

2004 FAITH & FORM RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE AWARD



RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE – RENOVATION

Rodef Shalom Congregation
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

AWARD

Honor

ARCHITECT

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ECCLESIASTICAL CONSULTANT

Jacobson & Associates
Marty Jacobson (project manager)

CONTRACTOR

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Dwight Kuhn (project manager)

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

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Joe Meier (project manager)

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

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MECHANICAL ENGINEER

Dodson Engineering
Rich Bres (project manager)

GRAPHICS

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Bill Kolano (project manager)

PHOTOGRAPHY

Massery Photography, Inc.
The Design Alliance Architects

In 1998, The Design Alliance developed a multi-phased, five-year master plan to renovate the original 1906 sanctuary of Rodef Shalom Congregation, with 70,000 square feet of new construction and renovation of virtually all the existing spaces outside the sanctuary. The key to the plan is the internal re-orientation of the temple to a new entrance, reception, and commons area that facilitates arrival by automobile,

is accessible, and brings the architectural grandeur of the historic sanctuary to what was originally the rear of the building. This new entry gives equal and gracious points of entry to the worship, educational and social spaces.

Other key features of the project include a new porte cochere entrance facilitating arrival by vehicle and the re-design of the existing parking lot and delivery area to segregate functions and conceal service and refuse areas. Three elevators and a decorative ramp were installed for access to all levels. A 1933 school auditorium was renovated to create a new multi-purpose space for worship, education, and performing arts. An original light well to create a sky-lit social hall and a new outdoor terrace opens the main social hall to the beautiful grounds. Three small, disparate, specialized libraries were aggregated into one large library off the commons space. A former vestibule is now a new art gallery, while renovated educational facilities, including creation of daycare classrooms, open directly to an outdoor playground.

JURY COMMENTS

This is a respectful addition and extension of an historic language of forms. This building is a remarkable transformation of a previously forgettable exterior elevation. It makes every inch count on a tight site. It exhibits a very high degree of craftsmanship and fine detailing, translating forms of the original building into new additions. The result helps to hide a very bland facade, and gives the new building an historic reference back to the original. It also makes the arrival by car as important as that by foot.

