

CURRENTS

Elaine Louie



Walter Smith



ARCHITECTURE

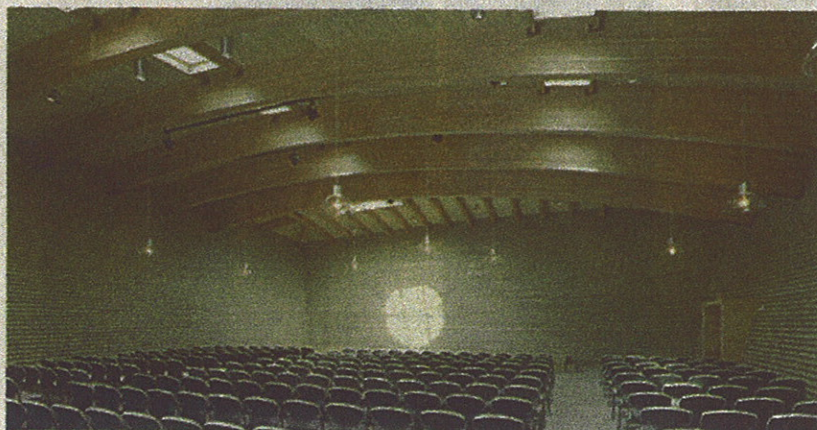
From Maya Lin, a Design That Connotes a Safe Harbor

Photographs by Tim Hursley

Maya Lin, top left, is known for designing the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, environmental art and the interiors of homes and cultural centers. But the ark-shaped Riggo-Lynch Chapel, above and above right, in Clinton, Tenn., is only her second freestanding building. (The first was the Greyston Bakery in Yonkers.) "It has just taken me longer to build architecture," Ms. Lin said.

The chapel, which was dedicated on Sunday, has an austere, gently bowed shape, and a serene interior, right. A terrace with a trellis roof and removable canvas walls connects it to two small office buildings. An oculus skylight bathes one wall with a moving circle of light.

The chapel is on the grounds of the Haley



Farm Freedom School, which is owned by the Children's Defense Fund. The school trains college students to teach children reading.

Ms. Lin turned a barn at the Haley Farm school into a library in 1999. But with the chapel she faced the challenge of creating an entirely new building on a campus of old structures, mostly log cabins dating from the 1800's.

Her design, done in association with Bialosky & Partners of New York, with a budget of \$3 million, was inspired by the Children's Defense Fund logo, a child's drawing with the text: "Dear Lord, be good to me. The sea is so wide and my boat is so small."

"A boat shape is both modern and old," Ms. Lin said.