

New Chapel and Sacristy at the SVD Philosophy House, Lusaka

The construction of the chapel and sacristy was envisioned as the second of three stages of construction of the SVD Philosophy House in Lusaka. The Generalate has agreed to finance the project and the contract was awarded to MEL Contractors – the company which was responsible for construction of the first part of the house.

The work begun on March 9, 2009 and the exterior was completed at the end of May of the same year.

The originally planned shape was altered by addition of the space for the sanctuary bringing the floor surface of the chapel to the total of 65m².



View of the house with the space for the future chapel



Exterior of the Chapel completed

After much consideration involving esthetics, functionality, and costs the originally intended cement – plastered interior was thoroughly altered. The large interior surfaces called for variation in the wall finish and durability demanded that materials other than cement-plaster be used.

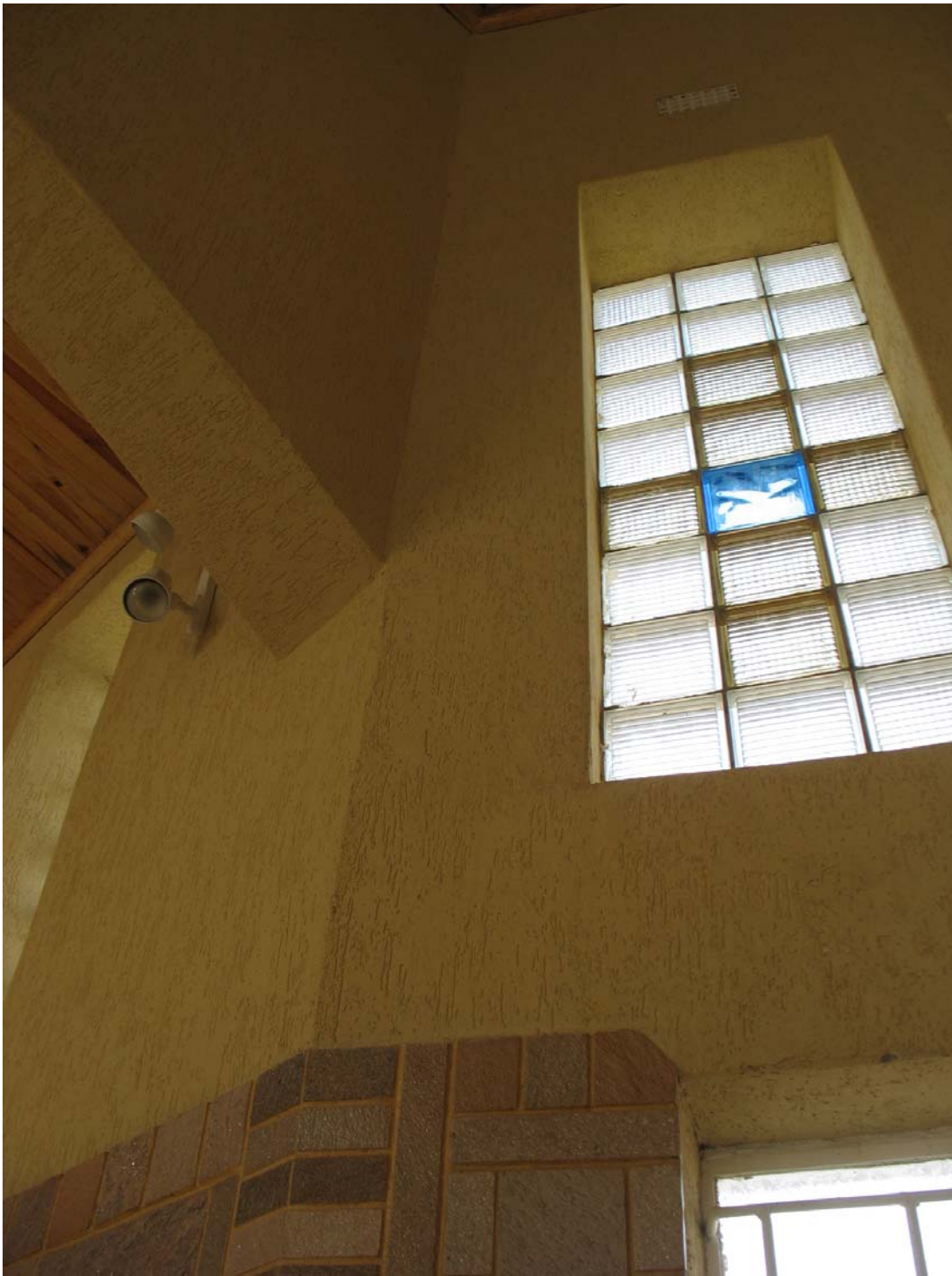
After research for locally available resources and materials a natural stone finish was chosen for the lower part of the wall and the sanctuary while an adhesive - based Graffiato plaster would be used for the upper part.



