

TexasArchitect

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Texas Hillel

PROJECT Texas Hillel-The Topfer Center for Jewish Life, Austin
CLIENT Texas Hillel

ARCHITECT Alterstudio Architects with Black + Vernooy Architecture and Urban Design

DESIGN TEAM Kevin Alter; Ernesto Cragolino, AIA; Russell Krepart; Mariana Moncada; Tim Whitehill; Keune Shawn Peter; Sinclair Black, FAIA; Andrew Vernooy, AIA; Jay Bolsega, AIA

CONTRACTOR Flynn Construction, Inc.

CONSULTANTS Jaster Quintanilla & Associates (structural); Kent Consulting Engineers (MEP); The Wallace Group (civil); Eleanor McKinney (landscape); Bommarito Group (interiors and furnishings)

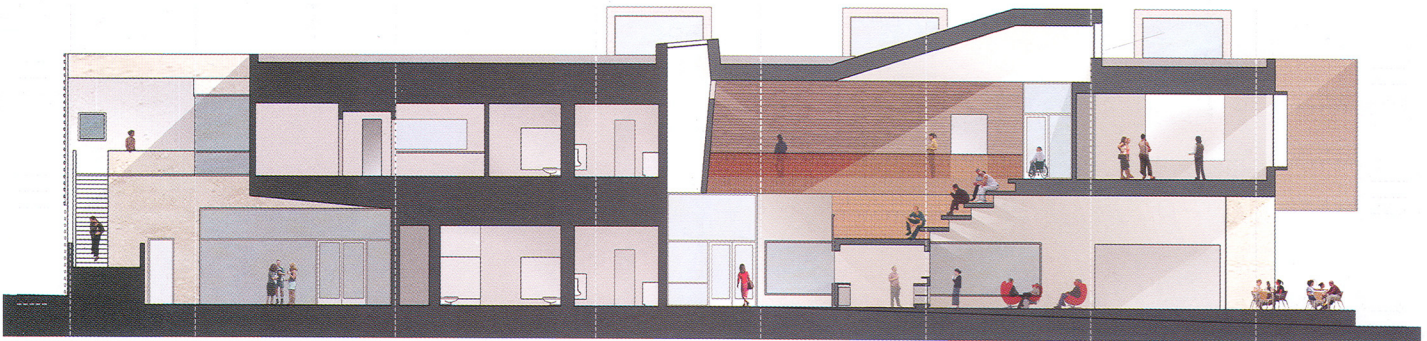
PHOTOGRAPHER Paul Bardagy

RESOURCES MASONRY UNITS: Featherlite; CAST STONE: Frichtman; MASONRY VENEER: Kansas Brick & Tile (Elgin-Butler); WATERPROOFING AND DAMPPROOFING: Grace Construction Products; ROOF AND WALL PANELS: MCBI Metal Roof and Wall Systems; MEMBRANE ROOFING: Stevens Roofing Systems; FASCIA AND SOFFIT PANELS: Petersen Aluminum; METAL DOORS AND FRAMES: Deansteel; ACOUSTICAL CEILINGS: US Gypsum; METAL CEILINGS: Hunter Douglas; EXTERIOR PLASTER SYSTEMS: STO Corp.

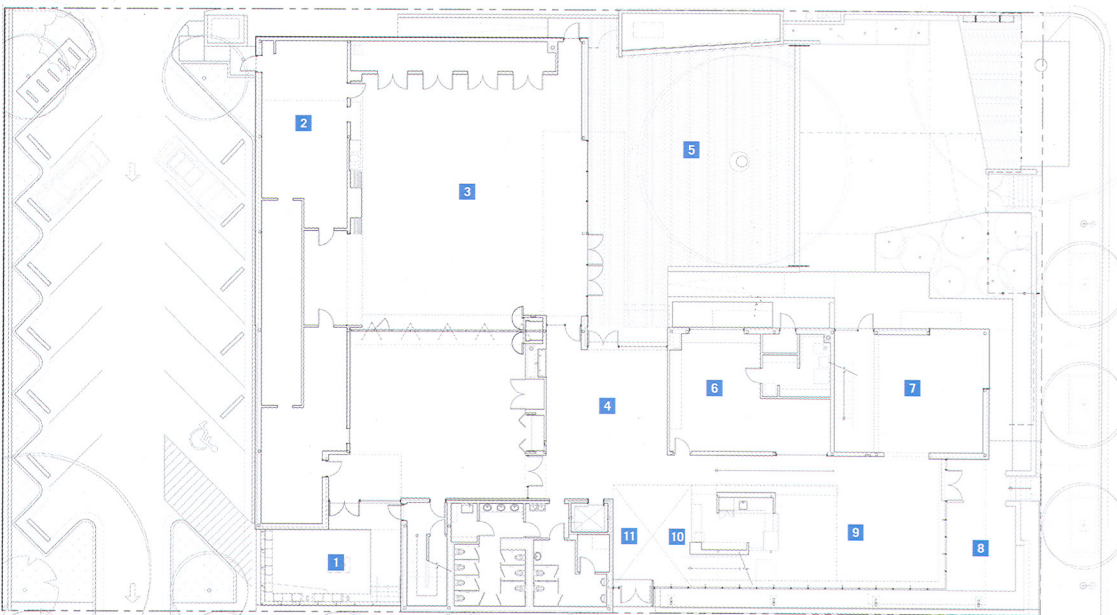
THE design focused on two principal goals—to orchestrate an inviting building that would encourage students to venture within and to create a place where spirituality would be part of everyday life, not something removed to a sacred sphere.

The exceptional nature of the building's program is the presence of the three principal movements of Judaism worshipping at the same time, in the same place. Texas Hillel is an important community center for the more than 4,000 Jewish students at The University of Texas at Austin.

Bold siting on the corner of a busy West Campus intersection and glass curtain wall gently define the precinct of the building while inviting the passerby to venture within. A variegated ipe screen that wraps the building at the second story provides shade for the building and at the same time hints at being a Sukkah—a temporary structure with religious symbolism from the harvest festival of Sukkot. The screen's ability to both provide religious symbolism and perform the function of making exterior spaces more inviting encourages student occupation and presents the students themselves as the primary image of the building. ■



SECTION WEST



- GROUND FLOOR PLAN**
- 1 GARDEN TERRACE
 - 2 KOSHER KITCHEN
 - 3 DINING HALL
 - 4 CEREMONIAL BASIN
 - 5 COURTYARD
 - 6 OFFICE
 - 7 RECREATION HALL
 - 8 PORCH
 - 9 CAFE
 - 10 ATRIUM
 - 11 DONOR WALL

