

The ART FOR EVERYDAY INC.



THE RESTORATION OF ST. MICHAEL'S
CATHEDRAL BASILICA

HOW ART FOR EVERYDAY INC. CONTRIBUTED TO REJUVENATE ST. MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL BASILICA

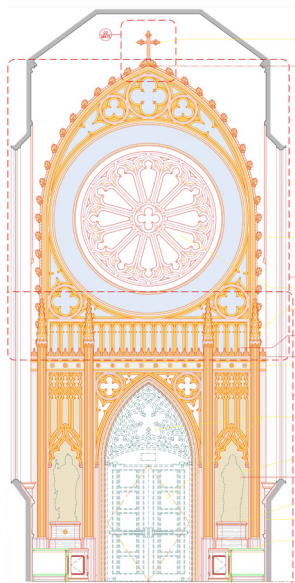
The significant restoration that returned Toronto's historic St. Michael's Cathedral to its 19th century glory was facilitated in part by the expert contributions of North America's leading architectural woodcarving firm, Art For Everyday.

The cathedral was established in 1848 by Toronto's first bishop, Michael Power, and built over a period of three years by community members of various Christian denominations. The cathedral evolved into the mother church of the Archdiocese of Toronto, and today, it serves as a spiritual center for the city's two million Catholics. A prime example of Gothic revival-style church architecture, this historic cathedral has been designated by Toronto as an "important heritage building," and attracts hundreds of thousands of pilgrims and visitors each year.

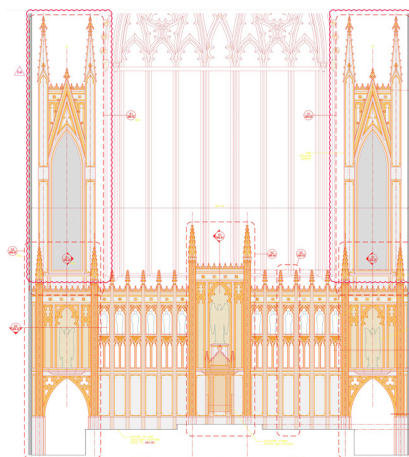
In 2011, after years of concerns about the aging building's structural integrity, a comprehensive restoration project began to rebuild, repair and expand the cathedral. This ambitious five-year, \$128 million conservation effort addressed every aspect of the building, including the extensive woodwork in the building's interior. With its extensive experience and expertise in designing and manufacturing high-quality woodcarvings, Art For Everyday was enlisted to help bring the cathedral's old-world woodcarvings back to life.

Over the course of a year, our team of fifty master carvers, chisellers, sanders, computer programmers and CNC machine operators devoted themselves to repairing or replacing the cathedral's solid white oak elegant wood carvings. Operating out of our 50,000-sq.-ft. facility in Toronto, we used state-of-the-art woodcarving equipment and traditional hand-finishing skills to perfectly capture the vision of the architectural design for the cathedral. The deep dedication and superior craftsmanship skills of our team allowed us to achieve what has become a signature project for Art For Everyday.

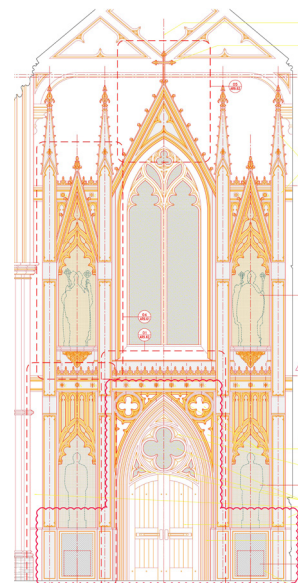
The newly restored cathedral reopened on Sept. 29, 2016, the day of the Feast of St. Michael, and was anointed the St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica. We are proud to have played a pivotal role in one of the most important architectural restoration projects in Toronto's history. It was also a great privilege for us to help restore this sacred space to its original majesty, so that it can endure as a beacon of faith, hope and love for generations to come.



Transcepts



Reredos



Side Aisles







REREDOS

With its intricate design and gold and green detailing, the preserved reredos is a beautiful sight for worshippers. To help rehabilitate the altarpiece, Art For Everyday rebuilt or manufactured decorative elements of the reredos, including six -16ft. columns, six finials, fifty five trceries and seventy floral rosettes. We also hand carved its twelve corbels, which resemble a cluster of White Oak leaves – a natural and traditional design that matches the church's Gothic revival style.

