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The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe is said to be the first major Catholic church built in a classical manner in over fifty years.

Architect: River Architects

General Contractor: Fowler & Hammer, Inc.

Poellinger Inc competitively bid the project. Poellinger's responsibilities included providing the steel framing/suspended ceiling system engineering and installation and material selection, design and application of suitable substrates to receive plaster and plaster ornamentation, and ecclesiastical art and elements.

The ceilings are suspended and highly detailed. The dome ceiling, 110' above the altar, is suspended metal lath and gypsum plaster. In the Nave of the church the ceilings are suspended barrel ceilings using a grid system. The side aisles have suspended metal lath and gypsum plaster barrel ceilings. The Sacristy has a suspended vaulted ceiling. Due to the weight of the ornamentation and the detailing of the large entablatures, the walls are structural steel framed with the necessary backing to receive the ornamentation. All wall surfaces were finished with a smooth putty coat plaster, requiring precise matching of contours before ornamentation could be applied.

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Not only was the planning and structural design and manufacture exacting, but the requirement for 'canvas-quality' finishes, which receive light from many different sources and angles, was unusual and extremely challenging. I am very proud of our skilled craftsmen for their meticulous attention to detail and quality on this project. One of my father's first large jobs, 50 years ago, was the St. Joseph's the Workman Cathedral, which was at the time one of the most elaborate and expensive buildings in our region. Poellinger Inc. was the only local contractor. Over the years, we have worked on many other churches, but none could compare in the grandeur and complexity of The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Poellinger Inc. and our employees are proud of our long-standing reputation for quality, which earned us the opportunity to work on this unique and challenging project.

- Mike Poellinger.

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