



## NEW SANCTUARY

# TEMPLE EMANU-EL

Major addition and renovation project responded to growing Reform Jewish congregation and featured a new 500-seat sanctuary to better enable the largest synagogue in the South to serve vibrant worship and cross-denominational outreach efforts.

Excessive HVAC noise in the existing 750-seat Olan Sanctuary prompted upgrades for improving conditions to support stronger congregational participation. This led to a ten-year master plan effort to design and construct a transformational project which achieved a vibrant worship center.

The primary goal of the project was to create a place of genuine community, allowing people to connect with one another and with the larger community. Project design consciously removed obstructions to visibility and light and improved functional passage within the building. New spaces were designed and built for an active early childhood education program, intergenerational learning and meeting spaces and new administrative and clergy offices. A new large public gathering space functions as a place of arrival and welcome and serves as a hub which connects worship and social activities.

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*"In a cultural, societal and spiritual moment when people feel increasingly disconnected, unmoored and fragmented, any spiritual home worth its salt would have to be a place that fostered meaningful connections." – Rabbi David Stern.*

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In addition to renovating existing worship spaces to foster stronger connections, the new 500-seat Chapel incorporates several features to heighten connectivity. A "right sized" mix of fixed and movable seating is oriented to allow visibility of other worshipers and service leaders. A wide, low bimah, with movable modular platforms allow easy reconfiguration and places service leaders closer to the center of the space for more direct communication with the audience. Room acoustics were strategically designed to encourage participation.

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### CLIENT

Temple Emanu-El

### LOCATION

Dallas, TX

### PROJECT TYPE

New Construction / Renovation

### COMPLETE

2016

### COST

\$22 M

### SEAT COUNT

500

### ARCHITECT

Cunningham Architects  
Tom Dohearty, AIA, LEED AP  
214.915.0913

### CONTACT

Rabbi David Stern  
214.706.0000

### SCOPE

Acoustics