

projects



young israel of greater cleveland

Client: Young Israel of Greater Cleveland

Location: Beachwood, Ohio

Project Type: New Construction

Seat Count: 550

Opening: 2003

Architect: G. Herschman Architects, Inc. | Jerry Herschman | 216.223.3200

Construction Cost: \$ 2.5 million

Owner: David Gottesman, Building Committee | 440.461.3295

AD Scope: Acoustics

Because this is an orthodox schul, all of the speech is unamplified, yet must be intelligible to over 500 people. This requirement was the basis for the design of the ceiling, which, in addition to providing a very important acoustical function, needed to connect with the visual aesthetics design of the Sanctuary interior. The unique ceiling design was a result of a strong collaboration between acoustics consultant and architect.

Another challenge is the center bima where the speaker is facing forward with his back to a majority of the congregation. A large suspended Plexiglas element was suspended above the center bima to address this challenge. Another key ingredient for good acoustics, and for intelligibility of the spoken word, particularly in a large room with no sound reinforcement, is the absence of noise from the HVAC systems. The supply air outlets were also integrated into the ceiling, resulting in an open-ended duct distribution system that blows the air out horizontally for good air distribution throughout the congregation.