



# AM SHALOM

AWARD-WINNING RENOVATION AND SYNAGOGUE EXPANSION

**CLIENT** Am Shalom | **LOCATION** Glencoe, Illinois | **SIZE** 60,000 sf

## RECOGNITION

AIA Illinois Crombie Taylor/Earl Reed Award (2010); ASID First Place Design Excellence Award (2006)

## PROJECT SCOPE

Am Shalom's existing building was inadequate in terms of space, function, and safety. And yet it had a spiritual essence the congregation connected to. The main goal of the renovation, then, was to "change without changing." Eckenhoff Saunders achieved this by melding its incongruous styles from previous expansions into a contemporary yet timeless aesthetic.

A Community Court now serves as the heart of the building and connects the spiritual, administration, and education wings. A warm palette of limestone, glass, wood, tile and Israeli furnishings pays homage to the original temple; a wall of Jerusalem stone houses the congregation's Judaica collection in lighted nooks. Zoning codes prevented the team from adding volume to the structure; instead, the group "found" 8,000 sf of space by dividing the tall gymnasium into two floors to create a new social hall on the ground floor.