## The Renovation of the Sanctuary of San Roque Cathedral: A Case Study of Liberation Restoring

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## **Abstract**

In 2012, the Parish Pastoral Council of the Diocese of Caloocan decided to embark on a major project for the Cathedral to highlight its bi-centennial celebration in 2015. The initial plan was to have the altar renovated just to meet its basic needs, it being the seat of the Bishop of Caloocan.

D.C. Alcaraz Jr. & Associates was commissioned to do the conservation study and subsequently the design for its renovation. After various investigations, research and evaluations, it was deemed necessary to focus on its most significant architectural element, which is the baldachin. While the church has endured two hundred years, the stylistic renovation of 1981 brought to light a significant change in style which highlighted the architect's imprint. Thus, liberation restoring technique through philological intervention was deemed necessary to reveal the original character of the sanctuary. Although the initial plan was limited to the altar, the results of evaluations and consultations required the total renovation of the sanctuary.

Since the existing apse was the focus of the renovation, will a new design safeguard its historical meaning? Moreover, can new technology and materials be appropriate to co-exist in this setting?

The upgraded function of the church to a cathedral requires an enlarged sanctuary, necessitating a new architectural intervention.

Keywords: conservation, architectural element, liberation restoring, imprint, philological intervention, baldachin