

Friends of the Jewish Chapel

United States Naval Academy

March 17, 1998

Executive Advisory Council Members:

May I take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Harvey Stein, President of the Board of Directors, Friends of the Jewish Chapel. It is my privilege and honor to serve in this position.

On behalf of the Board, I welcome you to our Executive Advisory Council. As you can see from our letterhead, our Board and Executive Advisory Council are made up of national and international leaders.

As is the case with any project, the sum is only the equal of its parts. Therefore, it is my desire to have a pro-active Executive Advisory Council and solicit your advice. I believe that we have now created an infrastructure that not only validates our process, but enables us to move the project forward.

You have heard individually from the members who asked you to join our Advisory Council. I'm sure they have related the details of our mission and program to you. In the future you will be receiving communications from my office to keep you up to date as to our progress.

With this letter you will find a booklet which we are using for solicitation. It includes a general solicitation letter, the Plan for the Establishment and Construction of the Center for Jewish Life at the United States Naval Academy, Programs of Jewish Study at the Center for Jewish Life, our Mission Statement and drawings for the proposed facility designed by Joe Boggs of Boggs and Partners Architects - an architectural firm of international note. We have been using this booklet for the solicitation of funds and to give more detailed information relating to the programmatic part of our mission. We have also included a copy of our Mission Statement.

What we are creating at the Naval Academy is very special and historic. The effects of our actions will live in perpetuity as we meet the challenges of this extraordinary opportunity.

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326 First Street, Suite 11
Annapolis, Maryland 21403
Telephone: 410-268-9462
Fax: 410-269-1266

Executive Advisory Council

January 15, 1998

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During our most recent meeting with Admiral Charles Larson, Superintendent of the Naval Academy, he advised us that the Academy would like to develop a Center for Military Ethics and Values to be integrated into our facility housing the *Center for Jewish Life*. This is a momentous step forward for all denominations at the Naval Academy and will impact all future generations.

I believe it would be helpful to have a retreat-type meeting later this year. This would be a strategic planning session and include the participation of all Board members, the Executive Advisory Council and Advisors to the Board. I will be advising you further as those plans evolve.

I would be pleased to hear from you concerning your thoughts and recommendations regarding our program.

Once again, welcome aboard.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harvey Stein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Harvey Stein
President

Friends of the Jewish Chapel

United States Naval Academy

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MISSION

Friends of the Jewish Chapel (FOJC), a non-profit, tax-exempt foundation, has been established to enhance the religious and cultural lives of the Jewish Midshipmen of the United States Naval Academy.

To that end, FOJC will acquire and manage the resources necessary to enable and provide continuing support for enrichment programs which would reinforce for the Midshipmen their understanding of, and appreciation for, their religious and ethnic backgrounds; and of Jewish traditions and values. Such programs, proposed by the assigned Jewish Chaplain and approved by the Board of Directors of FOJC, might include, but not be limited to: those which meet the immediate needs and concerns of the Jewish Midshipmen; support for the Jewish Chapel; a visiting speaker and scholar-in-residence program; field trips; and similar initiatives with the potential to prepare Jewish Midshipmen for their dual roles as career officers and as Jewish Lay Leaders.

While intended principally for the benefit of the Jewish Midshipmen, FOJC-sponsored activities will be open to non-Jewish Midshipmen, faculty and staff as well, in order to offer them the opportunity to learn about the religious customs and ethical values of their Jewish shipmates, and thus become more aware of Jewish issues and concerns.

326 First Street, Suite 11
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Feb

THE CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE
AT THE
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY



Friends of the Jewish Chapel

United States Naval Academy

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A new day has dawned that will allow the Midshipmen at the United States Naval Academy to happily and openly profess their Jewishness and share their values and ethics with their colleagues.

We have been given an historic opportunity to create a *Center for Jewish Life* which will include a synagogue that will allow the Jewish Midshipmen to have a dedicated space for worship. In addition, there are plans for a wonderful library filled with the very best books which these fine young people have asked to be made readily available. This will enable them to study Torah, Hebrew Language, Jewish Ethics & Values, History and Culture. We have planned a computer center with CD ROMS and language tapes, to allow the most modern learning to take place. This library will be made available to all Midshipmen who are interested, regardless of religious affiliation.

There will finally be an office worthy of the Jewish Chaplain, along with counseling rooms. We also plan meeting rooms in which the young people can hold the Jewish Midshipmen's Club meetings and their cherished "Pizza Nights" where great conversation and fellowship can take place in a comfortable setting.

