

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

Beachwood, Ohio



Herman Gibans Fodor, Inc. (HGF) was retained to determine the feasibility of renovating and expanding the existing headquarters building of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. Following a lengthy design and cost analysis, it was determined that the proposed renovation and addition was nearly as expensive as the estimated cost of a new replacement facility. Based on that information, it was agreed to construct a new 22,000 square foot building and demolish the existing 1967 structure. The construction cost, including demolition, is \$6.8 Million. Construction began in Spring 2006 with scheduled completion in Summer 2007. HGF is also directing the interior design and furniture selection for the project.

In order to maintain a connection with the past, a formal, symmetrical plan that reflects the original building was employed. This image also creates an impression of permanence and stability that is important to this fraternal organization founded in 1892.



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The public entrance and major internal spaces are identified by strong vertical elements set in contrast with the building's horizontal mass. Vertical fins and overhangs are clad in brushed aluminum panels that are set off by smooth planes of polished dark green granite. The entire building sits atop a rough hewn stone base that ties the building to its site and reinforces the image of stability.

The entry lobby will include space for displays describing the history of the organization and the heritage of the Slovak-American community.



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The building is designed to maximize daylighting without glare or heat gain from direct sunlight. Clerestory windows with interior light shelves are used to project diffused daylight deep into the floor plate. Exterior windows are shaded by broad overhangs. In addition, the building will feature ground source heat pumps utilizing geothermal energy as the primary source of heating and cooling.

The new building is sited to allow its construction while maintaining operations in the existing home office. The original building will be demolished to make way for a new parking lot.

