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The North Suburban Synagogue Beth El



Building type
Religious and Cultural

Location
Highland Park, IL

Site Area
6.5 Acres

Project Area
Approx. 10,000 sf

Client
The North Suburban Synagogue
Beth El

Completion Year
Blumberg Hall 2013 and ongoing

History: This congregation occupies a sprawling facility that began with the purchase of a mansion in 1948 and has since grown into a @80,000sf facility over the years.

Additions include:

- A large social multi-purpose hall in the early 1950's
 - A partial educational wing in the mid 1950's
 - A large sanctuary, lounge and access corridor in 1961
 - Extension of the education wing in the early 1980's
 - An administration infill in the 1980's and annex wing
- These varied additions have done little to work cohesively as a whole and the aesthetic expression is incongruous.

A master-plan study done almost five years ago with a detailed report outline group interviews, adjacencies, code reviews, services analysis etc. led to the creation of a technical and aesthetic document outlining the priorities and hierarchies of intervention.

Concept: The current scope of work that we are designing includes comprehensive improvements to the social hall, the lounge adjacent to the main sanctuary, the vistas of the lake-front and parts of the annexe wing. Our essential approach at this stage of design is to skillfully unite the disparate elements

Top: View from northeast



Top: View from teahouse
Bottom: View toward lake



Team

Cyrus Subawalla-Principal Designer
Sangwan Seo-Associate Principal
Mary O'Toole-Contract Documents-support

Top: Interior view toward Paset Lounge
Bottom: View from teahouse entry

into one cohesive whole, keeping in mind that each aesthetic decision we take addresses the larger needs of the master plan.

Intent and Recognition: Project published in the Chicago Tribune