

CI Webinar “The Catechetical Purpose of Sacred Architecture”
Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord Jesus Christ, 08-06-24

Panelists:

Carter Hord, AIA, Principal, Hord Architects, <https://www.hordarchitects.com/>
Michelle Wisnieski, Classical Designer, Hord Architects
Mark Isinger, Architect, Associate

Introductions:

Carter Hord is principal of Hord Architects of Memphis, TN. The firm was founded in 1957 by his father, Lawrence T. Hord. Carter became principal in 1991, 33 years ago. Carter enjoys working with churches and brings to the firm a background in project design and master planning. He is currently licensed to practice architecture in nineteen states. Virginia is his original state of licensure.

He is married to Lisa Elaine Hord, also, an Architect, and they have two children.

Carter has received 6 awards for his work. In April 2024, Carter won the Palladio Award in the Commercial Division for New Design & Construction of less than 30,000 square feet for St. Clare of Assisi Catholic Church in Charleston, SC. That Church will be one topic of today’s webinar.

He has authored numerous articles in professional journals as well, but, most recently, he is listed among the “Recommended Architects and Artists of North America” in Michael S. Rose’s Sophia Institute Press best-seller *Ugly as Sin – Why They Changed our Churches from Sacred Places to Meeting Spaces – and How We Can Change Them Back Again*

Two other members of Carter’s firm are with him today.

Michelle Wisnieski joined Hord Architects in the summer of 2016 after receiving her Master of Architecture degree from the University of Notre Dame. She specializes in classical design and approaches architecture from the humanistic and cultural perspective. She has a holistic background in literature, theology, philosophy, political theory, and history and is passionate that tradition informs and enriches design.

She is married to Sean Wisnieski. They have four children.

Michelle has a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities and Catholic Culture & Theology from Franciscan University. She was a Fr. Michael Scanlan Society Scholar.

As an intern to Duncan Stroik, she was an editor at the *Sacred Architecture Journal*.

Mark Isinger joined Hord Architects in 2020 with diverse professional experience rooted in Classical Architectural training and a profound appreciation for traditional design. Mark’s original license was in the province of Alberta, Canada. He is currently a Registered Architect

in Tennessee.

Mark is familiar with all phases of architectural services with experience in high-end residential, higher education, institutional, and ecclesiastical projects. Moreover, he is versed in traditional residential design and detailing. He is rooted in classical literature and philosophy, providing a rich resource from which to draw within an architectural language that is also responsive to its context.

With a Master of Classical Architecture, also, from the University of Notre Dame in 2014, Mark had previously pursued undergraduate studies at Thomas Aquinas College in the Classical Liberal Arts. As a result, Mark and his wife have lived in all four North American time zones, as well as a semester abroad in Italy. They now reside in Memphis with their four children.

For the sake of full disclosure, Michelle is our daughter. She is one of our seven children. And, among Michelle's four children, four of our grandchildren, Carter and Lisa Hord are godparents to our granddaughter, Lucy Annunciata.

It is completely Providential that this webinar with Hord Architects is taking place today because another set of panelists was originally scheduled to present.

Carter has asked me to open in prayer, and I am most honored to do so.

Since today the Catholic Church throughout the world, East and West, celebrates the Transfiguration of the Lord Jesus Christ, I want to offer the prayer from the Roman Catholic Liturgy of the Hours:

The Office of Readings today begins with Ps. 84.

*How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord, God of hosts.*

*My soul is longing and yearning,
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my soul ring out their joy
to God, the living God.*

O God,
who in the glorious Transfiguration
of your Only Begotten Son
confirmed the mysteries of faith
by the witness of the Fathers
and wonderfully prefigured
our full adoption to sonship,
grant, we pray, to your servants, that,

listening to the voice of your beloved Son,
we may merit to become co-heirs with him.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
— Amen.

Dear Carter, please share with us the Catechetical Purpose of Sacred Architecture.

[Slide Presentation by Hord Architects]

Tasks for Today's Webinar

1. *Aiming for urgencies*: You heard about “reading a building.” How could you become more proficient at “reading” your church and the church buildings near you for the sake of handing on the faith in a more concrete way?
2. List 3 ideas from today's webinar that could immediately inform your ministry. How would you *share* those ideas with your co-workers?
3. Much was shared about truth, goodness, and beauty in today's webinar. In the next catechetical or school year, how could you and your colleagues incorporate more *beauty* into your catechesis?

Suggested Resources on FranciscanAtHome.com

1. [Developing an Evangelizing and Welcoming Parish](#)
2. [A Foundational Vision: The Role of the Laity](#)
3. [Understanding the Liturgy](#)
4. [Essential Link Between Liturgy and Catechesis](#)
5. [Key Moments in the Liturgy](#)
6. [Liturgy and Catechetical Methodology](#)
7. [Introducing the Liturgy to Children](#)
8. [Sacramentals in the Life of the Church](#)

Additional Resources:

Michael S. Rose, *Ugly as Sin – Why They Changed our Churches from Sacred Places to Meeting Spaces – and How We Can Change Them Back Again*, Sophia Institute Press, 2009.

Denis R. McNamara, *How to Read Churches*, New Amsterdam Books, 2011.

Duncan G. Stroik, *The Church Building as a Sacred Place: Beauty, Transcendence, and the Eternal*, Liturgy Training Publications, 2012.