in a flat roof construction revealing a thin clerestorey strip window which will encircle the entire sanctuary.

In keeping with our reformed tradition, it is suggested that the interior of the sanctuary be kept quite simple and restrained, though dramatic and virile assuming a strength and character from its unique sculptured shape rather than the application of superficial adornment. Internally the roof arches, concave and elliptical in form would converge at the centre, supporting a ceiling of cedar wood slats in natural finish and the walls are of concrete block painted matt white; the nave floor carpeted perhaps in charcoal gray could be offset by the raised chancel floor carpeted in russet red. A simple cross might be suspended from the peak of the roof by concealed means, directly over the communion table and dramatically lit to emphasize the centrality of Christ in His Church.

Externally the sanctuary roof would be covered with rough-cut cedar shakes and the peak sheathed in copper, revealing at the junction a narrow slit window on all sides to provide a surprise source of natural light to the interior. Exterior walls could be in a soft brown brick with windows of anodized aluminum. All exterior finishes, and to a great extent the interior as well, will be in natural materials to insure minimum maintenance costs and natural weathering effects.

Utmost advantage will be taken of the magnificent variety of trees and foliage which presently exist on the site. At the front entrance on Chesterton, an exterior boundary wall concealing the manse and the car park behind could be constructed of rough stone in the Scottish tradition, and a carefully positioned campanile in the form of a stainless steel Cross would provide a meaningful vertical feature to complete the architectural composition.

J. W. Francis, A.R.I.B.A., A.R.I.A.S.,
Architect
Chairman, Parkwood Church Building
Committee.

Accommodation requirements

| <u>Item</u> | <u>Square feet</u> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Sanctuary (nave, chancel, sacristy) | 1870 |
| Christian Education Hall | 900 |
| Social Room | 180 |
| Vestry | 156 |
| Kitchen | 144 |
| Choir Room | 138 |
| Storage | 56 |
| Storage | 35 |
| Furnace | 64 |
| Male Toilet | 55 |
| Female Toilet | 55 |
| Narthex, Corridors & Walls etc. | |

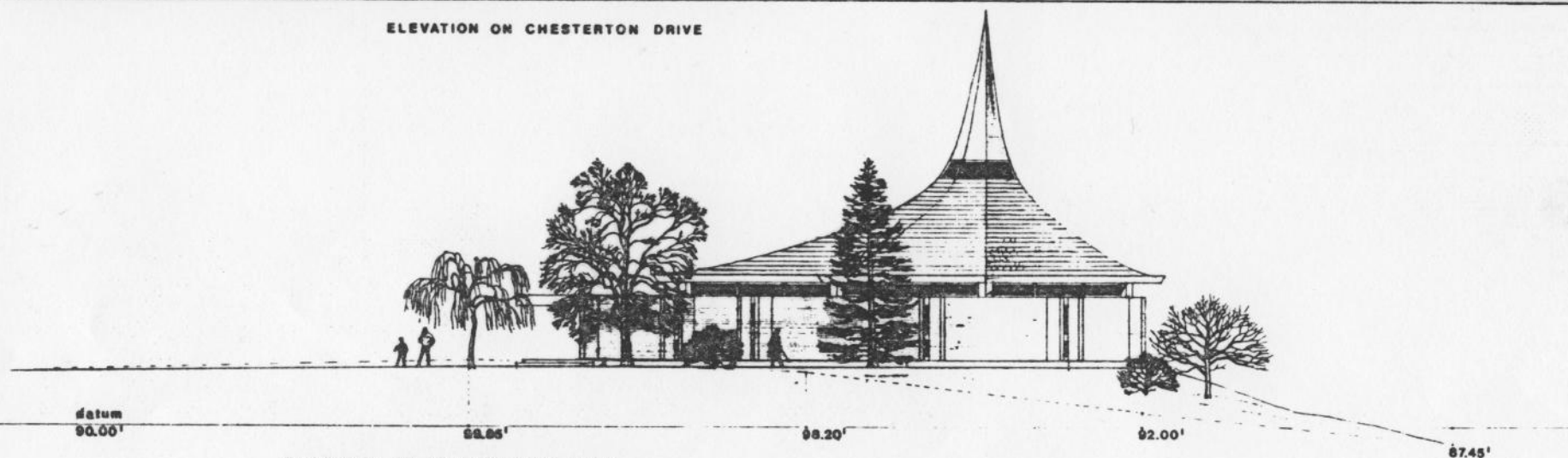
| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Total Plan Area | <u>4480</u> |
|-----------------|-------------|

