

Introduction

Everest Columbarium Systems is one of several US manufacturers of niches for indoor and outdoor use. Based on their product design, favorable pricing and friendly helpful management, the Committee has chosen to work with Everest. Their website is: www.everestcolumbarium.com.

Everest has designed a modular system that allows churches, cemeteries and other organizations, to choose the design that the niches will occupy. Each niche is approximately 7.5 inches square. The niches are made of metal and resin and they interlock so that they can be configured in multiple ways. A cylinder made of spun aluminum holds the cremated remains of one person, and fits in the middle of each niche. Each niche has a face of either granite or bronze. The Committee recommends bronze. An engraveable metal name plate is affixed to the bronze faceplate. If granite were chosen, the granite itself can be engraved to show the deceased's name and dates of birth and death.

If built in the chapel, on either side of the Martha and Mary stained glass window, each column of niches would be 5 niches wide, and 8 niches tall, housed in a custom built wooden cabinet. This placement would require that we remove an estimated 5 chairs from the chapel. The twin columbaria would be a visually appealing enhancement to the chapel, and would offer members of St. Andrews the opportunity to inter their remains in what our Committee feels is sacred space, inside our building.

Location

The Committee considered two other indoor locations, and unanimously chose the Martha and Mary window as the best. The Committee also considered a location outdoors, in the garden area, centered under the same stained glass window. An outdoor columbarium has a pre-cast concrete surround, and would hold 48 niches. The interiors of these niches are identical to those used indoors, but there is no flexibility in design. The Committee felt that the risk of vandalism was greater than the benefit of 24/7 access that an outdoor columbarium would offer.

See attached exhibit showing pictures of the drop in place outdoor unit.

Construction Details

The actual construction of the twin columbaria has two components. The first is the niches themselves, which are purchased from Everest. See accompanying exhibit taken from the Everest website. Each niche is 7.5 inches square, and 11.65 inches deep. These lock together much like an “Erector Set” and can be configured as wide and as tall as each purchaser prefers. The cremated remains are held in a spun aluminum cylinder which is removed to be filled and for any ceremony, and then inserted into the niche. A bronze face plate covers the front of the niche, and a brass nameplate is affixed to the front of each niche. The second component is the surrounding cabinet.

A local custom woodworker would build twin cabinets to hold the niches. The cabinet is much like a bookshelf, but without the shelves. It would have three sides and be open to the front, showing the niches with their bronze face plates and engraved name plates. The Committee recommends that the cabinets be made of wood similar in appearance to the wood within the Martha and Mary window.

The Committee contacted several custom woodworkers and met in person with three (Bob McManus, the Ossege Brothers, and John Burt.)

Criteria for Interment in the Columbarium

The Committee believes that members and communicants of St. Andrews, and family members of such individuals, are the intended users of the Columbarium. Anyone wishing to use the Columbarium, who is neither a member or communicant of St. Andrews, or a family member of the above, may request admittance which would be considered by the Columbarium Committee, whose sole discretion would determine.

Columbarium Book

Because the nameplate which will be affixed to each niche will only show the deceased’s name and years of birth and death, the Committee recommends that there be a Columbarium Book, which would allow each certificate holder or their next of kin, to show an epitaph, a picture, poem or other remembrance. The

Committee envisions one page per niche, and that the Columbarium Book be available for all to see. Its pages need to be protected from use and abuse. One possible location for the Columbarium Book is on a low table beneath the Martha and Mary stained glass window.

Administration of the Columbarium

The Columbarium is to be governed by Rules, which are attached. Periodic changes to the rules, and exceptional situations would require Vestry approval.

The Columbarium Committee to date has consisted of Rick Brockmeier, Judy Cohn, Andrew Modrall and Jenny Rice. We believe that once the Columbarium is in place and operational, that there should be a standing committee of three persons. Vestry could appoint one person each year each to serve for a three year term. Terms would be staggered so that one person rotates off and one new member joins the Committee each year.

The niches themselves will not show any numbering system. The Committee recommends that in the permanent records of the Columbarium, the individual niches be identified as if they were cells within a spreadsheet, with letters across the top (identifying each column) and numbers down the left hand side (identifying rows.) For example the niche in the upper left hand corner would be identified as A1. The niche right beside it would be B1 and the niche right below the first one, would be A2. It will be necessary for the Church to keep a master list, showing which niches are reserved and which are available.

Anyone reserving the use of a niche, who changes their mind, may relinquish their reservation, and receive a refund equal to 50% of the fee that they paid. The certificate holder who has reserved a niche, may also transfer their right to be interred in the Columbarium, to another member or communicant of St. Andrews or family member thereof, with notice to the Church.

In the event that St. Andrews becomes aware that a certificate holder has in fact been interred elsewhere, without notice to St. Andrews, their right to use the specified niche will be forfeited without refund.