The total cost for construction and needed renovation will be \$6.5 million. The synagogue will cost \$2.9 million and the Library and Computer Center will cost \$1.7 million. The balance of \$1.9 million will fund the rest of the complex to include the Chaplain's Office, Counseling Rooms, Meeting Rooms and a Kosher Kitchen.

The details are outlined in the preliminary architectural drawings by the world-class architect, Joe Boggs.

The plans and design concept have been presented to the Superintendent and his staff for their approval and were warmly embraced. As you can see from the attached material, this facility will be attached to Mitscher Hall, one of the most prominently situated buildings on the Academy grounds, facing the water.

This in short, is an incredible opportunity which has been granted to us. We must, however, work within the very tight schedule established jointly by the Construction Task Force of the Naval Academy, the Congressional Oversight Committee and the Department of Defense. This gives us a window of approximately eight months for securing funding, after which we will have lost this historic moment.

After two-hundred years of waiting, it would be terrible to lose this once in-a-lifetime opportunity to give our best and brightest young Jewish leaders what they need and deserve.

In the attached documents, you will also find material discussing the development of programs for the Jewish Midshipmen. Many of these programs will be housed in this new facility. Simply put, our facility and programs are really inter-related and integrated. The facility will house many of our programs and our programs will enhance the facility.

To further enhance our process, we have developed an outstanding Board of Directors, Advisors to the Board and an Executive Advisory Council. You will note from this letterhead that our Board of Directors and Executive Advisory Council consist of national and international leaders who are committed to see this project become a reality. These leaders are helping to guide our efforts through their first-hand experiences.

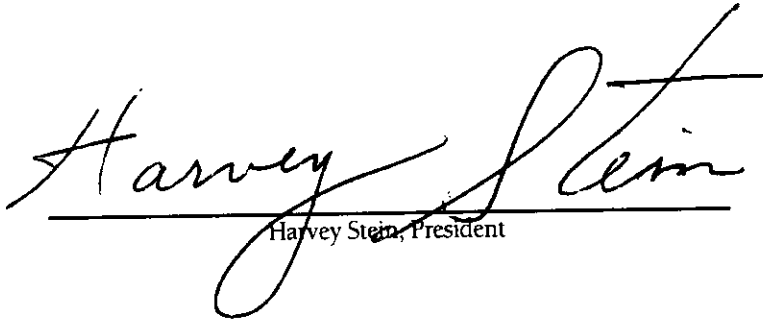
In order to reach our goal, we in turn, are reaching out to not only our immediate community, but to national and international business leaders, foundations, and alumni. We are creating a program to honor various donors. Obviously all contributions to this project will be fully tax deductible.

We want to be certain that everyone who hears about this project to create the *Center for Jewish Life* clearly understands what we are doing and why it is so important - not only for the current population of Midshipmen at the Naval Academy - but for all future generations as well.

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We agree with these young leaders who tell us that given the opportunity, the environment and the support, they too can make a contribution to the future of Judaism. I might also add that it is our intention to open these facilities and embrace the Non-Jewish colleagues of our Jewish Midshipmen as well.

We clearly have a vision and trust you will help us succeed on behalf of these magnificent young people.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harvey Stein". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Harvey Stein, President

**PLAN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE
CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE
AT THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY**

A Proposal

An extraordinary opportunity has now arisen to create a *Center for Jewish Life* for the Jewish Midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. The permission was only recently granted by Superintendent of the Academy, Admiral Charles Larson. This is the very first time in the two-hundred year history of the Naval Academy that such an opportunity has been afforded to the Jewish Midshipmen. They can now have a place to learn Jewish ethics and values and to pray in a permanent Jewish setting, a synagogue, instead of a multi-faith chapel.

Until this opportunity presented itself there had been little room to form a proper Jewish content library and meeting rooms in which Torah study and informal discussions could be scheduled on a regular basis. Not to be able to take advantage of this opportunity is unthinkable.

The Plan

Attached are the preliminary architectural drawings for the creation of the *Center for Jewish Life* at the Naval Academy. As can be seen, this new complex will result from alterations and additions to be made to Mitscher Hall, which presently houses a number of Naval Academy functions, including all of the offices and chapel space of the Academy Chaplaincy.

