

# MIDWEST MAUSOLEUM PROJECT

*Design Rationale – Reasons for Formal Elements and Detailing*



Designed by Lobas Architects and our Consultants, 2019 - 2021



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**This Mausoleum** was a 4,500 square foot addition to an existing edifice. Buildings in the complex and other cemetery properties were predominantly Modern or Postmodern. Our firm recognized this as a principal building unifying the site, and a centerpiece of a symmetrical composition with existing garden vaults on each side. We thus presented a Classical Design, which both president and board accepted. The final built work follows our original design in form and detailing.

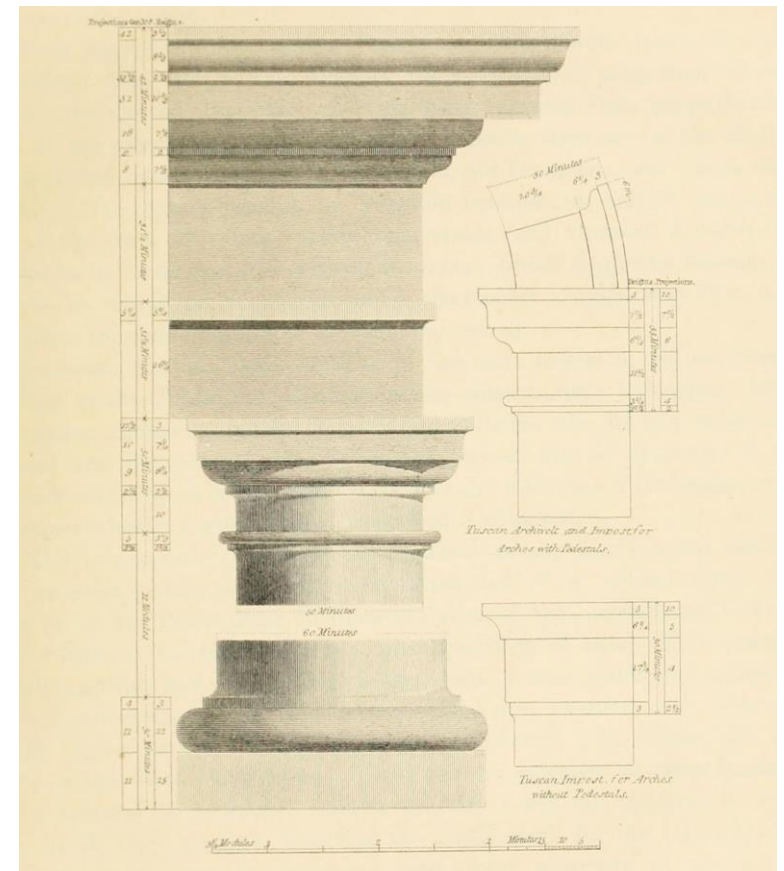
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## Lobas Architects – Design Rationale

We designed an assembly with precast beams with ogee profiles for two reasons: One, these carved beams represented the craft of the contractor, relatable in Northeast Ohio as primarily a blue-collar area. Two, these referenced the wood beams of the Tuscan, which Vitruvius (Roman architect and author) recognized as descending from simple Etruscan forms.



Of the five canonical orders, we chose **Tuscan**, the least elaborate. We referenced the 17<sup>th</sup> century London parish church **St. Paul's at Covent Garden** as an example of a simple Tuscan Order in an ecumenical building.





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Lobas Architects – Design Rationale

We assembled the beams in an unusual manner, referencing Michelangelo's detailing, specifically in his use of brackets in the **Laurentian Library**. He challenged the visual assumptions of his patrons by reinterpreting the bracket elements, which were ordinarily used structurally, into decorative elements.

In a similar manner, a horizontal beam in our Mausoleum entry, which would seemingly make structural sense as a chord bridging the entry, is absent, visually challenging the viewers.



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Lobas Architects – Design Rationale

We also quoted Michelangelo on some of the unusual, inventive classical forms he utilized on the **Porta Pio**.

We finally referenced tectonic (*relating to structure*) detailing by **Bernard Maybeck**, specifically in omitting the abacus (*plain square without moldings*) at the top of the columns. Ultimately, this mausoleum building is firmly classical, but highly interpretive, a strong statement in form and detailing.





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Lobas Architects – Design Rationale



Ichthys



Quadrefoil



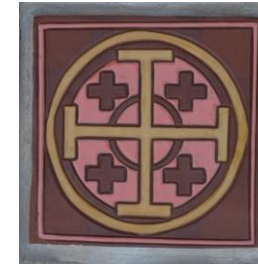
Chi Rho



Alpha Omega



Trefoil



Kairos



Spiritus Sanctus

These colorful decorative tile insets were cast in clay, fired, and glazed by Sister Magdala Davlin and her colleagues at Lourdes Franciscan College in Sylvania, Ohio. During the slab pour, the contractors placed them in the concrete terrace.





# SAINT PAUL'S, COVENT GARDEN

Inigo Jones, 1631  
London, England

*A simple and primitive Tuscan Order, expressed in wood and stone, drawn from the writings of Vitruvius.*

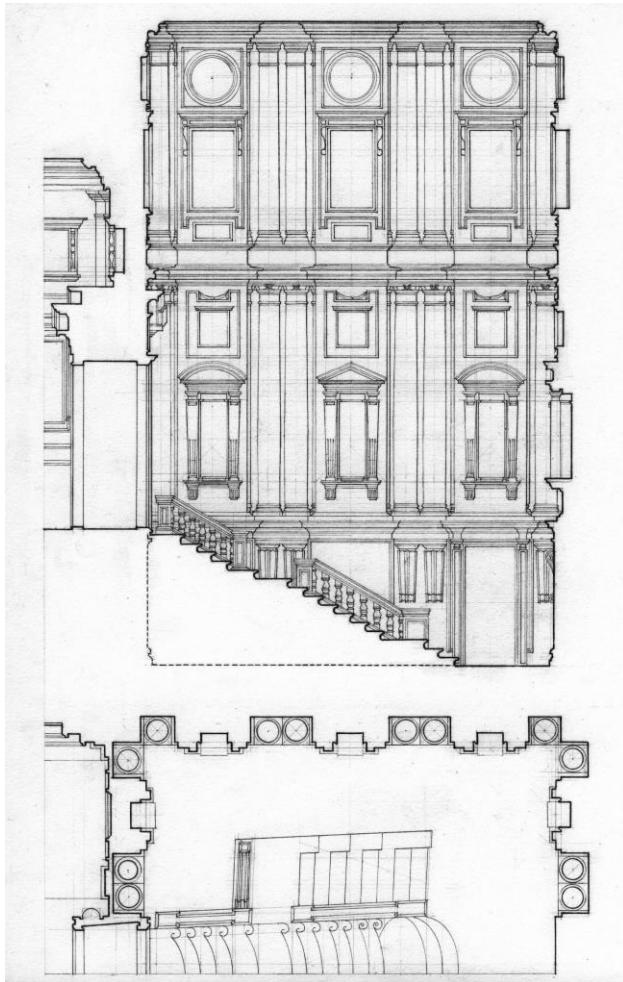




# LAURENTIAN LIBRARY

Michelangelo, mid-1520s  
Florence, Italy

*Mannerist Structure*





# PORTA PIA

Michelangelo, 1561

Rome, Italy

*Classical Detailing,  
unhindered by rules  
of the Ancients.*





# FIRST CHURCH of CHRIST, SCIENTIST

Bernard Maybeck, 1910  
Berkeley, California

*Classical and Craftsman Tectonics.*

