

8. Missional Space: Missionary Outpost The Church in the World needs a Skin

A supplemental chapter to
A Place of Encounter: *Renewing Worship Spaces*
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Models of the Church (Avery Dulles, 1988)

For each generation of faith theologies of “Church” (what the church is) emerge that reflect contemporary changes in political, social, philosophical and religious thinking.

In his reflections Dulles outlines some of the historical and theological “images” of Church that have developed in the past two thousand years of its history.

It is my proposal that each of these “images of Church” has a unique architectural footprint. Or conversely, (and perhaps more telling) that you can “read” the operating understanding of “church” from a community’s architecture.

Using the Avery Dulles scheme: (others could be used equally as well)

MODEL FOR MISSION	ARCHITECTURAL FOOTPRINT
The Church as a Institution (political society)	
The Church as Body of Christ (communal)	
The Church as Sacrament of Christ to world	
The Church as a Pilgrim People (not arrived)	
The Church as a Human Community	
The Church as Herald/Witness	
The Church as Healer/Servant	