

## The North Suburban Synagogue Beth El-West Wing, Sager Chapel



Building type  
Religious and Cultural

Location  
Highland Park, IL

Site Area  
6.5 Acres

Project Area  
Approx. 3950 sf

Client  
The North Suburban Synagogue Beth El

Completion Year  
Main Lobby Sep 2016, Sager Chapel Feb 2017

Construction Cost  
\$ 726,000 in 2017

### Media Link:

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/highland-park/chi-ugc-article-nss-beth-el-commemorates-the-75th-anniversary-2013-10-18-story.html>

Top: View toward main entry

**History:** The conversion of the screen porch of the mansion to a chapel and the addition of a main sanctuary space with rotunda added significant area to the ensemble of ritual spaces. However these spaces were inherently disjointed and did not provide a focused path and procession for the user from the rotunda entry to the chapel and main sanctuary

**Concept:** Our vision for the space, ties the lobby and corridors as an integral part of the rotunda space. We created a series of catenary arches out of wood lattice. These arches hold historic significance and also serve as illuminated display areas for the numerous synagogue artifacts.

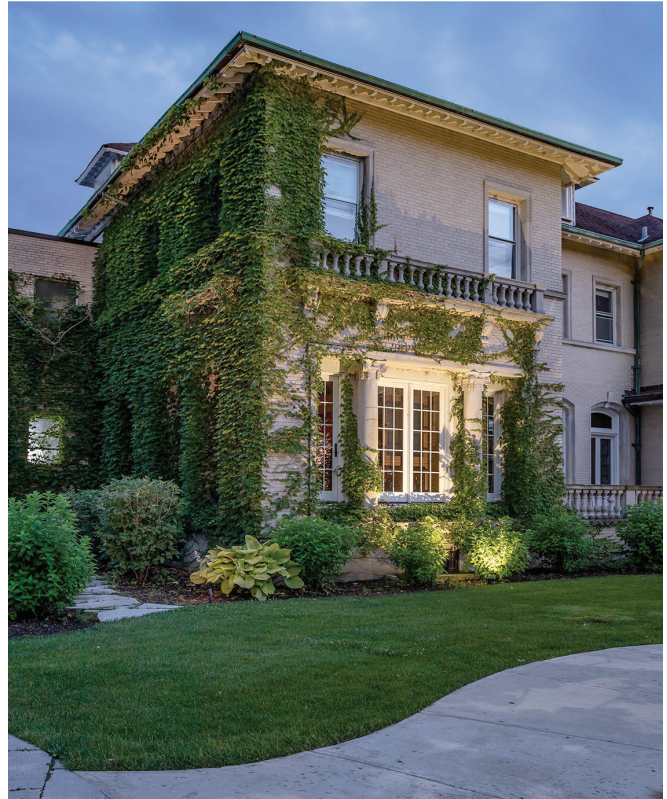
We have designed for abundant natural light to flow into the space in order to make a confined corridor appear larger. The light filters through skylights via a metal mesh and softly illuminates the path below. The arches got value engineered however the floating ceilings and transition alcoves were retained

Integrated casework from the original design intent was transformed into freestanding casework that could be added over time



Top: Views of Memorial Alcove  
Bottom L&R: View of casework south gallery

# The North Suburban Synagogue Beth El-West Wing & Sager Chapel



## Team

Cyrus Subawalla-Principal Designer

Rahman Polk-Associate Principal

Top L&R: View of Sager Chapel toward lake and exterior

Bottom L: View of Memorial Alcove from rotunda

Bottom R: View of Bimah in Sager Chapel

**CSA Partners Ltd.**  
Architects & Urban Designers  
email  
contact@csa-partners.com  
web  
www.csa-partners.com  
phone  
+1 312 578 0550(U.S.)  
address

29 E. Madison St. Suite 1309, Chicago IL 60602  
69A Nepeansea Road, Maneesha 1st Floor, Mumbai 400006

## The North Suburban Synagogue Beth El-Field Sanctuary Bimah



Building type  
Religious and Cultural

Location  
Highland Park, IL

Site Area  
6.5 Acres

Project Area  
Approx. 1,200sf

Client  
The North Suburban Synagogue Beth El

Completion Year  
Bimah Renovations completed Sep 2018



**History:** The Field Sanctuary is a somewhat timeless modernist space with simple clean lines and motifs bringing forth the metaphor integral to the faith and ritual in Judaism

**Concept:** Our vision for the space, removed the backdrop wall to the Bimah which made the whole space look heavy and dated. We restored the Bimah to become more of an object within the sanctuary by lowering the panelling on both sides, removing dated lighting in one of the roof canopy elements, adding an accessibility ramp to the Bimah and replacing different railing types with a consistent bronze railing. In addition we refinished all the panels inside the sanctuary.

Top: Views toward Ark & Ramp Access

Client Satisfaction through Design Excellence