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## Sweet new neighbors: 200,000 honey bees

By [JOURNAL STAFF](#)

The oldest church in downtown Seattle is about to get a new addition: four hives with 200,000 Carniolan honey bees. The bees will arrive at The Sanctuary at 811 Fifth Ave. on Wednesday — driven in a Rolls Royce.

The century-old building is now an event space owned by Daniels Real Estate.

Four hives will be installed on the domed roof for the bees. The hives be visible to surrounding office tenants and passersby on Fifth Avenue.

The hives were designed by ZGF Architects, which designed the adjoining F5 office tower. ZGF also designed the platforms that will keep the hives balanced and supported on the roof.

A fully occupied hive of 100,000 bees can weigh up to 300 pounds and produce about 50 pounds of honey a year.

The firm said it volunteered to design the hives because it wants to help raise awareness about ways to make urban environments more sustainable.

Carniolan bees are known for their laid-back nature and prefer to gather nectar on cool and overcast days, making them well-suited for Seattle. The bees can roam as far as six miles to collect pollen, and apparently don't object to drinking chlorinated water from downtown fountains.

“The Sanctuary is about preservation,” said Kevin Daniels, president of Daniels Real Estate, in a statement.

“Preservation of history, preservation of architecture, preservation of civic stories, and now preservation of urban honey bees. When the former church opened in 1906 there were downtown fields with wildflowers and I'm sure honey bees. It all comes full circle when you connect the past to the future in a meaningful way.”

