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ON THE COVER:
Detail of the restoration of Pietro Belluschi's Church of St. Gregory the Great by Northeast Collaborative Architects, one of 32 2014 award winners. Awards coverage starts on page 5. Photo by Aaron V. Wh. T.

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St. Gregory’s Catholic Church is built near an archaeological site dating from the Bronze Age. For this reason, its architecture is mostly underground. The volumes emerging in the landscape are only the liturgical classroom, the rectory building, and the bell tower. All these elements are easily recognizable and able to build a benchmark and a new urban center. The composition has an underground cloister as an organizing element, accessible directly from the churchyard through a flight of steps that can also be used for outdoor celebrations. Below, in the cloister, there is a weekday chapel, adoration chapel and spaces dedicated to pastoral activities and offices. Projecting on the cloister, the nave is made of a single compact building, rotated with respect to the road, often broken by cuts and openings, which moves and expands upwards. Two towers, inclined inward in a perspective way, mark the entrance to the center. A rotated septum alludes to the concept of the door always open to the pastoral community. A skylight, in the shape of parallelepiped, is impaled in the volume emerging from the nave, and creates an ideal continuity with the underlying underground crypt. In the background, the rectory with its understated appearance recalls the urban and residential environment. The isolated bell tower, abstracted into two tall blades, marks the ensemble in the landscape and introduces the liturgical path. The entire complex is strongly anchored in an accurate liturgical program, punctuated by an artistic discourse. Its themes reinforce the architecture and refer to the local holy tradition.

Jury Comments
The finished work presents a beautiful composition. Volumetrically it is a very simple plan for the interior, very sensitively done, clean and elegant, beautiful. The integration of art and architecture is seamless, and one should travel out of their way to see it. This is a destination place, a church as a pilgrimage.
Stained Glass Windows
Mosaics
Sculptures
Bronze Works
Frescos

Form, Light, Color, Emotions and Faith
Expressions of Liturgical Art

Progetto Arte Poli was founded by Maestro Albano Poli in 1953 in Verona, Italy.

Today, it is the leading Italian liturgical atelier with recognized leadership in civil and ecclesiastical design and fabrication. Comprised of more than 60 artists and skilled craftsmen, they possess the capability and versatility to move between different materials to accomplish an entire project.

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