Joe Boggs, an internationally renowned architect has created the building design. The synagogue windows will face the waters of the historic Chesapeake Bay - appropriate for such a setting. Mitscher Hall has long been overdue for complete renovations, thus creating the perfect time to move forward with the creation of this historic new *Center for Jewish Life*. The success of this program will depend upon our ability to obtain appropriate funding in a very swift and timely way. Otherwise this window of opportunity will close and we will not be able to reopen it very soon, if ever. Mitscher Hall will be renovated within the Academy's own construction schedule and there will be no *Center for Jewish Life*.

In addition to the dedicated worship space, there will be a library which will also be open to Midshipmen of all faiths. It will be filled with classic ancient and modern texts, computer software and the hardware complex necessary to allow the students to learn Hebrew, study and compare Torah and teaching texts. This common space will be available to discuss these subjects easily and comfortably. Constitutionally, Federal funds cannot be used for these functions and must, therefore, be funded privately.

There will also be seminar space to accommodate guest speakers and a scholar-in-residence program which is presently being planned and funded separately. The likes of Elie Wiesel, Rabbi Aiden Steinsaltz, Herman Wouk, Rabbi Harold Kushner, Steven Spielberg (who has already spent a day with these young people), among many others, are committed to participate in these programs not only for our Jewish Midshipmen, but for the entire Academy population.

The Window of Opportunity

The renovation of Mitscher Hall is on a very fast track now that permission has been granted. The signal to begin must be given no later than June, 1998. Otherwise, the window for its commencement (and therefore, its date of completion) will be lost in the construction cycle established on the master priority list for all buildings scheduled for renovation. The Friends of the Jewish Chapel must, therefore, obtain private financial commitments of \$6.5 million within a matter of months from now, in order to ensure that this historic project can commence and be completed under this tight schedule.

Naming Opportunities

The *Center for Jewish Life* is composed of a number of components, as has already been mentioned. This becomes materially important when seeking the necessary private funding required.

Respective parts of the *Center for Jewish Life* are available to be named for a donor, family of donors or to honor or memorialize an appropriate person. Not many buildings in modern times have been available for naming in perpetuity - certainly nothing of Jewish interest - making this opportunity particularly important internationally and in a highly visible geographical location.

This opportunity will obviously require the right candidate for such a high honor since it will remain a part of this very special place forever, imparting great meaning to the lives of many future generations of young Jewish Midshipmen. These best and brightest will be in positions of leadership on behalf of our country. In the years to come they will have the ability to impact Judaism well into the future. What greater or more lasting honor can there be for the appropriate candidate.

IN CLOSING

As can be seen, an extraordinary moment in history is upon us all. Quite simply, after 200 years, young Jewish Midshipmen will have the opportunity to connect with their rich Jewish heritage, culture, ethics and values or they will not. This opportunity which has now been afforded to create a beautiful, worthy, *Center for Jewish Life* - permanently in the very center of the United States Naval Academy will either be constructed because this moment is seized, or we will lose it forever.

Programs of Jewish Study at the Center for Jewish Life

The friends of the Jewish Chapel have developed a program of Jewish learning as a direct response to the strong desire expressed by the Jewish Midshipmen to explore and apply Jewish values and ethics and strengthen their Jewish identity as they train to be U.S. Naval leaders in the coming century.

We are only being allowed to seek funds on a *one-time only* basis by the Naval Academy, since annual campaigns would become too numerous. This is why the funds being raised *must form an endowment* to produce the income necessary to fund the array of programs listed below. We have no choice!

Foundations participation in support of this project will be recognized in perpetuity in the new *Center for Jewish Life*.

Programs and Budgets

Fellowship

\$50,000 for fellowships for Midshipmen who wish to visit Israel and need some degree of financial assistance. This Spring we are planning for 45 Jewish and Non-Jewish Midshipmen to go to Israel partially supported by our scholarship funding.

Programs

\$50,000 for a total of 8 programs over weekends or multi-day conferences with major speakers. The students choice of speakers are Elie Weisel, Rabbi Aiden Steinsaltz, Rabbi Harold Kushner, Professor Yaffa Eliach, the Secretary of State (who has already agreed to our invitation), and a number of others. Each of these weekend Scholar-in-Residence programs or one-day events require significant.

