



Award of MERIT

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine
New York, NY

DLR Group

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From the ashes of September 11, the new Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine arose. Using light, the church appears as solid as stone by day, yet glows “from the light of 10,000 candles” by night.

An envelope of light between the thermal enclosure and a translucent stone rainscreen houses 1,200 LED modules in 2700K. Directed inward from the rainscreen structure, they utilize the thermal enclosure as a reflective surface. Shadowing from the rainscreen is thus minimized, as the stone glows from within.

This same envelope of light provides the base lighting within the nave through glazed surfaces in the dome and sidewalls. A warm interior glow at night celebrates the difference with cool daylighting.

Discreet 3000K fixtures highlight architectural elements and iconography. The icons are precisely lit from the springline of the dome. Each fixture is individually controlled to create unique scenes that correspond to individual liturgical moments.

The scope of lighting design work includes exterior building-mounted lighting and all interior spaces. While the prominence of the project and numerous other issues presented challenges, this beacon of hope serves as a testament to the dedication and resilience of all those involved. The Church encourages visitors to “Let the light embrace you.”

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