Cost Estimate

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Building - 4480 sq. ft. x \$18.00 | \$ 80,000 |
| Site Development | 10,000 |
| Furniture & Organ, etc. | <u>10,000</u> |
| | <u>\$100,000</u> |



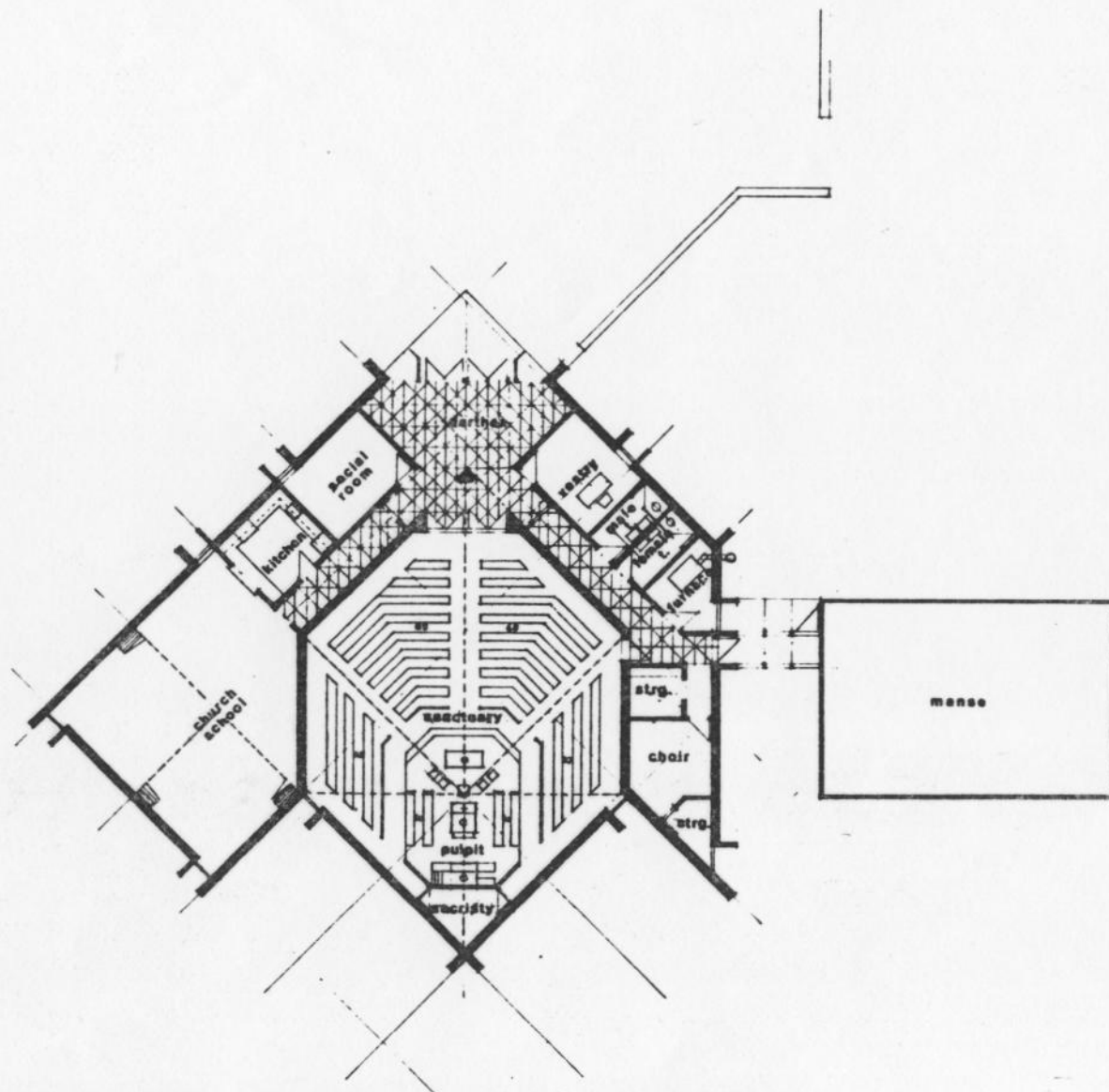
ELEVATION ON CHESTERTON DRIVE



ELEVATION ON MEADOWLANDS DRIVE

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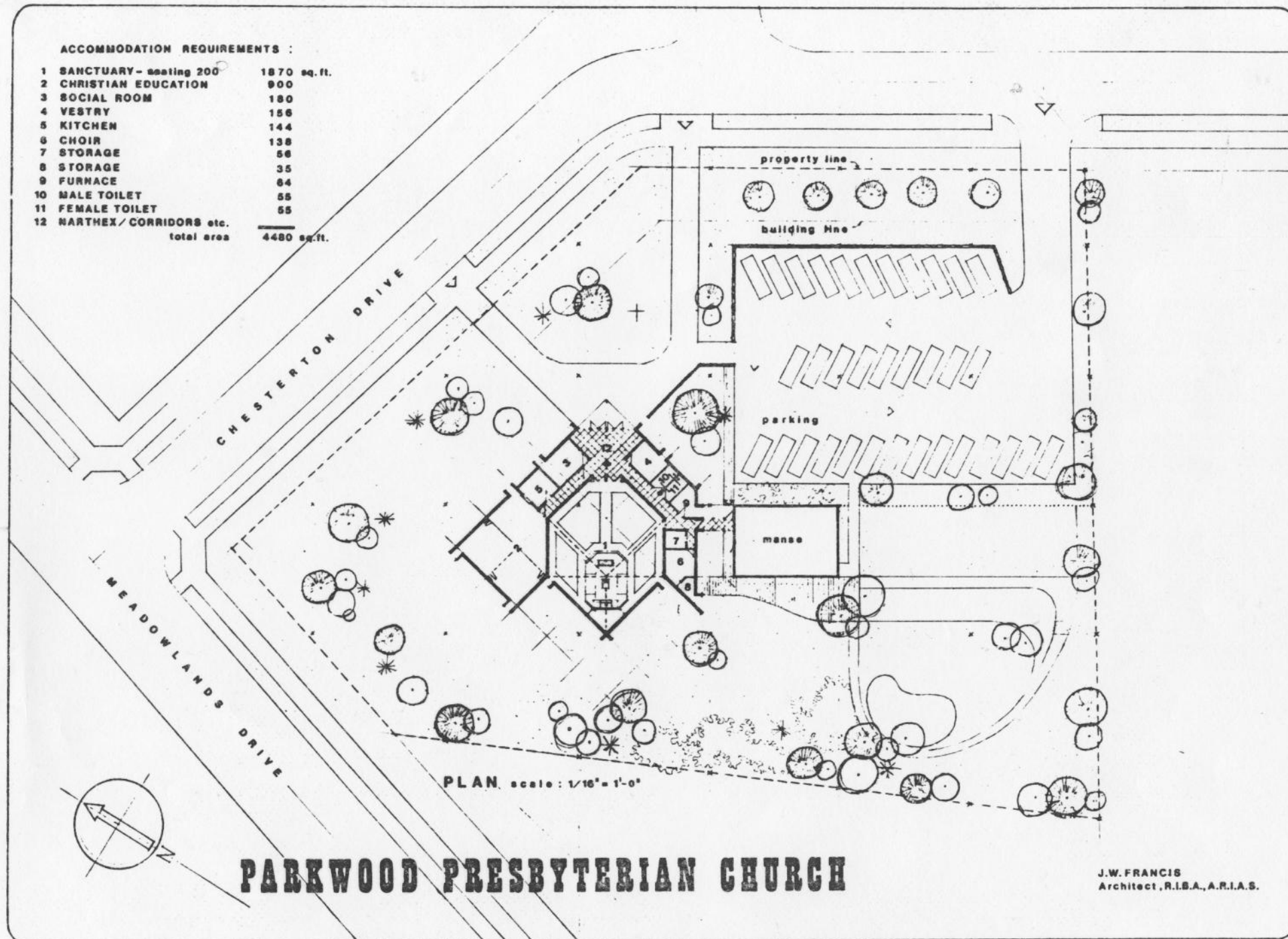


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ACCOMMODATION REQUIREMENTS :

| | | |
|----|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | SANCTUARY - seating 200 | 1870 sq. ft. |
| 2 | CHRISTIAN EDUCATION | 900 |
| 3 | SOCIAL ROOM | 180 |
| 4 | VESTRY | 156 |
| 5 | KITCHEN | 144 |
| 6 | CHOIR | 138 |
| 7 | STORAGE | 56 |
| 8 | STORAGE | 35 |
| 9 | FURNACE | 64 |
| 10 | MALE TOILET | 55 |
| 11 | FEMALE TOILET | 55 |
| 12 | NARTHEX / CORRIDORS etc. | |
| | total area | 4480 sq. ft. |



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