Education

\$50,000 for Jewish educational programming including Hebrew language classes, Torah study, cost of books and instructors. Over half the Jewish young people wish to have weekly Torah study programs. This requires hiring teachers since none exist on the faculty and it is impossible for the Rabbi-Chaplain to conduct such large numbers of seminars and sessions alone. (*What a wonderful challenge to have to face!*)

Field Trips

\$35,000 for the cost of transportation and other expenses of the day-long trips to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, the U.S. Congress, the White House and other sites. These trips are open to the entire body of 4,550 Midshipmen. No federal funds are available for this programming and it would die without private support. *It is totally controlled by the Friends of the Jewish Chapel which means that in the future if somebody officially wished to cancel such visits they could not do so.*

\$45,000 for the subsidies needed for trips to such historic sites as the United Nations, the Jewish Museum, the Holocaust Museum and Ellis Island. This allows the Midshipmen to understand the immigration patterns of their own parents and grandparents and helps these leaders-in-training to learn first-hand about the need to be sensitive to all people as they take on the mantle of leadership. Their personal pride in their own ethnic identity is enormously enhanced during these trips.

\$38,000 for Jewish holiday costs including cost of the cantor, special printing, food, and music. There are normally very large crowds attending these holiday events.

Total

\$268,000

The annual funding can be generated from an endowment of 3.5 million while we meet our obligation to make this a one-time-only fund-raising activity.

The grants we are seeking will be used to create an endowment sufficient to generate the income which would fund the above-listed annual programming in perpetuity. We have, therefore, set a *one-time* fund raising goal of \$3.5 million which we feel confident will generate the level of annual funding to meet the needs expressed by the Jewish Midshipmen.

