

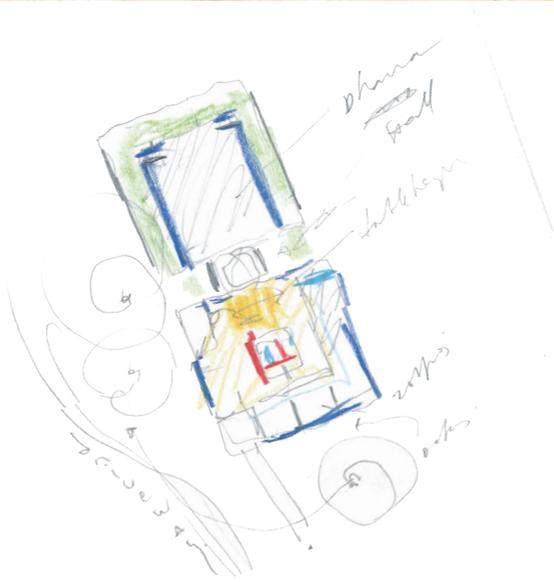
## Won Buddhism of Houston (2015 ~ 2020, Under Construction)

These are but a few explanations of the design, drawings, and photos of the Houston Temple by Professor Carlos Jiménez (Rice University School of Architecture). A critic once noted that professor Jiménez would like his buildings to be like a landscape, hoping that they become an extension and a reflection of that landscape, in harmony with nature, growing like plants and trees as time passes.

By Carlos Jiménez

Won Buddhism is a modern and reformed type of Buddhism established in Korea in 1916. Its primary goal is to hone the use of the mind toward enlightenment and equilibrium. There are several congregations around the world and a few of them in the United States. The one in Houston is the largest congregation in Texas and it is located on a property twelve miles west of the city's center. An existing one-story house, which served as their meeting place, was removed to make way for the new 6000 sq. ft. building. The two story wood frame and masonry structure houses the Dharma Hall (meditation, prayer room), a small gallery and library, some offices and the minister's house on the second level. The building is placed within the coordinates of three existing live oak trees, integrating the beauty of these trees as an essential and complementary design element. The Dharma Hall is a double height room and the centerpiece of the complex. It is the place where services and ceremonies take place, a carefully lighted volume where the faith's symbolic figure of a golden circle / ring takes center stage as the image of truth and enlightenment. √

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Carlos Jiménez (Rice Architecture professor and principal of Carlos Jiménez Studio) teaches both undergraduate and graduate studios and a seminar on architecture, film, literature, and music case studies at Rice Architecture. He began his teaching career at Rice as a visiting critic in 1987 and as full time faculty in 1996. Professor Jiménez graduated with honors from the University of Houston College of Architecture in 1981, receiving best thesis and best portfolio awards. He established, Carlos Jiménez Studio, in Houston in 1983. He has taught at numerous universities in addition to frequently acting as lecturer, Juror and Visiting Critic at universities and cultural institutions in the US and internationally. He was a long-term jury member of the Pritzker Architecture Prize (2001-2011). Carlos Jiménez has won several awards for excellence in design and teaching, The work of Carlos Jiménez Studio has been exhibited nationally and internationally. √

