

# Lighting Spaces



Roger Yee

The Art & Science of Architectural Lighting



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# PETERS & MYER

The Lighting Design Studio of O'MAHONY & MYER



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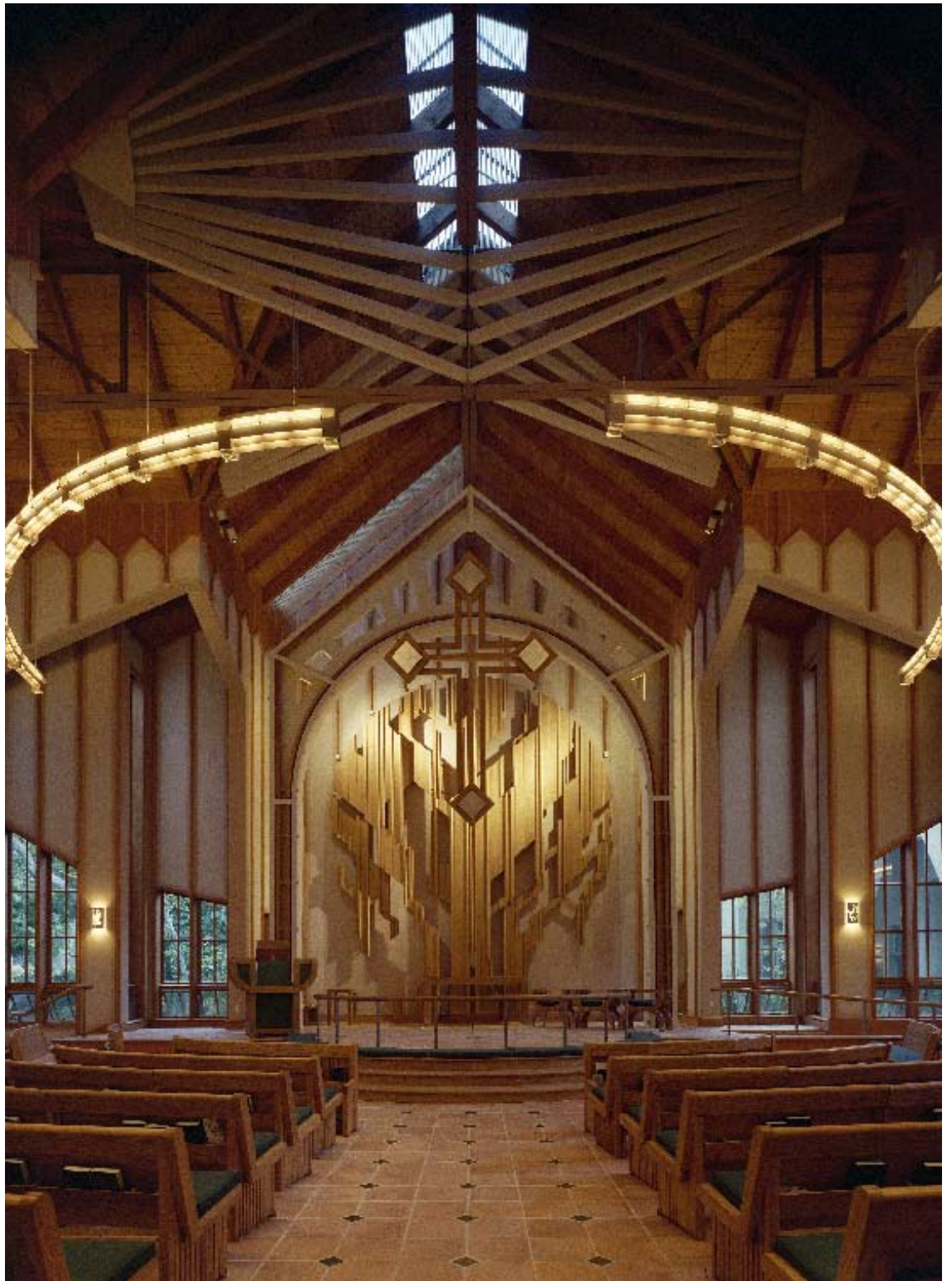
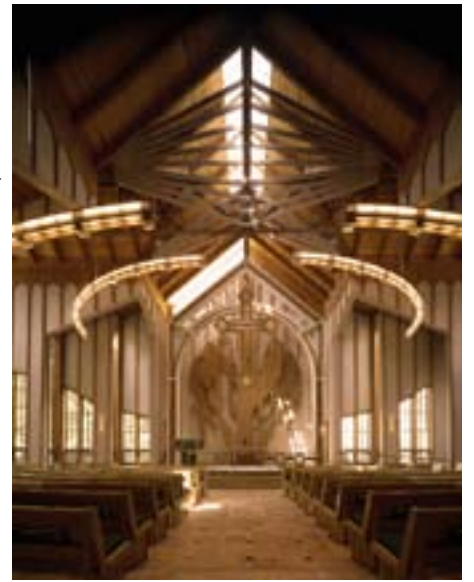
In the days after a disastrous fire destroyed St. Matthew's Episcopal Church along with 86 homes in Pacific Palisades, California, the Parish decided to transform the tragedy into an opportunity to unite the church community in the act of building anew. What made this award-winning project more than a conventional exercise was the use of a radical participatory design method involving all interested parties—architects, consultants, church elders, lay congregation representatives and members, and clergy—in openly conducted design charettes. The renowned architect Charles Moore and his firm, Moore Ruble Yudell, joined forces with long-time collaborator, Richard Peters, founding principal of Peters & Myer, and the church community to address all critical areas of the new church. The proposed conceptual architectural/lighting design easily achieved the two-thirds vote of the Parish, as required for approval to