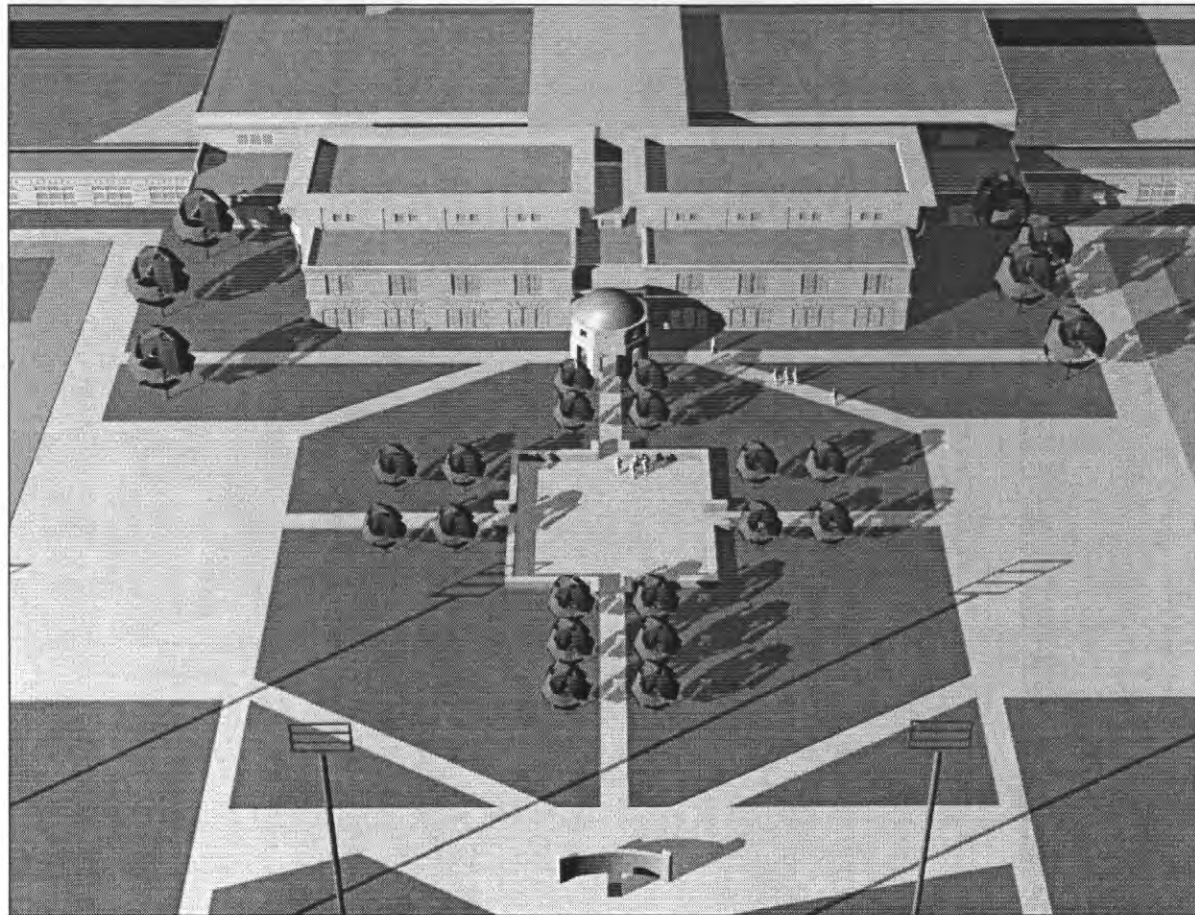
Management of the Program

Happily, our overhead costs are held at a very low level. All expenditures are authorized and appropriated at open board meetings based upon needs and desires, along with suggestions from the Rabbi Chaplain.

Should you have any further questions please feel free to contact Mark Talisman who serves as our volunteer Executive Director and Consultant. He can be reached at 202-842-2888.

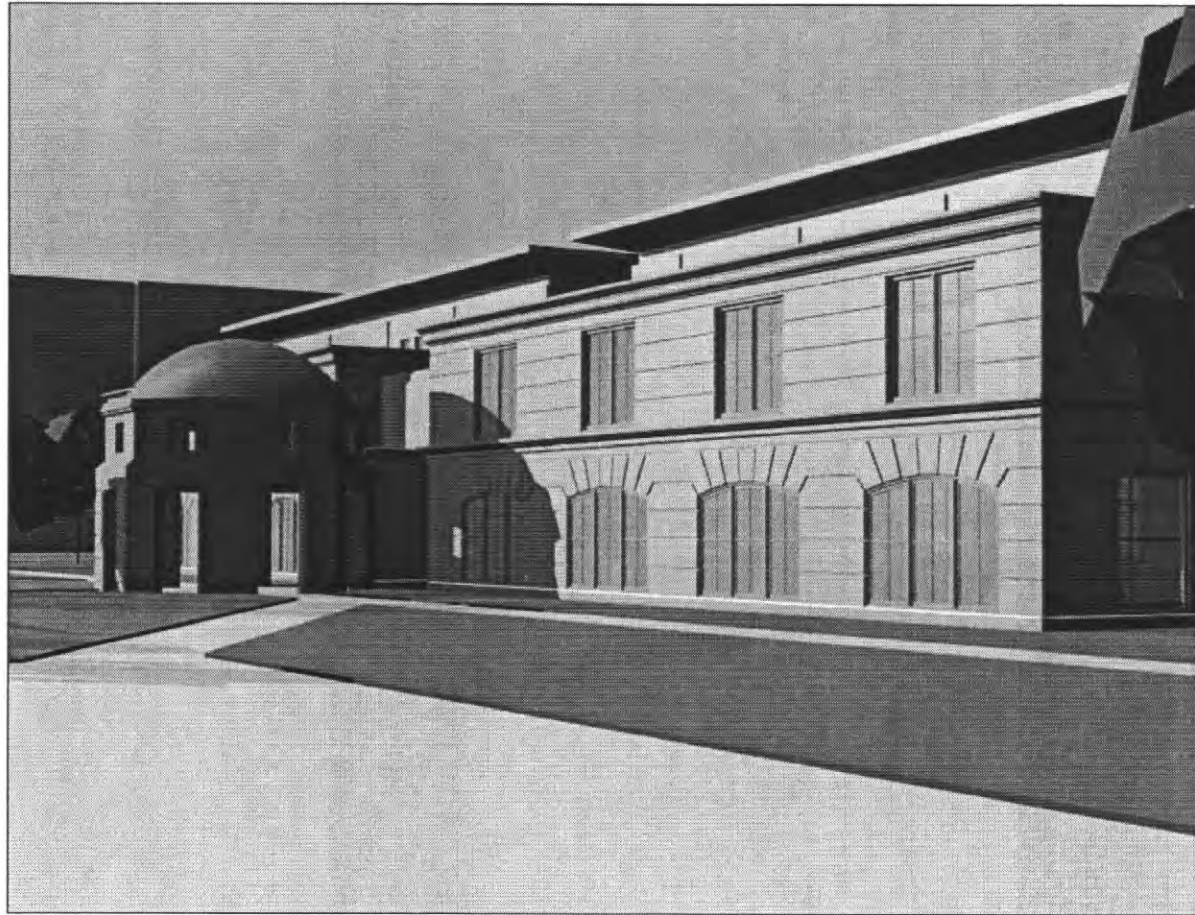
IN CLOSING

It is our feeling that the new *Center for Jewish Life* will enhance our programs as our programs enhance the new Center.



