



“Dives in Misericordia”, the church of the Third Millennium



Designed by American architect **Richard Meier**, Dives in Misericordia church won the international “50 Churches for Rome 2000” award presented by the Vicariate of Rome. The church’s simple yet impressive design, which successfully merges sacred spaces with a large lively outdoor area, is characterized by three white concrete sails that swell out as if blown by an easterly wind. The church,

symbol of the Jubilee, was built in Rome’s Tor Tre Teste neighborhood and brought new energy and cultural life to this suburban area.

The building’s great symbolic power is immediately evident: the sail, the light, its openness to its surroundings, its whiteness. Material and transparency, protection and permeability, isolation and chorality characterize this work. The outside is as evocative as the inside: three separate but parallel graduated sails enclose a longitudinal space bounded by a long wall. Intense light flows in from the glass ends and the gaps between the veils and the wall. The internal space is defined by an alternation of large translucent surfaces.

Serving as the main technical sponsor of the project, Italcementi supplied innovative high-tech building materials such as new **TX Active**[®] white cement. Italcementi also analyzed the concrete mix and provided continuous supervision during construction.

Such a prestigious, symbolic structure called for use of an extraordinary concrete offering not only high strength and durability but a long-lasting brilliant white color and ability to preserve its appearance over the years thanks to the self-cleaning properties of the finished surfaces. For Dives in Misericordia Italcementi produced a white cement resulting

from years of research and experimentation which optimizes the aesthetic durability of quality cement manufactures.

Its photocatalytic action eliminates various pollutants – automobile exhaust gases, fumes from home heating systems, chemical industrial emissions and pesticides – which come into contact with cement surfaces, transforming them into environmentally harmless substances and thereby preserving the building's original appearance.

The church was consecrated in October 2003. **Pope Benedict XVI** visited it in March 2006.