

## North Suburban Synagogue Beth El-Blumberg Hall



**CSA Partners Ltd.**  
Architects & Urban Designers



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

Additions include:

- A large social multipurpose 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.

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Top: View from northeast

**Media Link:**

<https://www.csa-partners.com/publications/NSSBE-writeup.pdf>

**Project Data:**

Building type  
Cultural-Social Hall  
Sustainability/LEED  
Entirely new high performance facade and roof

Location  
Highland Park, IL

Site Area  
6.5 Acres

Project Area  
Approx. 10,000 sf

Client  
North Suburban Synagogue Beth El

Completion Year  
Blumberg Hall 2013

Construction Cost  
\$ 1.135 Million in 2013

Client Satisfaction through Design Excellence

## North Suburban Synagogue Beth El



Top L and R: View from teahouse  
Bottom: Interior View toward lake



**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 unite the disparate elements 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

Team

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

Architects & Urban Designers