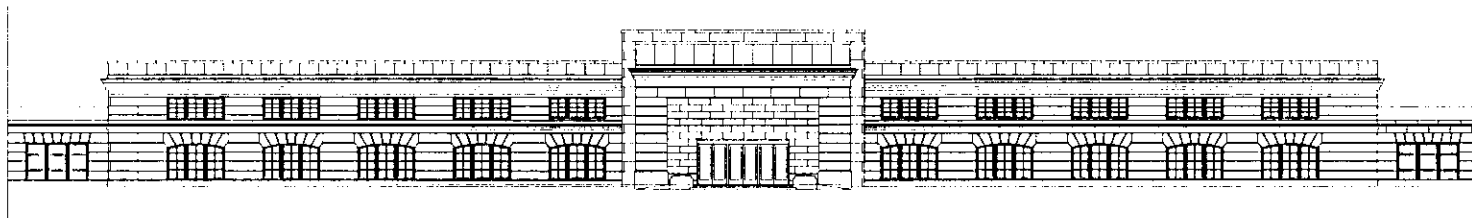
JEWISH CHAPEL - USNA
PERSPECTIVE OF NEW BUILDING

BOGGS AND PARTNERS ARCHITECTS
SEPTEMBER 29, 1997



JEWISH CHAPEL - USNA
PERSPECTIVE VIEW

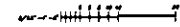
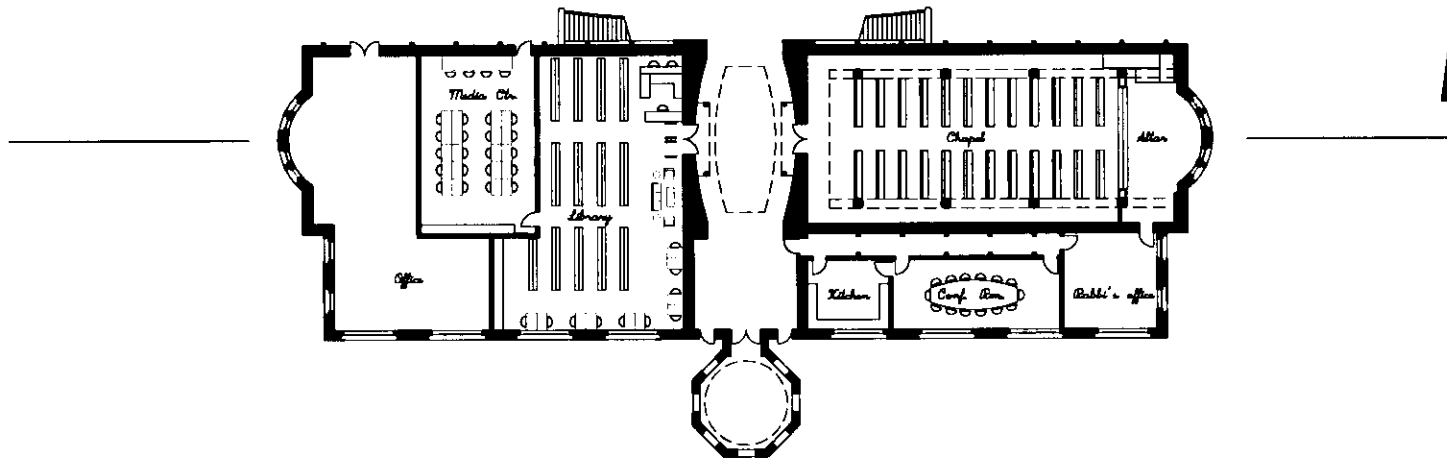
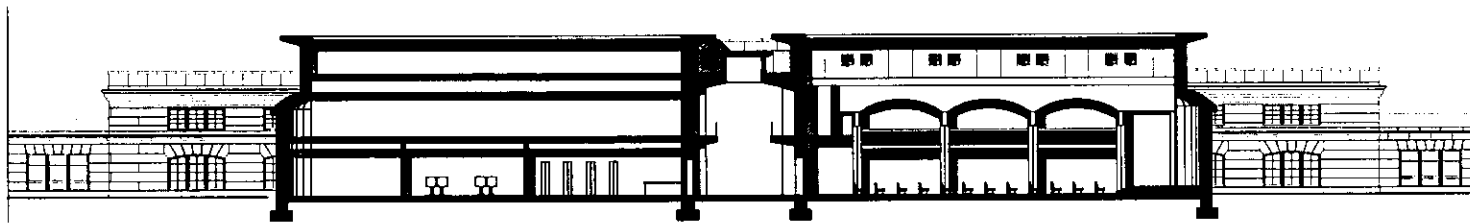
