



STUART COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL OF THE SACRED HEART, COR UNUM CENTER

Architects: Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates, Inc.

Location: Princeton, NJ

Client: Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart

Area: 21,000 sf

Construction Cost: \$5,500,000

Completion: 2005

VSBA was selected through an invited competition to design this multi-use theater / sanctuary / auditorium facility for the private Roman Catholic Stuart Country Day School. The building “completes” the original campus design concept whose initial buildings are the work of the late Jean Labatut, an influential architectural professor with whom Robert Venturi studied at Princeton.



Inherent in a multi-use facility that combines chapel, auditorium, and communal center uses, there will be inevitable compromises involving their design and operation. VSBA strove to make the most appropriate choices between necessary compromises -- balancing the conflicting requirements for site lines, acoustics, staging options, seating configurations, and daylight control for various program uses.



In addition, the site and surrounding landscape was of crucial importance. Stuart Country Day School’s campus is located amid a dense forest. Via analogy and contrast, we worked to create a facility distinct from its environment that gently relates to its context -- by, for example, using a representative tree branch pattern across the clerestory windows.

