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ARCHITECTURE DESIGN THE CITY

Dramatic Design Evolution of former Immaculate Conception Church

by Sara Ali February 15, 2018, 11:47 am 7 Comments



Popularly known for the beautiful and famous Fargo House, architect Dennis Maher founded his latest brainchild project, Assembly House 150 in 2015. Assembly House is an experimental art and architecture space occupying the former Immaculate Conception Church. Teaming up with local partners and program participants, Assembly House 150 "focuses on the design and construction of amazing environments."

"We build creative spaces, furnishings and objects while hosting educational programs, exhibitions and events that engage overlapping issues in art, design, architecture, preservation and social justice," Maher said.



The space is used as an immersive gallery and public forum. Exciting projects have been in the works. Maher said they have commissioned their first large-scale collaborative project this year, designed by John Zissovici, an artist and architecture professor at Cornell.

"The project consists of two towering structures that intersect within the transept of the church, forming a resource room for books, models and drawings, as well as a presentation space," he said. Students from the Society for the Advancement of Construction-Related Arts (SACRA) have been collaborating and adding to the project.



Using the wood from the church, including its original lumber from the building, workshop and library tables have been constructed. Different projects, by Maher's UB students, have been stationed throughout the exhibition space. Watts Architects and Engineers and eco_ Logic Studio have been assisting the project with the necessary architecture and engineering drawings.



Maher stated that Assembly House 150 is an extension of his artistic practice and work as an educator. "I believe that art/design/construction are intricately related fields. There are so many amazing opportunities to bring these disciplines together in order to enrich our shared experience of the built environment."

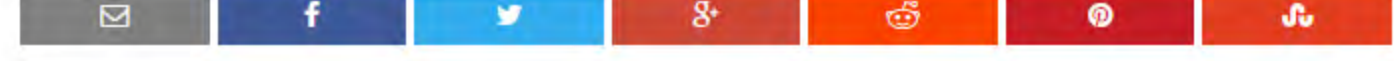


Maher is a firm believer that the creation of a meaningful space must be equipped with participants who are meaningfully engaged in the process. Buildings serve as more than just structures, but as vehicles for learning, providing jobs, and as "catalysts for imagining and realizing outstanding places for the future—places within which all citizens can have a sense of belonging."

Assembly House 150 is located at 150 Edward Street. Learn more about the space by checking out their website.



Tagged with: architecture Assembly House 150 buildings Dennis Maher design Fargo House Immaculate Conception Church



Written by Sara Ali. Sara is a freelance writer living on Buffalo's West Side. She works full time in human services, part time in freelance, and is currently working towards her endeavor to create a nonprofit focused on telling the stories of the refugee and immigrant communities.

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Matt DeBoth 4 days ago You da man, Dennis Maher!

DeeDee 3 days ago wow... what a shame

OldFirstWard 4 days ago So they're gutting the interior of the Church to accommodate this hack on another of his ridiculous ventures. This is destruction not art. A UB professor and his cohorts wrecking Buffalo. An awful article.

armyof100clowns OldFirstWard 4 days ago How is this destruction? The building was on the market for nearly seven years before Maher purchased it (I can't find information on when the Parish dissolved or left the building). It required stabilization and other remedial work before the "ridiculous venture" could come on line. I'm glad that someone finally gave this place a new lease on life, and instead of chucking what was damaged or no longer of use in the dumpster, is reusing it productively and purposeful ways. If I'm understanding the article correctly, those reused and repurposed elements are staying in the building. I'm sure if a developer had purchased it in the state it was in, most of the architectural elements would have been scrapped or sold to accommodate its new use.

OldFirstWard armyof100clowns 3 days ago How isn't it? This guy is a kook and he is wrecking the interior of this Church to satisfy his art fetish. Lucky for Buffalo he didn't get his hands on the Asbury Delaware Methodist Church (Babeville), it would have been a parking lot by now.



Let Buffalo Rise OldFirstWard 3 days ago OFW you are the kook. If you do not like his art that's fine but he is doing good this here. The building served its purpose as a place of worship and now it's being repurposed as a place to teach a generation of kids useful skills that you cannot get anywhere else. This building won't be a parking lot anytime soon you fool.

Louis Tully armyof100clowns 3 days ago Exactly. There's also the part about providing training so people can learn a skill. That's no small thing.

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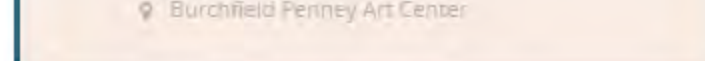
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