

Kramer Downlights Illuminate Restored Holy Hill Landmark



A Wisconsin registered U.S. landmark, Holy Hill and its accompanying shrine and church, sit atop one of the highest points in the state. Towering 1350 feet above sea level, the grounds thrill visitors with a commanding view and ambiance that has gained international acclaim. The grounds of Holy Hill and Shrine are revered for their collective beauty, period architectural style, a colorful history, religious significance and tangible contributions to the local community and mankind.

The Shrine at Holy Hill has a rich history, having served millions of pilgrims for nearly a century. Holy Hill is a National Shrine for the Carmelite Fathers. The existing main church was built in 1930; however the Carmelite Fathers arrived at the old church in 1906. The church's 100 year anniversary will be celebrated in 2006.

After 70 years of service, the Shrine had fallen into serious disrepair. Major renovation of the Shrine at Holy Hill was performed to save the church from deteriorating, at a cost of \$5.7 million.

In 2002, the renovation started with the exterior as the roof and other portions were repaired. In 2004, the interior restoration began. The goal was to keep the refurbishment simple and maintain a sense of natural beauty and reverence. Some of the original priceless elements found throughout the church needed restoration, including the church's ten large pendant light fixtures and stained glass windows.

The firms were involved in the project. Conrad Schmitt Studios, which performed the stained glass and decorative painting and restoration while electrical contractor Jordan Electric performed electrical work. Custom Metals of Madison, Wisconsin renovated the pendants, communion rail, tabernacles and much more. Lynn Howard of LMH Lighting was responsible for the interior lighting design updates.



The project's lighting challenge was to create a lighting system that was simple, easy to maintain, had many options of lighting scenes for various occasions, yet preserve the space as a church of awe and healing.

Kramer Lighting, manufacturer of standard and custom specification-grade luminaires, helped accomplish this goal by providing tiltable and adjustable accent downlights in the ceilings. They were cost effective and very efficient. The Kramer downlights provided much needed general illumination and accent lighting throughout the church. Prior to the restoration, the ten large pendant fixtures provided the only illumination for the nave of the church. Kramer **KL6500QTNDTILT 500W** quartz narrow distribution fixtures with tilt were used in the main nave area for general illumination in the sanctuary, behind the altar. They feature 30 degree maximum tilt with some utilizing all of the adjustment due to the angle of the ceiling. Six fixtures provided accent lighting in the ceiling of the sanctuary and on the side altars and lectern and the altar itself. In the choir loft, four **KL6250QTMDTILT 250W** quartz adjustable tilt medium distribution downlights and one **KL7500PAR56ADJ120 TR 500W PAR56** adjustable downlight used for accenting organ pipes. All of the fixtures can be relamped from the top.



By placing the Kramer downlights strategically throughout the church and creating zones combined with a control system, the lighting system is easy to use for all occasions and easy to maintain. The Kramer downlight fixtures used are top relampable and easily accessed from the plenum space above the ceilings. The new system also allowed the ten renovated and relamped pendant fixtures to be used as a decorative element to be enjoyed for their beauty and symbolism.

Utilizing the Kramer downlights allowed Holy Hill to achieve the desired results while staying very close to the original fixture material budget. The Holy Hill staff is very pleased with the results of their performance and visual appearance throughout the ceiling.



Thanks to the church staff, Conrad Schmitt Studios, Jordan Electric, Custom Metals and LMH Lighting the church has been restored to its natural beauty. Visitors are pleased with the decisions the friars have made with the help of an artist from Conrad Schmitt Studios, the contractor that performed the interior renovation. The church's lovely Romanesque lines have been emphasized with a gentle and subtle treatment. The walls have been painted to look like cut stone. The new lighting illuminates these enhancements beautifully for visitors.

With the restoration completed, Holy Hill remains a beacon of beauty, faith and peace for many. The Shrine at Holy Hill will endure to inspire current and future generations with its unique appearance, holiness and serenity.