



How do you convert a century-old chapel into a state-of-the-art marketing agency

## PROJECT CHALLENGE

while preserving the open, historic feel of the chapel? First, start with the vision of the BC Group in Harleysville, Pennsylvania.

Then, add in the contracting expertise of Gehman Custom Builder, Inc. Working together, this team gave new life to the 1889 chapel by creating an inspiring workplace.







(Top) The obscure glass in this Gothic window provides privacy in the office space, while the clear glass in the Circle window above maximizes the flow of light into the building. (Above) From the inside, the placement of the Circle window in an upstairs office provides a porthole of light. (Below) The renovated chapel has a new fun-filled attitude as indicated by the basketball hoop and ping pong table in the lobby area.

When Gehman Custom Builder, Inc. was approached to remodel the Harleysville Chapel

## PROJECT DISCOVERY

into new office space for the Bergey Creative Group marketing firm, the team literally jumped at the chance.

“We loved this challenge because we could play such a vital role in reclaiming a historic structure in our hometown from certain demise,” according to Dennis Gehman, president, Gehman Custom Builder. “To give this building a new life, we had to add in a new HVAC system, computer and communications wiring, an in-house stereo system and a message delivery system. All with hidden wiring to preserve the quiet design of the original chapel.”

As the builders worked with the architect,

Glenn Ritter, to maintain the original feel of the chapel, they also added in newer products

that would take the structure comfortably into the future. New plumbing and electrical systems were installed, a large custom made winding oak wood staircase with wrought iron railings was added to access a new mezzanine and the exterior walls were stabilized.

Outside the building, while the original window trims and configurations were maintained, Gehman and his team replaced the window units with low-maintenance, energy-efficient Simonton windows. Custom-made in the style of the original windows, the new Simonton units were made to fit into the existing brick walls of the chapel.



“The window style in the main area really defines the Gothic feel of the structure, so it was incredibly important to replicate their design while adding upgraded features,” says Gehman. “We used Gothic, Casement, Double Hung and Circle windows in this project. All of them feature Low E/Argon-filled glass for superior energy efficiency.

“To gain privacy in the six offices, we ordered obscure glass in some units on the bottom portion and completely obscure glass in other units. Inside and out, the white vinyl frames add tremendously to the overall look of the building while giving the new owners fewer maintenance hassles. The windows are truly one of the most visually appealing aspects that define the chapel ... and now the BC Group can rely on them for years of energy-efficient service.”



(Above) From the outside, the historic church in Harleysville looks serene. (Left) On the inside of the chapel, a new mechanized pulley-operated message delivery system maintains the tranquility and uniqueness of the structure. (Below) In every room, Simonton windows lend themselves to the design of the chapel. This Double Hung window features obscure glass on the bottom sash for maximum privacy.



*“Our dream was to transform the Harleysville Chapel into an inspiring, light-energized workplace. Gehman Custom Builder and Simonton Windows® helped turn our dream into reality.”*

*Tom Bergey*  
Bergey Creative Group





Dennis Gehman stands outside the BC Group offices, near one of the obscure glass Gothic windows from Simonton.



“Right from the start, the focus of this project was on the existing Gothic-style windows and high arched ceiling,” says Dennis Gehman of Gehman Custom Builder, Inc. “That made the window selection exceptionally important. We needed a manufacturer that could meet our custom design needs while offering us a top-quality built replacement window with incredible energy

efficiency and low-maintenance features.

Simonton Windows® clearly fulfilled every one of our needs for this project.”

For their work in converting the Harleysville Chapel into modern office space, Gehman Custom Builder, Inc. was honored with multiple Contractor of the Year Awards and the 2001 *Qualified Remodeler* magazine Master Quality Award.

## PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

### SIMONTON PRODUCTS USED FOR THIS PROJECT

#### Window Styles

##### Awning

8 - 28-1/4" x 25-3/4"

##### Gothic

10 - 28-1/4" x 26-1/2"

##### No-Hinge Casement

2 - 28-1/4" x 52-1/2"

8 - 28-1/4" x 26-1/4"

##### Casement

8 - 28-1/4" x 52-1/2"

##### Double Hung

2 - 24-1/2" x 58"

##### Circle

2 - 28" x 28"

#### Product Options

*Low E Glass with Argon Gas*

*Obscure Glass in some units*

*Double-insulated, double-strength glass*

*Full Screen Fiberglass Extruded Screen Mould*

*Head Expander with adaptor on Double Hung units*

*Two Air Loks™ on Double Hung units*

*Super Spacer® system on Circle window*

*Some units are pre-mulled*

*Intercept® spacer system on Casement units*

*White vinyl interior/exterior*

#### For more information on this project

*Visit [www.bcgrouponline.com](http://www.bcgrouponline.com)*

*Visit [www.gehmanbuilder.com](http://www.gehmanbuilder.com)*

#### For product information

*Call 1-800-SIMONTON or visit [www.simonton.com](http://www.simonton.com)*

