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## **Kaplan Construction completes renovation project for Congregation Beth El: Project team includes Hajian Architects, Arthur Choo, Dan-Cel Co., Donnelly Electric, Lynco Fire Protection and Schofield Engineering**

October 18, 2012 - Construction Design & Engineering

Kaplan Construction completed renovations to Congregation Beth El. Kaplan provided preconstruction, design/build, and construction management services for renovations to the building, which was originally constructed in 1950 and holds a long and rich history within the Greater Boston area.

Realizing the need to update the building to accommodate the vibrant local Orthodox community and its desire for a more modern space, Congregation Beth El enlisted Kaplan Const. to carry out an improvement and renovation plan. The plan featured 13,900 s/f of renovations to the sanctuary, social hall, offices and preschool; as well as life safety and accessibility upgrades throughout the 18,800 s/f building, including ADA compliance, new windows and doors, a new sprinkler system, new electrical service, and an elevator. Key elements of the renovation include pews that were imported from Israel and energy-efficient windows. The result is a contemporary and more comfortable synagogue for congregants.

Project team members include:

- \* Owner's representative: Kaufman & Arnold
- \* Architect: Hajian Architects
- \* Structural engineer: Arthur Choo Assoc.
- \* MEP engineer: Merrimack Valley Corp.
- \* Electrical: Donnelly Electric
- \* Plumbing: Dan-Cel Company
- \* HVAC: Merrimack Valley Corp.
- \* Civil/site engineer: Schofield Engineering
- \* Fire protection engineer: Lynco Fire Protection

"By providing numerous cost analyses, Kaplan helped us determine which mix would best meet our priorities and budget," said Sharon Jacobson, Congregation Beth El building committee member.

"Kaplan's keen understanding of our calendar, customs and ceremonies enabled the construction work to co-exist with our congregation's ongoing activities."

The building remained occupied throughout construction, and a multi-phased construction schedule dictated by the stringent Orthodox calendar allowed the congregation's prayer services to continue uninterrupted. The congregation's operations continued with minimal disruptions and a safe environment was maintained for the on-site preschool. Kaplan honored the building committee's process with patient assistance, and involved the congregation as a partner throughout the construction process. The completed structure is a meaningful, modern home for Congregation Beth

El's worship and community activities.

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