## St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Pacific Palisades, California

proceed. Nothing was withheld from the completed installation, including the magnificent, custom-designed decorative pendant lighting fixtures, which were modeled at full scale and installed in the main worship hall, as part of an architectural mock-up, assembled for client group evaluations. The result of this uncommon effort was an exceptional lighting design, integrating custom-designed decorative lighting fixtures with natural daylighting introduced at key architectural locations. The full-scale mock-up so inspired church members that the additional funds to cover the cost for the custom luminaries were effortlessly raised in record time.

**1 - 5: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church**, Pacific Palisades, California, Charles Moore, Moore Ruble Yudell, architect; Richard Peters, Peters & Myer, lighting designer; Timothy Hursley, photographer.





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**Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center**  
 San Rafael, California

Superbly revived by the Northern California Film Institute after a storied history marked by such moments as its 1918 opening as a first-run movie house, 1926 expansion, 1937 fire, and 1938 remodeling in the Art Moderne style, the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center, in San Rafael, California now functions as a state-of-the-art 600-seat triplex movie theater for art and foreign films, as well as a major venue for the Film Institute's annual Mill Valley Film Festival and associated fundraising events. San Francisco architect Mark Cavagnero retained O'Mahony & Myer / Peters & Myer (who provided a portion of their services pro bono) for the extensive electrical engineering and lighting design work, including: complete restoration of the original façade and marquis, ticket booth, lobby and main theater, plus integration and remodel of an adjacent building

to accommodate a new screening room, banquet room, staff offices, meeting rooms and an art gallery. The sophisticated lighting design retained the original art deco chandeliers and sconces (refurbished and optically modernized), while integrating new energy-efficient light fixtures and computer controls throughout. The renovated main theater, as well as the two new film theaters, were engineered for the screening of all media formats, including traditional film, digital HD broadcast and DVD, with THX certified audio systems (with components and the services of his THX Division engineering design staff donated by George Lucas). The auditorium-style lighting and dimming provisions in the renovated main theater and precedes allow it to serve as the Institute's primary venue for fundraising events.



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**1 - 7: Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center (formerly the Rafael Theater),** San Rafael, California, Mark Cavagnero, architect; O'Mahony & Myer, electrical engineer; Peters & Myer, lighting designer; Sharon Risedorph, photographer.



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**Dublin Library**  
Dublin, California

One of the more intriguing reasons why the new, single-story, 30,000-square-foot Dublin Library, in Dublin, California, designed by BSA Architects, architect, Peters & Myer, lighting designer, and O'Mahony & Myer, electrical engineer, is so attractive and efficient is that its state-of-the-art illumination systems simultaneously provide functional lighting for all tasks and effective lighting of the architectural features. From the

metal halide pole fixtures leading from the Civic Center Campus parking lot to the building and the in-grade metal halide fixtures illuminating Robert Ellison's stylized "Know Way" columns at the entry, to the individually tailored solutions inside, the lighting scheme addresses the wishes of architects and librarians while respecting the boundaries set by the construction budget and California's Title 24 energy standards.



The entry rotunda, for example, welcomes visitors to a grand space lighted by a large, custom, circular, indirect/direct pendant fixture and fluorescent cove. The main reading room employs a task/ambient approach with large diameter decorative fluorescent pendants. And the stepped ceiling over the storytime area in the children's reading space glows with concentric cove lighting to reinforce the sense of a public forum where reading aloud is a universal pleasure.



**1 - 5: Dublin Public Library**, Dublin, California, BSA Architects, architect; O'Mahony & Myer, electrical engineer; Peters & Myer, lighting designer; Douglas A. Salin (images 2, 4 & 5) and Tom Rider (images 1 & 3), photographers.







**1 - 3: St. Francis Winery,** Kenwood, California, Hall & Bartley Architecture + Planning, architect; Peters & Myer, lighting designer; Tim Maloney, photographer.

Big, bold, full-bodied wines have been produced by St. Francis Winery & Vineyards, in Kenwood, California, in a modern Winery facility since 1999. Now, oenophiles can savor St. Francis wines in a new, 7,500-square-foot Visitors Center & Tasting Room, designed in the California Mission style by Hall & Bartley, architect of the existing 120,000-square-foot Winery and 10,000-square-foot Administration Building, and Peters & Myer, lighting designer for the entire complex. The lighting design approach mirrors each activity: industrial lighting in the Winery, upscale commercial lighting in the Administration Building, and outdoor, decorative and concealed lighting for the landscaping, architecture and interior

design of the Visitors Center & Tasting Room. Naturally, the aesthetics of the fixtures in the Visitors Center & Tasting Room parallel the architectural elements in their forms, finishes and colors, even as they stress efficiency, long-life and easy maintenance. Thus, highly decorative, low-wattage incandescent chandeliers, pendants and sconces are prominently installed in the public tasting room, private reserve tasting room, retail store and special event dining facility, accompanied by recessed compact fluorescent downlights, wall-washing fixtures, and indirect compact fluorescent ambient systems, with concealed, low voltage incandescent track lighting in the tasting rooms and retail store—a wine lover's paradise in lights.



