

2008 FAITH & FORM RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE AWARD



The center of the campus is a 170-foot-by-550-foot, tree-lined quadrangle, with academic, administrative, and classroom buildings and housing on the two long sides. At one end of the quadrangle is the library. The fourth side was open. The solution places the chapel space on the centerline of the quadrangle with a 50-foot-tall glass tower or “steeple,” illuminated at night. Entrance is via a large narthex and then into the chapel itself. An art gallery and chaplain’s office share this floor, while other support spaces are in a lower level that opens on grade to the rear yard.

The exterior cladding is Indiana limestone to provide a deliberate contrast with the red brick and stone-trimmed buildings on the north and south sides of the quadrangle. Expansive areas of fritted glass, south and to the east, with views of the Blue Hills of Milton, demonstrate Andover Newton’s active connection to the world. On the interior, the two gabled walls are clad in Jerusalem limestone. The north wall is clad in wood strips. Thin steel structural elements, round tubes and cables, are used in a decorative way to tie the structure together.

Wilson Chapel at Andover Newton Theological School serves a variety of Protestant faiths, each with its own architectural traditions and expectations. The chapel is a contemporary New England meetinghouse and also serves as a classroom, a lecture hall and a performance space.

The design of Wilson Chapel responds to three principal influences: context, program, and symbolic meaning.

JURY COMMENTS

This project has certain energy in its flexibility, in that it accommodates change. It integrates interior and exterior, and suggests the New England meetinghouse. It fits well into the campus. The glass tower is inspiring to a broad range of users from different denominations.

RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE

NEW FACILITIES

Wilson Chapel
Andover Newton Theological School
Newton Centre, Massachusetts

AWARD
Merit

ARCHITECT

Donham & Sweeney Architects
68 Harrison Ave
Boston, MA 02111

617-423-1400
617-423-2939 fax
www.donhamandsweeney.com

Brett Donham, Jeff Shaw, Margaret Kundert,
Eric Chamberlin (project team)

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER
Tsiang Engineers

MECHANICAL ENGINEER
Syska Hennessy Group

GENERAL CONTRACTOR
Shawmut Design-Construction

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
Copley Wolff Design Group

GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER
Haley & Aldrich

ACOUSTICAL ENGINEER
Accentech

LIGHTING CONSULTANT
Brett Howland

PHOTOGRAPHY
Richard Mandelkorn