

Labyrinth Enterprises

128 Slocum Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63119 • (800) 873-9873 • www.labyrinth-enterprises.com

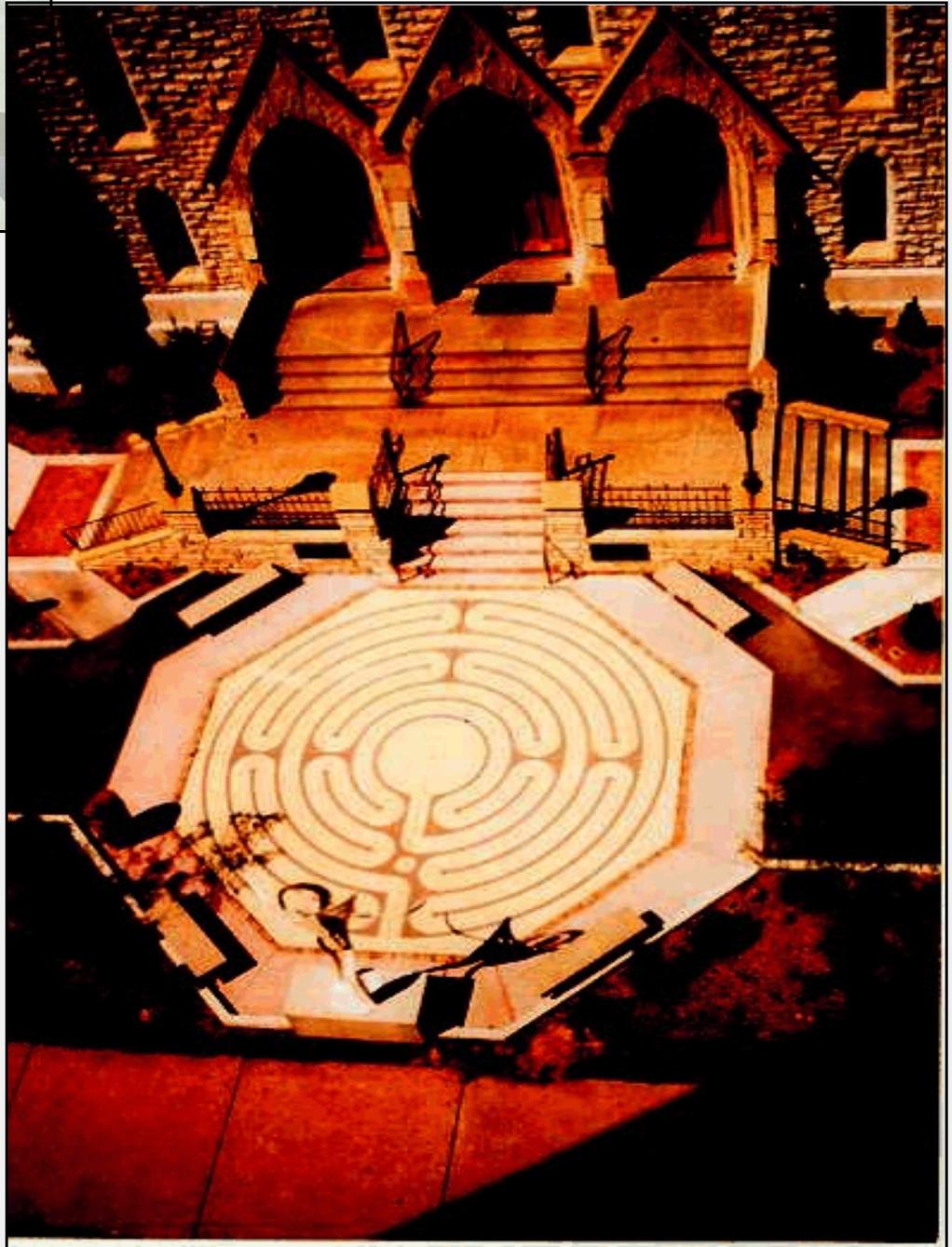
Centenary United Methodist Church St. Louis, MO

Staining concrete is the traditional way to make designs in concrete. This is an example.



Staining has to a large extent been replaced by our new all-concrete technology.

