



Crematory and Chapel

Oakland, California 2012

description New Funeral Home
size 6,775SF

The changing demographics of the Mountain View Cemetery's customers required a different kind of architectural experience than that currently offered by the existing historic chapels. For many of cemetery's customers, the Anglican nature of the Gothic Chapels was at odds with their Buddhist, Hindi, Jewish, Muslim, Atheist or other cultural and ethnic identities.

We proposed replacing an unused driveway with a new modern funeral home and events building with an outdoor garden. An existing reflection pool to the north creates a contemplative back drop to the new sanctuary and meeting spaces. The south façade opens to an active garden that reflects the both linear and non-linear aspects of the existing landscape laid out by Frederick Law Olmsted. The classic shape, use of stone and siting makes the building a landscape element that mediates the differences between the adjacent mausoleum and chapels, turning the existing unrefined landscapes into well-defined outdoor rooms that are environmentally efficient with intuitive way-finding.

