

The Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles

This brief guide was designed to accompany the Visions and Voices tour with the artist John Nava, Friday, January 28, 2011.

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Brief History of the Cathedral



The Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles is located at 555 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, and is the seat of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

The building was designed by José Rafael Moneo, a Spanish architect and winner of the Pritzker Prize (the highest honor in the field of architecture) in 1995.

Plans for a Cathedral in Los Angeles began as early as 1859. Eventually, the Cathedral on Main and Second Streets was built and dedicated to St. Vibiana in 1876 by Archbishop Joseph Sadoc Alemany of San Francisco, and completed four years and \$80,000 later. Using land donated to the Church by Amiel Cavalier, architect Ezra Kysor designed the building. The interior was remodeled about 1895, using onyx and marble. The exterior facade of the building was changed from 1922-24 to give it its present look, said to be based on a Roman design.

After the Northridge Earthquake of 1994, the City of Los Angeles condemned the old St. Vibiana's Cathedral. Eventually, the new site was identified, and a design architect – José Rafael Moneo – was selected. The Cathedral is built with architectural concrete in a color reminiscent of the sun-baked adobe walls of the California Missions and is designed to last 500 years, and dedicated in 2002.

Among the notable artistic features of the cathedral are the bronze doors, designed by the sculptor Robert Graham, and the tapestries designed by the artist John Nava. These and various other artistic and architectural features are described on the web site for the cathedral, <http://www.olacathedral.org/>

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Description

This is an abridged listing of publications related to the artistic and architectural elements of the Cathedral. For additional resources consult the databases WilsonArt and Proquest, and the catalog HOMER, all available through the USC Libraries web site, www.usc.edu/libraries. Additional materials are located on various Los Angeles-based web sites, as well as the Wikipedia.

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Publications Available in the USC Libraries

Downey, Michael. [The Cathedral at the Heart of Los Angeles](#). Collegeville, MN : Liturgical Press, 2002.

Miles, Jack. [Robert Graham: The Great Bronze Doors for the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels](#). Venice, Calif.: Wave Pub., 2002.

Weber, Francis J. [Saint Vibiana's Cathedral: A Centennial History](#). Los Angeles: Weber, 1976.

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Casamonti, Marco. [Rafael Moneo](#). Milan: Motta, 2009.

[Rafael Moneo, 1967-2004](#). Madrid: El Croquis Editorial, 2004.

Moneo, José Rafael. [Remarks on 21 works](#). New York: Monacelli Press, 2010.

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Robert Graham: Body of Work: USC Fisher Gallery, November 14, 2007-February 9, 2008. Los Angeles, CA: USC Fisher Gallery, 2007.

Kelly, Kelly. "Local Models Simply Divine as Stand-Ins for Catholic Saints; An Ojai artist finds inspiration close to home for some of the faces in Los Angeles cathedral's tapestries." Los Angeles Times, (February 7, 2003): B.5.

Rotella, Sebastian. "L.A. Cathedral Tapestries Weave Old Art With New; Religion: Traditional Flemish craftsmen bring to life a California painter's vision for 'Communion of Saints.'" Los Angeles Times, (August 25, 2001): A.3. Retrieved January 14, 2011, from Los Angeles Times.

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