Bonei Kodesh

Builders of Holiness

ARCHITECTS ADVISORY PANEL CONGREGATIONAL CONSULTING SERVICE

Thus said *Adonai*:
The heaven is My throne
And the earth is My footstool:
Where could you build a house for Me,
What place would serve as My abode?

Isaiah 66:1

UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM
האיחוד ליהדות רפורמית
SERVING REFORM CONGREGATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA
Ida and Howard Wilkoff
Department of Synagogue Management

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As regards your intention to build a House for My name, you did right to have that intention.

I Kings 8:18

The Architects Advisory Panel is comprised of talented and experienced design professionals from throughout North America. Panel members volunteer their time and lend their expertise to advise synagogue leaders on how to navigate the challenges and demands of a building project.

The Architects Advisory Panel representatives assist the lay leadership, clergy and staff of a synagogue in understanding the various steps and processes that are involved in renovation, additions, acquisitions or new construction, always with the goal that the end result reflects the congregation's long-range needs and vision.

Consultation with panel members is available during any phase of a capital project. However, congregations are strongly encouraged to schedule initial meetings before projects begin and major decisions have been made.

GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS

How do we know that the Holy One…is to be found in the synagogue? For it is said: "God stands in the divine assembly." And how do we know that if ten people pray together, the Divine Presence is with them? For it is said: "God stands in the divine assembly." And how do we know that if two are sitting and studying the Torah together, the Divine Presence is with them?

Talmud, *B'rachot* 6a

The model of a successful project is one that begins with asking the "right" questions. The Architects Advisory Panel consultation will provide congregations with an interactive forum to discuss the "how-to" questions. Discussion may include:

- How do we create sacred space?
- How do we know if change is needed?
- How do we start?
- How do we gather information that will help us evaluate and plan?
- How do we assess our needs?
- How do we select a committee?
- How do we determine what space the congregation will need presently and in the future?
- How do we consider utilizing our space with a growing/declining/stable membership?
- How do we manage the process?
- How do we budget for this project?
- How do we prioritize our needs?
- How do we phase the project?
- How do we evaluate and hire a design professional?
- How do we deal with regulatory requirements, such as building and zoning codes?
- How do we make our facility handicap-accessible?
- How do we know what our facility should look like?
- How do we know what questions we should be asking?

Every consultation will be tailored to meet the congregation's specific needs. The consulting architect can help identify the key issues and provide strategies for successful decision making, defining goals and action steps. Consultation topics can include but are not limited to

- A general discussion of a capital project, including how to start, what to consider and who should be involved
- A focused discussion about a proposed specific project (addition, new construction, renovation, etc.)
- A site visit with follow-up discussion about the feasibility of its use
- A discussion of existing conditions that are in need of repair

FINE PRINT

Each congregation presents a unique situation. Therefore, specific design suggestions; proposed floor plans and/or site plans; architectural drawings or sketches; statements of probable cost; and review of work submitted by other architects will not be included within the scope of services provided by the Architects Advisory Panel Congregational Consulting Service.

A consultation with the Architects Advisory Panel is in no way to be considered as a referral or endorsement of the architect's fee-based services by the Union for Reform Judaism. Consultation with a member of the Architects Advisory Panel does not obligate the congregation in any way to hire the architect. If congregations choose to pursue subsequent professional services from the consulting architect, they are welcome to do so, independent of the Union for Reform Judaism. Fees and agreement of services beyond the initial consultation will be established between the congregation and architect and are subject to the guidelines of the American Institute of Architects.

SCHEDULE

On average, most consultations will require between two and four hours, depending upon the focus of the discussion and congregational issues, concerns and questions. Consultations that include a site visit or travel will require additional time.

Every effort will be made to individualize the consultation to meet the needs, timetable and goals of the congregation and to accommodate both the synagogue and the architect's schedule.

Whenever possible, the congregation will be asked to supply three alternative dates for a consultation, allowing at least eight (8) weeks from the initial contact. If it is not possible to schedule a consultation for any reason, the congregation will be notified in advance of the preferred date.

COST

The Architects Advisory Panel Congregational Consulting Service is a benefit of the synagogue's membership in the Union for Reform Judaism. There is no cost to the congregation for the professional services provided by members of the Architects Advisory Panel during a consultation that has been coordinated with the Ida and Howard Wilkoff Department of Synagogue Management. Whenever possible, the congregation will be asked to reimburse any travel and lodging expenses that may be incurred.

PROCESS

Upon approval of the board, select a congregation liaison who is knowledgeable about the synagogue's capital project or architectural needs to serve as the consultation coordinator and contact person. Prior to obtaining a consultation, an Application for Consulting Service must be completed. The application information includes a Project Profile, Consultation Goals and Consultation Coordination.

For additional information or to schedule an Architects Advisory Panel consultation, please contact

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Thank You

Your membership in a Union congregation has made the Reform Movement the largest and most vibrant branch of Judaism.

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