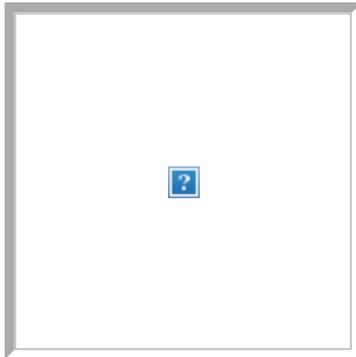




Translucent temple for Chile



The Bahá'í House of Worship to be built near Santiago in Chile (inset: Mr Hariri with a model of the Temple)

Haifa, Israel, June 13, 2003 (BWNS)

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE has appointed Siamak Hariri of Toronto, Canada, as architect of the Bahá'í House of Worship to be built near Santiago in Chile. Mr Hariri said he hopes to complete the project within the next three years. Mr Hariri, of Hariri Pontarini Architects was born in Bonn, West Germany and educated in Toronto, Ontario. He attended Yale University School of Architecture, New Haven, where he received his Master of Architecture degree in 1985.

The approved design has “nine gracefully torqued wings, which enfold the space of the Temple,” Mr Hariri said in his presentation to the Universal House of Justice. “These vast wings are made of two delicate skins of translucent, subtly gridded alabaster, one on the outside and other on the inside.”

“Between these two layers of glowing, translucent stone, lies a curved steel structure (the source of the faintly discernable gridding) enclosed in glass, its primary structural members intertwining with secondary support members, not unlike the structural veining discernable within a leaf. Light moving through and between the wings becomes light as structure, lines of radiance moving and arcing gently about The Greatest Name at the centre of the dome.”

Mr Hariri said the wings, identical in form, are organically shaped and twisted slightly to produce a nest-like structure, a soft, undulating dome positioned around a raised base. The inner form of the Temple would be “defined by a finely articulated tracery of wood, which offers a delicately ornamental inner surface, rich in texture, warm by nature, acoustically resonant and responsive to the spiritual dimensions of the space.”

practical and responsive to the cultural givens of the area.

During the day, the soft undulating alabaster and glass skin forms the outer expression, he said. “At night, the image reverses itself, the entire volume then becoming a warmed totalised glow, with the inner form of the building visible through the glass.” Detail of the top of the Temple.

The Temple, notable for its absence of straight lines, will rise amidst an extensive radiating garden comprising nine reflecting lily pools and nine prayer gardens and will seat approximately 500 people. It will be built outside Santiago, Chile on the Pan-American Highway.