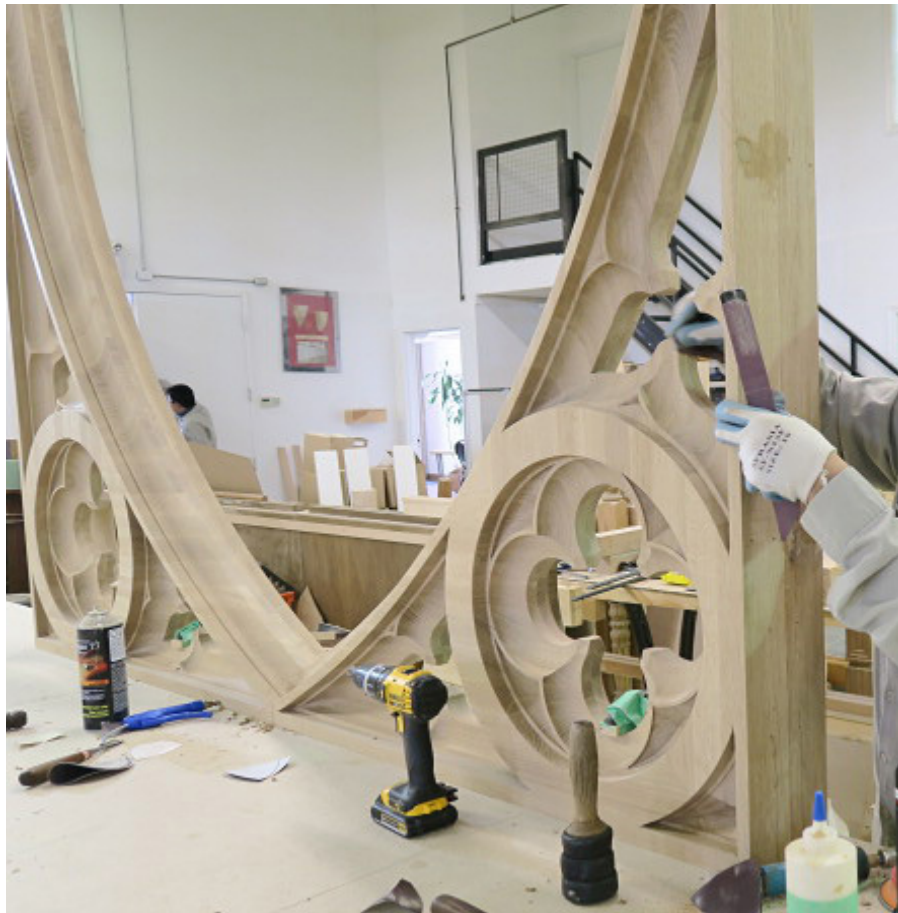
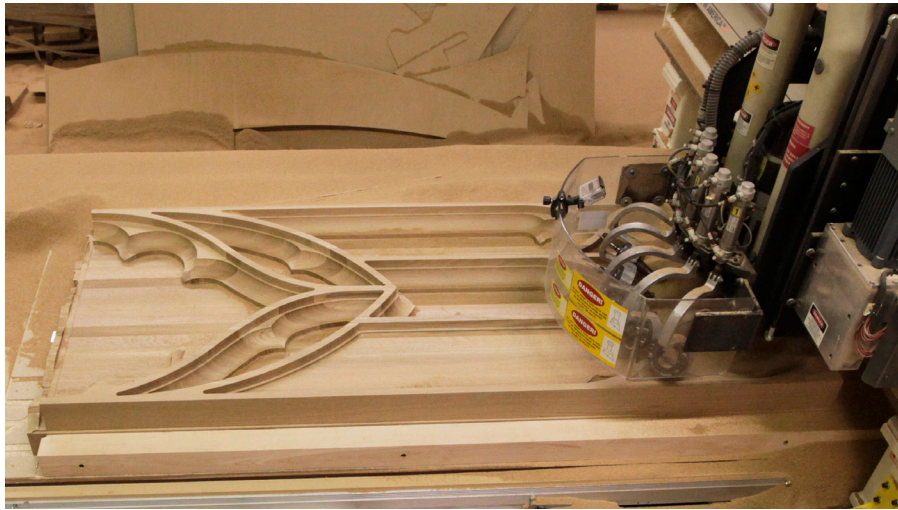






SIDE AISLES

Adorning the aisles of the cathedral are more examples of Art For Everyday's high-caliber craftsmanship. Our work here involved creating from scratch four large corbels, which required significant attention to detail: the process involved both machining as well as extensive hand carving and chiseling to perfectly shape the intricate leaf pattern. Our team also built from scratch eighteen stunning tracteries to amplify the majestic beauty of the cathedral.

