

St. Charles Borromeo

Tacoma, Washington

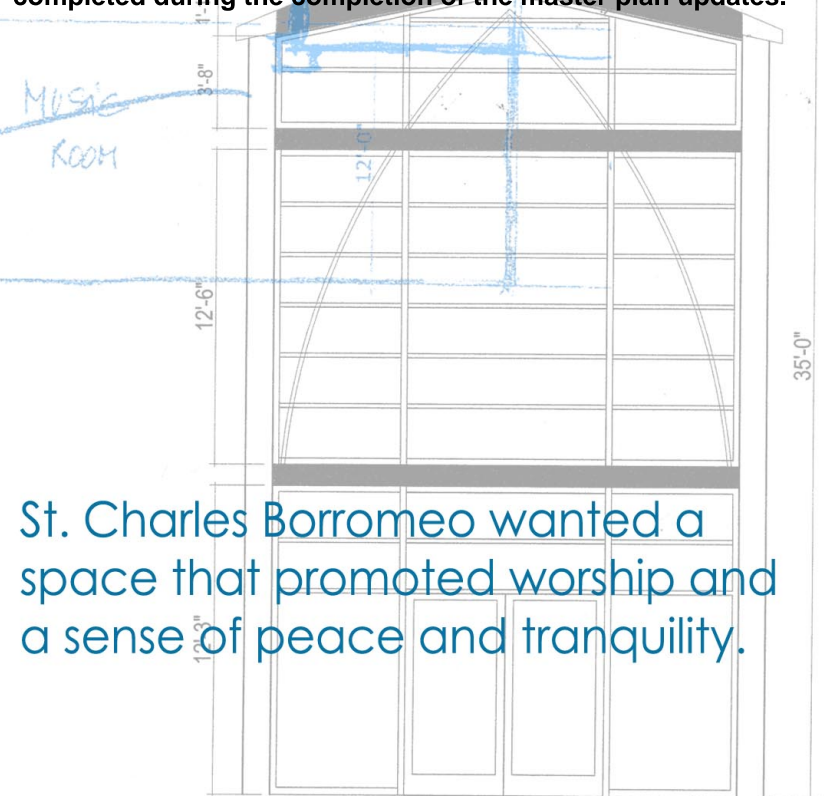


Jim Merritt began service with the St. Charles Borromeo Parish approximately 30 years ago, as an intern architect, building the model of the new church and working with the construction documents preparation team.

In 1993, he initiated the master planning of the facilities and site, working with the core steering committee and all the church program and user groups. A multi-phased plan was developed with the option of completing the project in as many as twelve phases. All phases were budgeted and schematic design was done on all elements.

Construction of the first six phases was completed under Merritt's direction and design leadership. Construction included site upgrades, divisible meeting rooms, a new commercial kitchen for the school and parish, a new school library, outdoor courtyard and gathering amphitheatre, and elementary school classrooms.

Merritt revisited the master plan for an update in 2001/2002. All elements of the plan were evaluated and new components were incorporated. The subsequent implementation strategy was to complete the next phases in three parts. The new plan focused on the daily chapel/classroom infill, school and parish administration and services needs, expansion with classrooms, tech computer center, and music space. A portion of the site upgrades and site entry signage were completed during the completion of the master plan updates.



St. Charles Borromeo wanted a space that promoted worship and a sense of peace and tranquility.