

projects



HGA Architects & Engineers

westwood community church

Client: Westwood Community Church

Location: Chanhassen, MN

Project Type: New Construction

Seat Count: 1,000

Opening: 2003

Architect: HGA

Contact: Mark Nelson | Pastor of Celebration Arts | 952.470.2111

AD Scope: Audio | Acoustics | Video | Lighting

Westwood Community Church is based in Chanhassen just outside of Minneapolis. Since its foundation in 1995, the church has surged from a weekly attendance of 90 to more than 2,500. Their new worship center not only enables more people to attend their church, but it is also built specifically to enhance the contemporary services of the church while maintaining a warm sense of community in the congregation.

The architects' desire for the worship center was to create a large and "inspiring" volume. From an acoustical point of view, it is best to keep the ceiling as low as possible to reduce the room volume, make the space less reverberant and, at the same time, more intimate and supportive to the congregation. To overcome this conflict and achieve these two goals we introduced several ceiling elements or "clouds" at 26 ft. above the finish floor. These clouds split the room volume in two and decouple the upper volume from the lower volume of the sanctuary reducing by half the volume seen and excited by the sound system. Another important function of these ceiling elements is to reflect the sound produced by the congregation quickly back to the seating area. The lower the clouds, the stronger the reflection and the shorter the time it takes for the sound to travel back to the congregation.

ACOUSTIC DIMENSIONS