

Electronic Architecture— House of Worship

Assembly Hall, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Salt Lake City, Utah

Assembly Hall is the largest proscenium-style theater in the world with a seating capacity of 21,000. The Hall was acoustically designed to simulate an outdoor venue to allow the Electronic Reflected Energy System (ERES) to create the proper acoustical environment for both speech intelligibility and music. The ERES system can vary the reverberation time in the Hall from 1.5 and 3.0 seconds to accommodate the new pipe organ for the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.



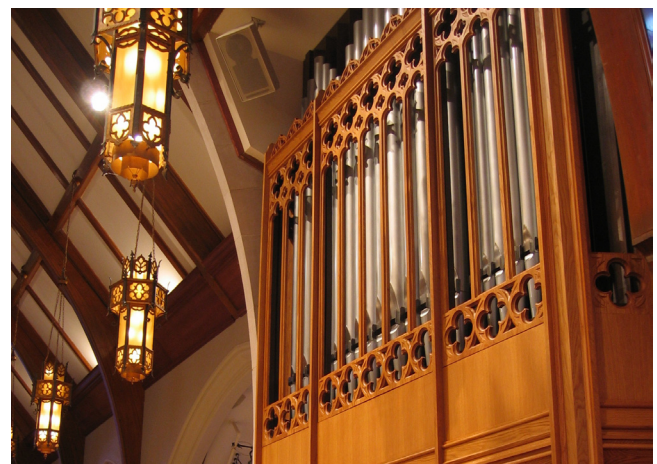
St. James Church New York City, New York

St. James Episcopal Church was constructed in Manhattan in 1884 and significantly altered in 1924. The church has a great history of music programs, with several resident choirs and a guest chamber music series. The volume of the sanctuary was never designed for large romantic organ literature or choral music and as a result it suffers from a lack of reverberation and warmth. In 1994, JaffeHolden designed an electronic architecture system for the sanctuary that significantly improved the resonance in the church. The church is currently planning an addition of a new organ and an upgrade to the electronic architecture system which should be fully operational in 2008.



First United Methodist Church Birmingham, Michigan

The First United Methodist Church has an active music program that has long been plagued with poor acoustics. The sanctuary with its pitched roof and low volume has not been able to support singing or the sound of the organ. The current renovation includes an Electronic Reflected Energy System (ERES) as well as a new sound reinforcement system and an organ. The new side wall architectural shelf conceals the loudspeakers which create a diffused enveloping sound-field throughout the church.



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