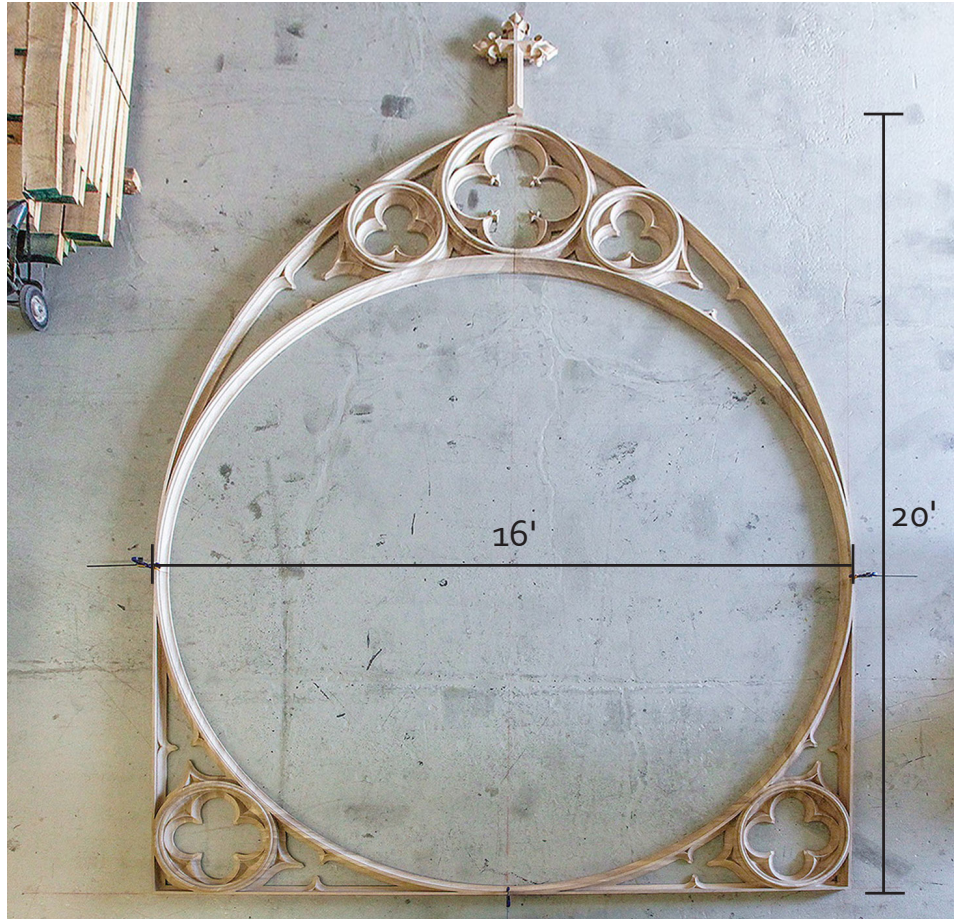








Immaculate Part of Mary
Mater Sanctissime Mariae Dei

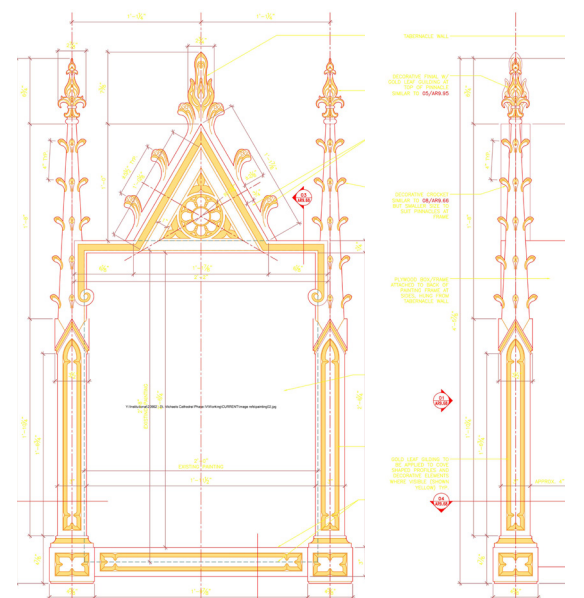


NORTH & SOUTH TRANSEPTS

The cathedral's restoration included the installation of beautiful bronze Marian double doors depicting each of the rosary mysteries in the north and south transepts. The north transept, which houses the chapel to The Immaculate Heart of Mary, has doors showing the Joyful and Glorious Mysteries. The South Transept, which houses the chapel to The Sacred Heart of Jesus, has doors depicting Sorrowful and Luminous Mysteries.