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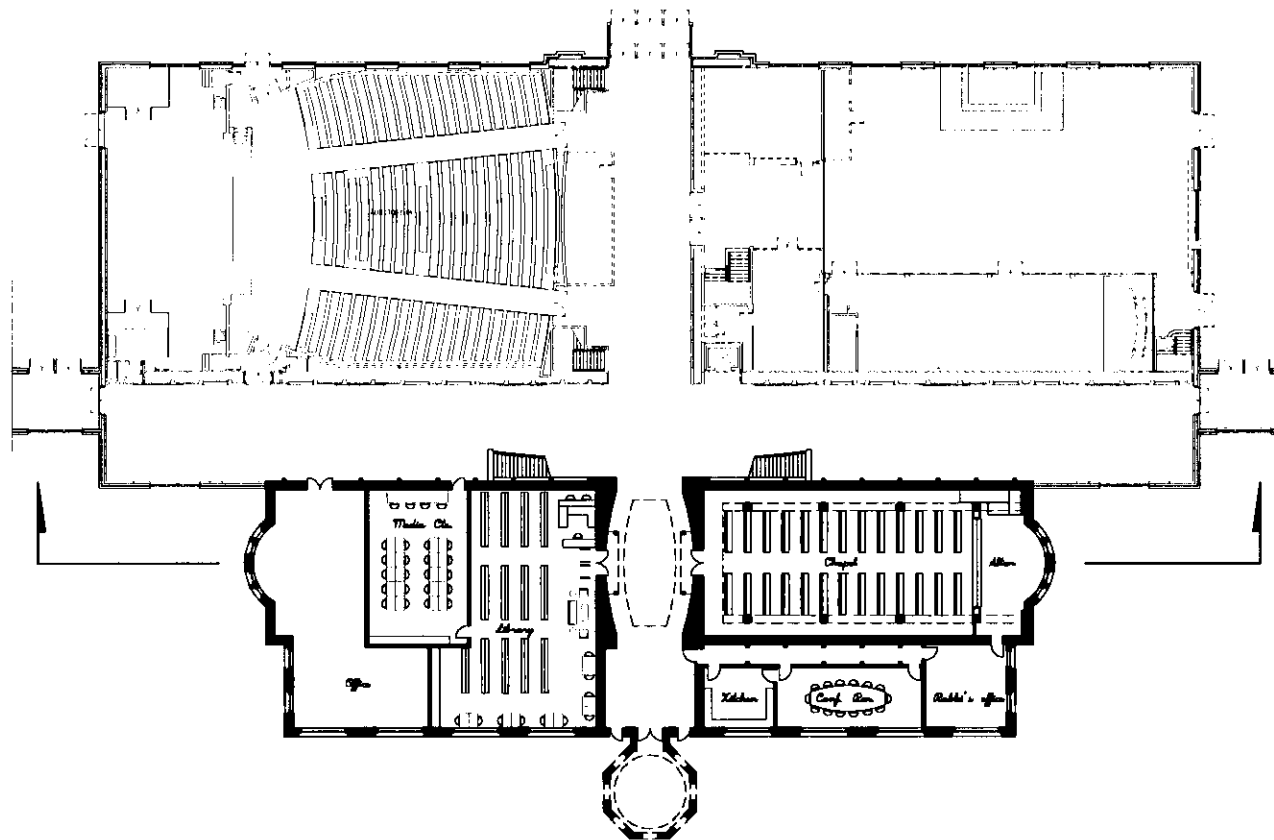
JEWISH CHAPEL - USNA
SOUTH ELEVATION

BOGGS AND PARTNERS ARCHITECTS
SEPTEMBER 29, 1997



JEWISH CHAPEL - USNA
BUILDING SECTION

BOGGS AND PARTNERS ARCHITECTS
OCTOBER 29, 1997



JEWISH CHAPEL - USNA
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

BOGGS AND PARTNERS ARCHITECTS
SEPTEMBER 29, 1977

