

Winner – Persian Synagogue by Susan Strauss Design



Global Future Design Awards 2019

First Award

Category: Institutional Building (Concept)

Firm: Susan Strauss Design

Architect: Susan Strauss

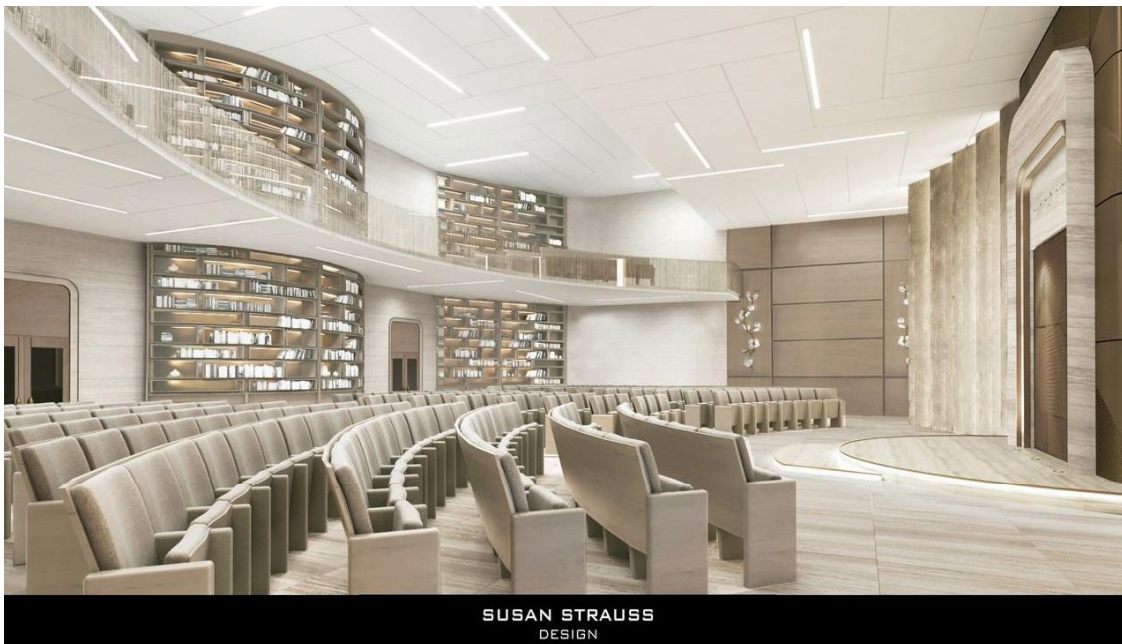
Team: Susan Strauss, Shayna Baum

Country: United States

The Persian Congregation of Flatbush is home to a thriving Jewish community in Brooklyn, NY. Coming from a modest building, they were ready to move into a space that would not only serve their own needs, but would serve the larger Brooklyn community as well. The goal was to create a space that was modern and elegant and that felt luxurious.

We chose high end materials in warm tones, like travertine, brushed brass, onyx and wood. Custom light fixtures add unique touches to the main spaces. Through the glass and metal entrance doors, backlit onyx walls made up of panels of varying sizes welcome you into the space. These onyx panels also double as plaques honoring donors who made contributions to the new building. Through the next set of doors, a sweeping spiral staircase with stunning custom pendant lights anchors the lobby.

In the Main Sanctuary, massive glass and metal panels flank the Ark creating a bold focal point in the space. The ceiling design, with its diagonal lines, bursts out from the Ark, drawing your eye right to it. Wood paneling with reveals clads the two side walls and custom metal and glass sconces add a glamorous touch. The double height space is complete with a balcony, allowing for added seating. Shelving to house the congregation's large library was a must, so we designed custom wood bookcases to line the back of the sanctuary.



The congregants wanted to include a large ballroom space that would allow members of the congregation to host events. We decided to bring the soft arch shape used in the Main Sanctuary upstairs into this space. Here, arches frame the sinks and closet doors on either side of the room. Polished stone and antique mirror provide the glamour while upholstery and drapes add softness and warmth. A custom glass ceiling installation is lit from above and completes the event space perfectly.

Timeless design and elegant materials will allow the Persian Congregation of Flatbush to continue to be an important fixture in the community for years to come.