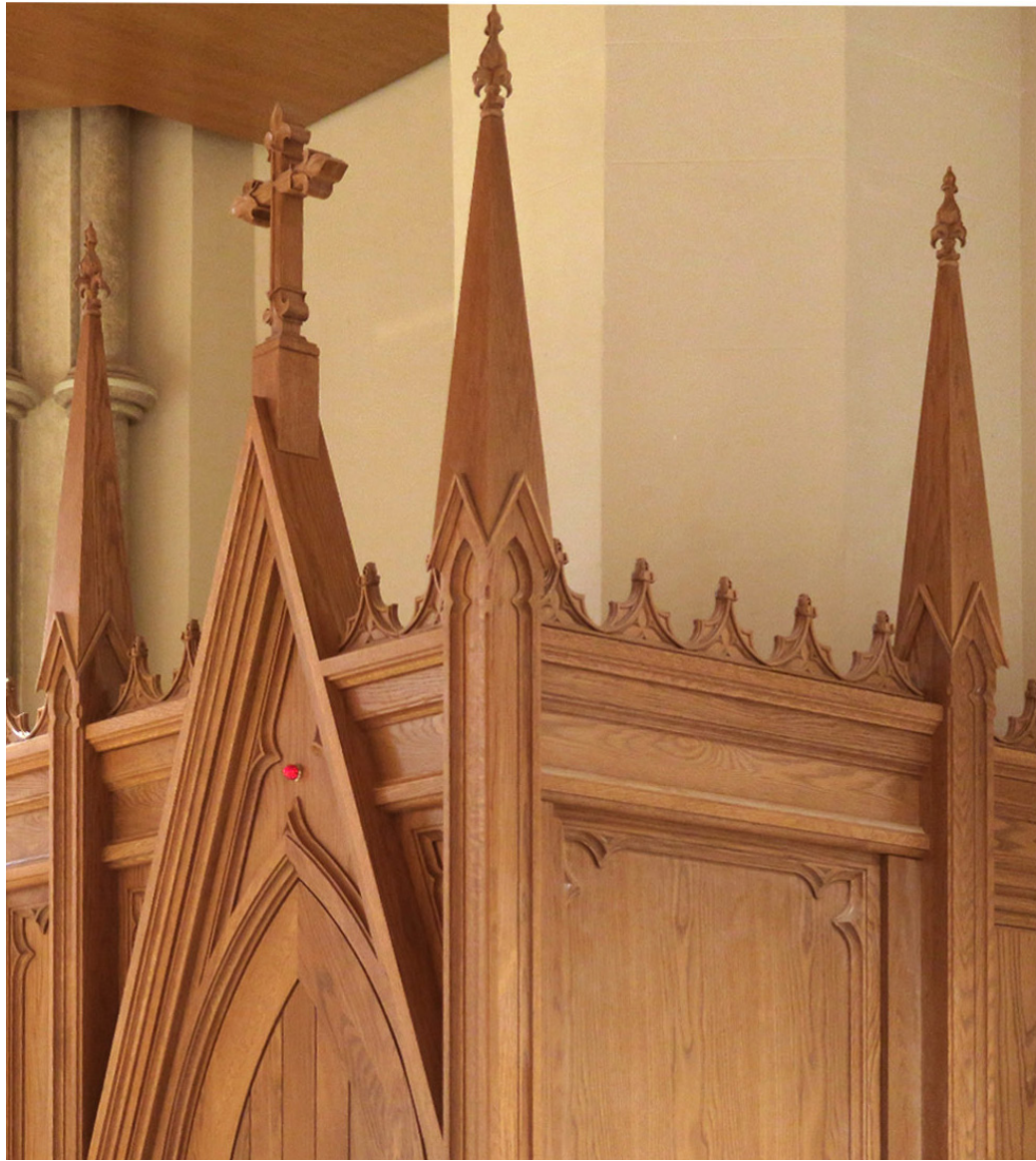
To help further enhance the visual appeal of the transepts, Art For Everyday manufactured all of their traceries, floral rosettes, columns and pinnacles. After being CNC machined, each tracery went through a -10 day process of hand carving, chiseling and hand sanding to fine tune each detail. The circular top half of each transept measured at 20 feet by 16 feet, and was assembled into one piece in our facility and then installed in the church.





TABERNACLE & PICTURE FRAME

Art For Everyday played a key role in restoring one of the holiest features of the cathedral, the tabernacle. At our facility, we hand carved the communion cabinet's finials and columns. This complex process involved carefully rebuilding or remaking by hand the traceries behind and above the cabinet, and two angels with trumpets perched atop the columns. The -24karat gold leaf that was later applied to tabernacle, traceries and angels created a breathtaking effect. As well, we manufactured the elegant solid white oak frame surrounding the portrait of Our Lady of Perpetual Help .



CONFESSIONAL

The tradition of the sacrament of reconciliation was equally prioritized in the cathedral's restoration with the optimization of the confessionals. Art For Everyday assisted by manufacturing and assembling various components for the two confessionals, including the cross, trceries, finials and crests.



PASCHAL CANDLE HOLDER

During the restoration, special attention was paid to how the cathedral commemorates Easter, baptisms and funerals. Specifically, a new design was commissioned for the Paschal candleholder, and Art For Everyday brought that design to life through precision CNC machining and hand carving.





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