

## Architectural LED Lighting Beautifies Austin Church Sanctuary



St. Martin's Evangelical Lutheran Church in downtown Austin, Texas, has long been known for its astounding acoustics. Choirs from all over the region travel to its sanctuary to record music in its euphonic environs.

Now the harmonic holy place is known for its beautiful lighting, as well. Responding to a desire to not only beautify the worship hall's barrel vault ceiling, but also save precious funds, the church worked with FSG Lighting and Illumitex to replace quartz halogen flood fixtures. They needed something comparable to a 500W quartz halogen fixture that could also fully dim on a DMX system. The solution? Illumitex ProFlex architectural floodlights.

"We were looking for no maintenance, reduced energy consumption, and full dimming capability," says Michael O'Shea, an account manager with lighting services company Facility Solutions Group in Austin. "LED was the only technology that could accomplish these three objectives."

Once they'd settled on LED, they turned to Illumitex. "It seemed like the right product for the application — it is a fairly cost-effective product," says O'Shea. "Illumitex confirmed that it was a good decision by

## Aesthetics important

their willingness to work with us and their involvement throughout the project.”

Aesthetics were important to the church, too. “Aesthetics were everything. Illumitex was great during our mock-up,” says O’Shea. “We used models to create a different technique that really improved the overall look of the room.”

And it wasn’t just the look of the room that was improved. St. Martin’s expects to see many financial savings, too. By replacing 22 500W quartz halogen flood fixtures with 22 130-watt architectural LED fixtures, St. Martin’s will see these results:

- \$3,000 annual energy savings
- \$2,400 annual maintenance savings
- 2.36 years for simple payback including maintenance savings
- 4.6 years for simple payback energy savings alone
- 42.4% ROI
- Effectively plant 9 acres of trees and take 4 cars off the road (based on EPA stats)
- 44% IRR
- \$12,400 NPV
- Acquire more than \$20,000 in utility funding for project

The results are dramatic. The lights are tied into the church’s dimming system and can dim down for 1% if required. The retrofit increased the average footcandle power in the aisle from 1-2 to 7-9. And church officials are very pleased by the much more evenly illuminated ceiling, a sight worth getting a neck crick for.

## Case study job specifics

**Customer:** St. Martin’s Evangelical Lutheran Church

**Sector:** Architecture

**Building:** The church sanctuary

**Location:** Austin, Texas

**Solution:** Illumitex ProFlex 14 architectural floodlights

**Results:** Evenly illuminated barrel vault ceiling