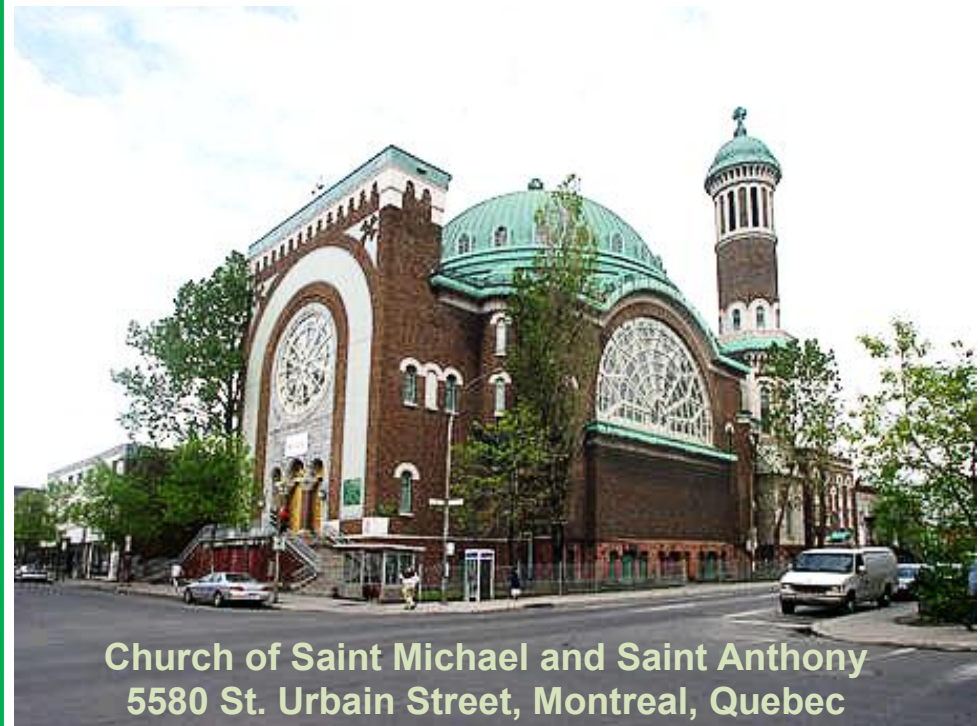


decorated in a non-traditional style, featuring trefoil-shaped glass panes, in a nod to the Irish heritage of the community that commissioned the building. Trefoil-shaped windows are also present in the tympanums above the front doors (image 4). The shamrock motif is also carried through to the capitals of the church's columns (Image 5). The glazed-brick arching on the front wall above the church's main entrance doors (image 1), an unusual design element, is thematically painted in various shades of green. Coincidentally, the copper cladding on the roof has turned green from years of oxidization. Finally, the striking minaret-like spire adds an interesting Byzantine touch. Originally intended to be used as a bell tower, it now provides an unusual aesthetic feature.

About the Architect

Aristide Beaugrand-Champagne (1876-1950) was likely chosen to design this church because he was a prominent member of the architectural community. He taught construction at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal and served as Dean of l'École des Beaux-Arts de Montréal. Beaugrand-Champagne also designed the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Ste. Thérèse d'Avila in Amos, Quebec, as well as many other commercial and residential buildings. The church in Amos was built a decade after the Church of St. Michael the Archangel and strongly echoes the latter's design. Beaugrand-Champagne expressed adventurous innovation in this and many other of his architectural creations.

We cordially invite you to enjoy your visit to St. Michael's and St. Anthony's Church (St. Michael the Archangel) and to experience first-hand the wonders of this rare architectural gem!



FACADE 1



MINARET-LIKE SPIRE 3



TYMPANUM 4



COLUMN 2



COLUMN CAPITAL 5



ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL



HAGIA SOPHIA, ISTANBUL, TURKEY

6

Welcome to the Church of St. Michael and St. Anthony (originally St. Michael the Archangel), a splash of Constantinople in the heart of Montreal's Mile End neighborhood. This church, historically important and an architectural masterpiece, is in a class by itself.

History

St. Michael's is a Roman Catholic Church built in the years 1914-1915 to serve the then growing Irish community of Mile End. The church was erected at a mere cost of \$232,000. A number of people played a role in determining the style of St. Michael the Archangel. Besides the obvious involvement of the architect, Aristide Beaugrand-Champagne, Pope Pius X also influenced the design. The Pope valued the purer form of Christianity that prevailed in earlier times, particularly in the eastern branch of the Christian Church, and he favoured a design that would hearken back to this period of church history. Another instrumental person was Father Luke Callaghan (1865-1931), a visionary who played a large role in raising money to fund the building and who ran the church as parish priest between 1910 and 1931. Father Callaghan along with the congregation influenced the Irish-themed details in the church's exterior. Following World War II, the size of the Irish community in Mile End began to decline as its members moved to the new suburbs. With this decline in membership the Polish residents of the greater community began to use the church - renaming it The Church of St. Michael and St. Anthony - as a place of worship and a community center. It now offers mass in both English and Polish.

Architectural Style:

The Church of St. Michael and St. Anthony incorporates a rich blend of architectural styles. This fusion includes Roman, Byzantine, Romanesque and Gothic features as well as other unique design elements. The structure is elevated on a podium in ancient Roman fashion (image 1), and Corinthian columns of polished granite that stand on bases decorate the main entrance. These columns further reflect an ancient Roman influence (image 2). Small, rounded arched windows circle the bottom edge of the dome and serve as a clerestory. Many other similarly arched windows adorn the walls, the turrets and the spire. These windows are an additional expression of the Romanesque influence. The medieval Romanesque style was popularized between the tenth and thirteenth centuries C.E. The strong Byzantine influence reflects the inspiration that the architect drew from Istanbul's famous Hagia Sophia (image 6) that dates from the fourth century A.D. Byzantine style is characterized by the use of intricate vaulting, domes and beautifully detailed decoration. Like the Hagia Sophia and other Byzantine style structures, the Church of St. Michael the Archangel has a large domed roof and a minaret-like spire (Image 3).

The church is constructed out of a number of materials. The innovative dome consists of lightweight reinforced concrete clad with copper. The church's columns, aside from the pair at the main entrance, (image 2) are also of the Corinthian order and formed from red sandstone. The facade skillfully blends painted and glazed brick as well as two types of unfinished brick, and unpolished granite block. The upper parts of the exterior walls feature brick of a very rough texture with coarse mortar containing pebbles, giving the structure an ancient air. The front doors and tympanums (image 4) are fashioned out of an orange-painted wood. This variety of materials contributes to the aesthetic appeal of the building.

Identifying Features

The church features one full rose window on the front facade and two half rose windows topped by half domes on the side walls. They are