

Opus 75 Installation in Columbus, Ohio - Voicing Continues! (see interior pictures below)

On November 12, installation began at St. Agatha Church in Columbus. A crew of seven, along with members of the congregation, unloaded a truck packed with pipes, reservoirs, toeboards and facade parts until filling the sanctuary. Installation was complete in early December with voicing continuing through January.

About the organ...

Recognizing and conquering challenges is a large part of creating the proper pipe organ for a given space. St. Agatha Church was no different. Because of the unusually long and narrow existing organ chamber opening (36 1/2' x 11 1/2'), our designers faced a great challenge right from the start: How to avoid creating the pipe organ equivalent of a stretch limousine.

Our solution meant veering from the traditional ideas of organ case design - straight lines - toward the organic, curvaceous style called Art Nouveau.

To help visualize how the two-dimensional façade drawing below transforms into material form, imagine a large open book, curves pushing upward begin at the spine, then undulate down in the center of the page, and, toward the outside edge, flow upward again. Our façade, when seen in plan view (from the top), does much the same. The grace of the pipes and wood aid in de-emphasizing the horizontal.

The wood of the façade is rift sawn white oak veneer, vacuum-formed over a laminated substrate. A form is created on which the wood is vacuum curved, then the bent wood is glued, laminated and vacuum sealed again. Once the bending and veneering process is complete, the piece is finished with golden oak stain and a satin polyurethane top coat.

The design of the façade is embellished with hand-carved tapering concave and convex elements along the top and bottom, accented with ribbon-like ornamentation.

Behind the façade, the seven-foot deep chamber houses the Swell, Great and Pedal divisions on a platform three feet below the front edge of the organ chamber opening. Within this limited area, 43 ranks of pipes are installed. Getting the 2,293 pipes inside the chamber requires several additional offset chests and having 16-foot pipes mounted upside down on the rear wall (allowing the mouths to speak through the façade).

The detached, mobile console has two manuals, plus pedal, and a microprocessor-based combination action allowing ninety-nine levels of memory. The sixty-one note keyboard compass has bone key tops and ebony sharps. The maple pedal has a thirty-two note compass. The organ bench is designed with a crank height-adjustment.

The stop and key action is electro-pneumatic. The façade pipes are made of zinc and of tin and their mouths are gilded with 23-karat gold.

When Janet Boes, then organist at St. Agatha, first contacted us to build their new organ, she commented, "I have heard only good things about your company." We think you'll only hear good things about this organ.