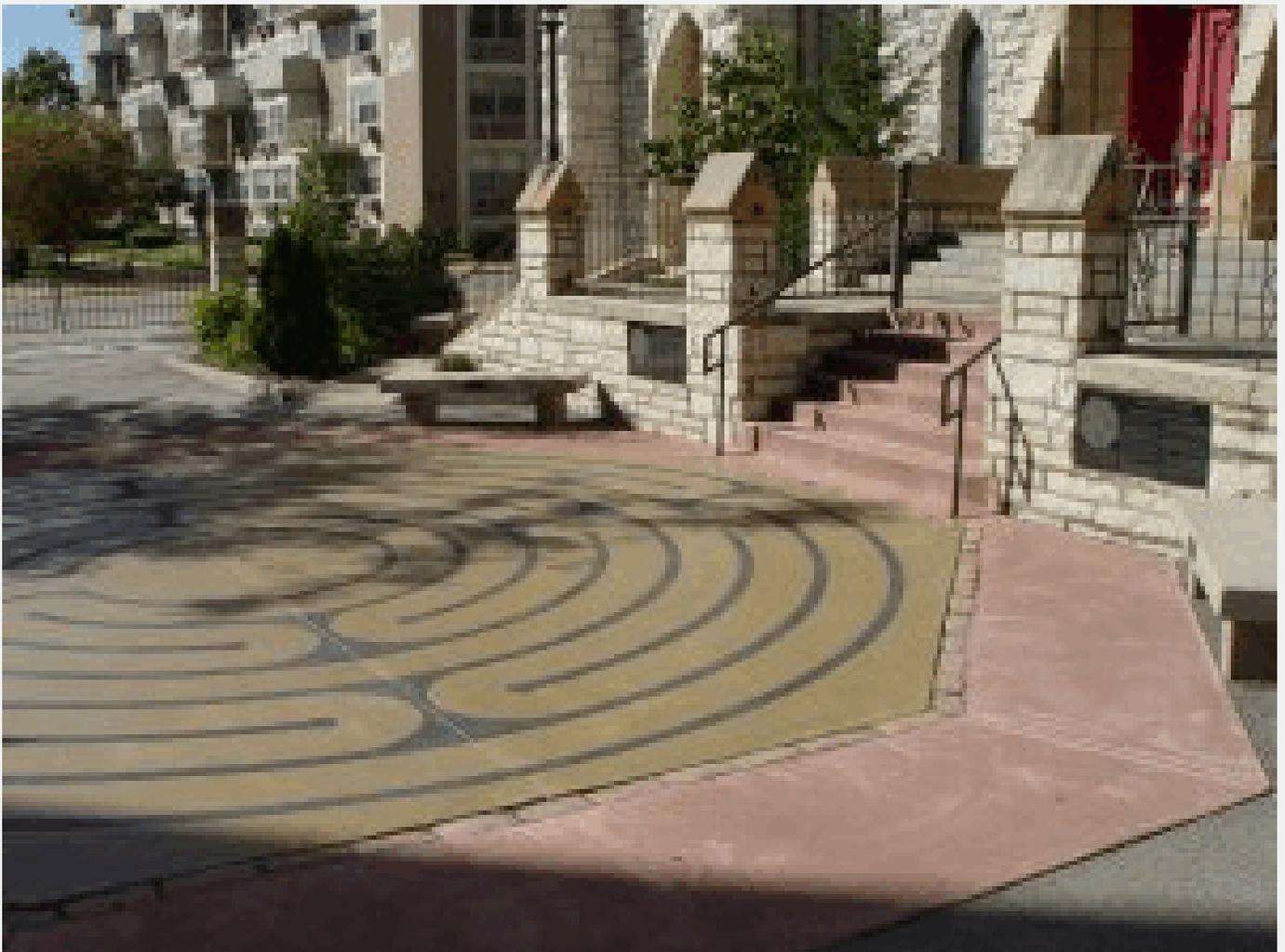
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It has been several years since we installed this Santa Rosa labyrinth. We used a stain specified by the architect, but it did not hold up well. Stain must always be carefully sealed and protected. Apparently that didn't happen. Because of the delicacy of stain, we developed our proprietary technologies using polymer concrete, which is much more durable. The labyrinth was installed in recognition of the quarter century of service by retiring minister Michael Tooley. We know Dr. Tooley and wanted his tribute to be worthy.

So we decided to adopt the labyrinth, restore it, and maintain it in the future, all for the cost of materials. For those of you who may have a painted labyrinth, a similar restoration may be possible. We masked off the pattern and sand blasted the stain away. Then, without removing the masking, we "shot" the pattern with polymer concrete. This is a recent development, offering a less expensive alternative to scoring the pattern into the concrete and hand coloring it.

When we were finished, we applied two coats of sealer. Every few years we will return to seal the labyrinth again. It should now last indefinitely. For people who live or work in downtown St. Louis, this small labyrinth (24 feet in diameter) offers a moment of respite from the frantic pace of modern life. I especially like the story of the businessman who is seen every evening at the same time, briefcase in hand, walking the labyrinth on his way home from a day at the office.



Postscript: The church called and said that someone had made a big black streak in the middle of the labyrinth from a bicycle tire. We removed the streak by using Zylene, which also removed the sealer. So we then added a new coat of sealer. Incidentally, the row of granite pavers around the perimeter of the labyrinth were once part of the original street that lay below the labyrinth.