

RALPH ADAMS CRAM AND THE ARCHITECTURE OF SAINT THOMAS CHURCH

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1. Ralph Adams Cram (1863-1942) was a leading architect in New York and Boston best known for his churches built in Boston and New York and other cities in the United States.
2. The lecture will explore Cram's modernist Gothic vision for the modern, industrial city steeped in the Episcopal Church, and finding expression in the Fourth, and current, St. Thomas Church. The lecture explores Cram's life, theology, and mission, all reflected in his great church on Fifth Avenue.
3. Although he was raised a Unitarian, Cram found a spiritual home within the Anglo-Catholic movement in the Episcopal Church. The Episcopal Church provided a significant religious and aesthetic alternative for Cram.
4. Starting in 1911, he also became the principle architect of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, which was the largest religious building in the United States.
5. His social philosophy emphasized the importance of. Sacramental understanding of reality rather than an outlook that accommodated only power and materialism.
6. He even appeared on the cover of TIME magazine in December 1926.