



# ARCHITECTURE

EHLINGER & ASSOCIATES

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Church of Our Lady of the Spasm  
Jerusalem, Israel © 2016 Ladd P. Ehlinger

## Church of Our Lady of the Holy Spasm

This issue's limited edition print is of the Church of Our Lady of the Spasm in Jerusalem on Station Four of the Via Dolorosa, of a sketch by Ladd P. Ehlinger. This unusual name is probably the result of the difficulty in translation from the various languages that were used in formulating the concepts of the Via Dolorosa and this church not being easily translatable into English. Via Dolorosa translates as "The Way of Anguish", or "The Way of Grief", or "The Way of Sorrows", meaning that the exact Latin meaning combines all three definitions simultaneously, and is a name depicting the route that Christ took carrying the cross on the way to his crucifixion. There is no English word that combines all three meanings. In very early Christianity, it quickly became a tradition for the devout

with it by walking the route. At the location of what is now the fourth Station, she is believed to have met him for the first time in His journey with the cross, and to have "swooned" or "fainted" or as originally translated in English, to have "spasmed". The earliest record of Mary's retracing of her Son's journey goes back to 345 AD. She was said to have done this walk of the Via Dolorosa every day of the remainder of her time on earth. Eventually this walk became a tradition. The biblical texts only talk about half the Stations, the rest evolved in tradition. The number was finalized into fourteen Stations by the sixteenth century.

This church was built by the Armenian Catholic Church, one of the autonomous Eastern Catholic Churches in full communion with the Pope in Rome.

Christian pilgrims to retrace this final journey of Christ, and it became known as "The Stations of the Cross" where each specific incident along the way was commemorated by prayer at each specific Station where the incident occurred. Altars were erected at each station at which to pray.

The early Christian's tracing of the Via Dolorosa was in imitation of the mother of Christ's (Mary) being reputed to have done so on a regular basis in the years immediately after His death, to have revisited her divine Son's last journey and all the passion associated

It belongs to the Armenian Catholic Patriarchate. It contains a chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and is also the Armenian hospice of Jerusalem. It was built in 1881 as a replacement to previous chapels on the site commemorating the encounter of Mary with her Son. Since 1981 it has been a world heritage site of UNESCO.

## DELGADO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BUILDING

On the following page are depictions of the replacement of the Delgado Workforce Development Building on the City Park Campus due to damage by Hurricane Katrina. The construction of it was completed at the end of May 2016, and the design of it by E&A at the beginning of December 2013. All of the delay is attributed to FEMA. Vivien & Associates provided the mechanical and electrical engineering.

The original building was damaged more than 50% by Hurricane Katrina, which caused FEMA to declare the building a total loss, and to replace it fully rather than repair it. Since the original building was wood frame with stucco cladding and asphalt shingles, we were obliged by FEMA to design the replacement with wood frame, stucco cladding and asphalt shingles - even though our estimates showed that cold formed steel framing would have cost about the same to slightly less than the wood framing.

The square footage is just under 4,000, and the building is pile supported with a two way reinforced concrete slab, and the roof structure is clear spanning light wood trusses. Finishes are simple with painted gypsum board walls, suspended acoustical tile ceilings with lay in fluorescent and LED can light fixtures, vinyl composition tile, carpet and ceramic tile floors. Air conditioning is by two units, DX type with condensers in the rear and air handling units on a mezzanine.

The Workforce Development program at Delgado is funded by Goldman Sachs. It is a program to assist small businesses in communities across the U.S. by providing advice and employee training.



View From Orleans Avenue  
**DELGADO WORKFORCE  
 DEVELOPMENT BUILDING**