Fitting of stones

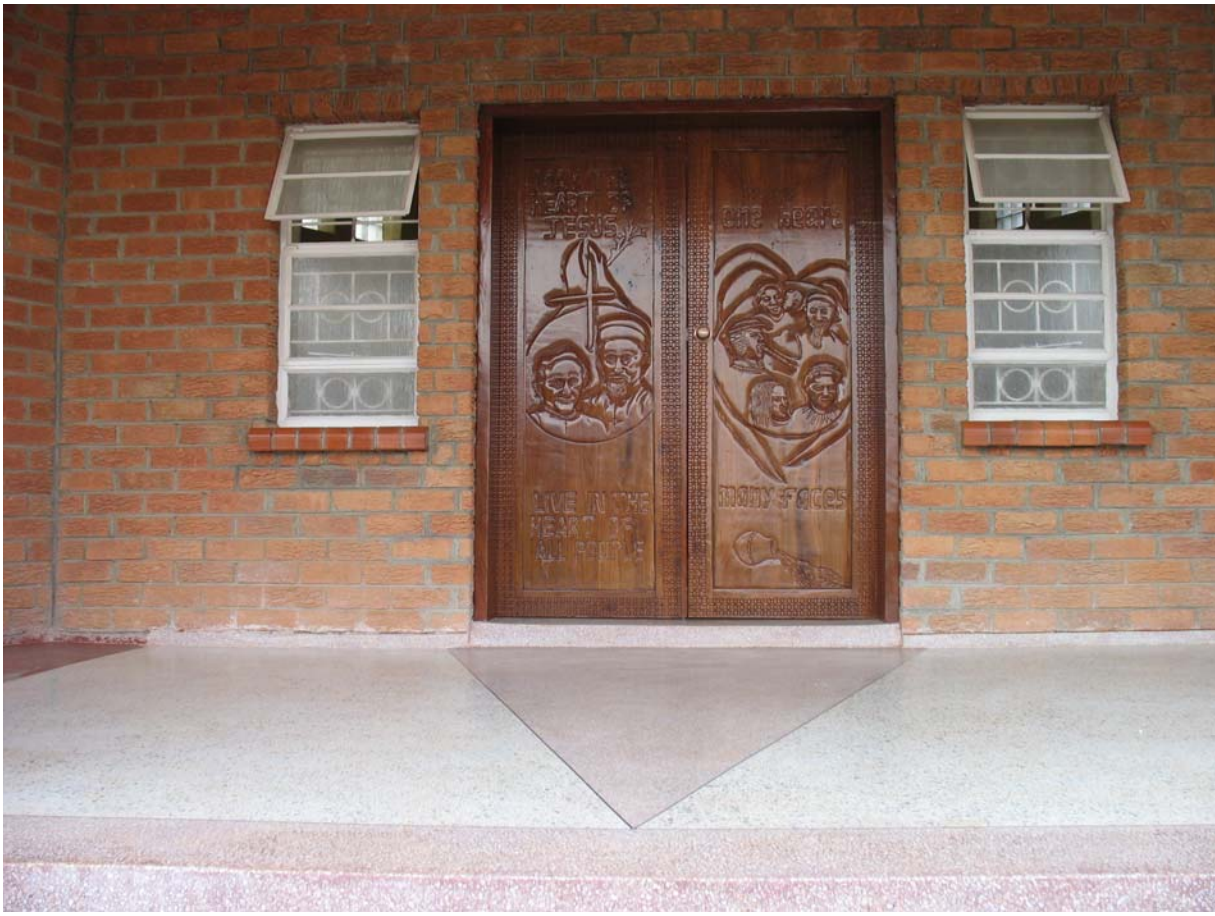


Stone finish completed



Graffiato plaster finish

This better-quality wall finishes raised the cost of the project. However, both are very durable, require neither maintenance nor further decoration, and give the chapel very attractive appearance. Design of the interior and stone fitting were done by Wojciech Szypula, svd. The front steps leading to the chapel as well as the corridor before the front door were done in Terazzo pavement which ensures durability and emphasizes a distinctive look for the entrance.



The last remaining jobs were finished on Oct 17, 2009 and the chapel/sacristy project is now concluded. A few pictures follow.

Reported by
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