

**Jeffrey Silberstein Architect & Associates, Inc. *delray beach***

Temple Beth Emet, Cooper City, Florida

Inspiration for the design of this temple came from the old walled cities in Europe and Jerusalem. These cities protected their populace from invaders and gave them the freedom to prosper culturally, socially and economically within protective boundaries. Inside the walls, within a tight grid of buildings with open spaces that function like courtyards and squares, were all the amenities the community required.

Temple Beth Emet occupies a 16-acre site and contains 50,000 total square feet.



The complex includes a school with eight classrooms, social hall with full commercial kitchen, temple with seating for 600, administrative offices with lobby and gift shop and parking for 250 cars.

The site allows for expansion of the school by twofold and the addition of a soccer field, basketball court, tennis court and swimming pool.

The design objective for this project was to create a village of learning and cultural identity for a young, vibrant congregation. The congregation wanted a facility that would bring families and



Top and above: *South elevation. Photos by Rabinowitz Photography.*



friends closer together in a safe environment – a place where the congregants could meet to share religious and social aspirations.

The architect's solution addressed the client's program by arranging buildings in such a way as to create large and small courtyards that can be used as play areas or places of meditation and reflection. The temple, which is visible from all parts of the facility, is distinguished by a tilted wall that rises 40 feet to embrace the congregants. The temple is anchored with a steeple that soars to a height of 75 feet. From outside, the facility is clearly read as a Jewish center for learning that is comfortable with its presence in the community.



Photo, Top: *Interior of the temple.* Right: *Exterior from the southwest.* All photos by Rabinowitz Photography.

**Project Credits:** Jeffrey Silberstein, AIA: Architect; Kamm Consultants: MEP Engineers; Bryntesen Engineers: Structural Engineers; Nibor Construction: Contractor