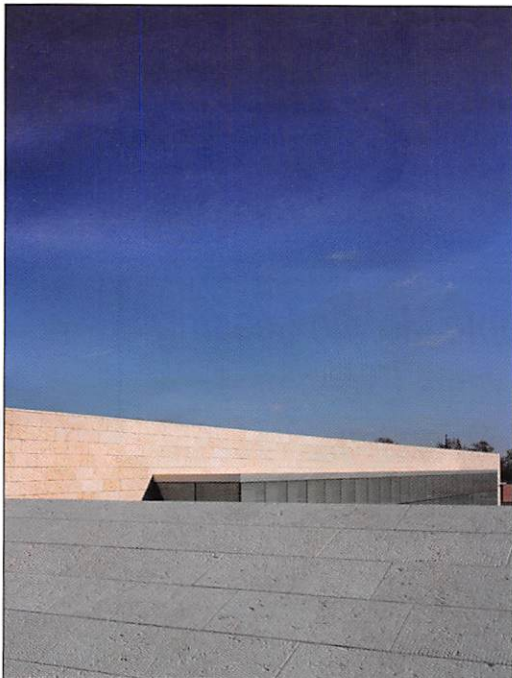


To think and to become involved

# Outside & inside

This museum's exterior offers a chance to pause and reflect, but inside, it's all engagement and activity

BY CINDY GRAHL | EDITOR



WESTLAKE REED LESKOSKY

The pure lines of the Jerusalem limestone make this building unique.

New arrivals at the new Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage know that they have come to an unusual place. It is hidden from the street on a lower elevation, emulating an architectural site, and nestled within retaining walls of Jerusalem limestone that differ in texture from the building. They embrace the main building and shield it from outside distractions of sight and sound.

"The building is carved in the earth," says Milton Maltz, the force behind the creation of the museum. It sits on five acres of a 24-acre extended campus that includes the Temple Tifereth Israel and its school directly to the east. It also serves as a reference point for an entire cluster of buildings: the Mandel Jewish Community Center, the Agnon School and Siegal College of Jewish Studies just beyond. A Wall of Remembrance and Memorial Garden, honoring Jewish war veterans and survivors of the Holocaust, will soon be part of the mix. "We wanted the elevation to define the outdoors," says Maltz of the site, which encompasses a 22-degree grade difference. "It guides you to the entrance. It removes you from this world and guides you to another realm, another world."

Maltz sent out RFPs to many architects, but selected Westlake Reed Leskosky as architect and engineer for the project, based on its winning design. Principal Paul Westlake Jr., FAIA and lead designer, says the project "weaves together architecture and landscape in a highly symbolic relationship that links the museum to its Jewish heritage." And Ronald Reed, FAIA, IIDA, another WRL principal, notes that "The museum is designed as



# regional developments



**The Cleveland Clinic** is spending over \$77 million to renovate and expand its outlying locations, notably Marymount (\$25 million addition), Fairview (\$4 million refurbishment and \$14.5 million heart center expansion to begin in June), Lakewood and Lutheran hospitals, plus South Pointe (\$2 million renovation), Hillcrest (\$4.6 million maternity expansion), Euclid (\$4 million ER expansion), and others.

**University Hospitals** will spend \$1 billion to build a free-standing \$220 million, 200-bed cancer hospital, double the ER, expand Rainbow B&C, build two new outpatient centers in Aurora and Twinsburg, and expand cardiology and orthopedic services at three eastern hospitals, Geauga Regional, Bedford and Richmond Hts. It's also looking at the 668 Euclid Building or other downtown location as an admin site.

**Zaremba's Avenue District** is gen-

erating a lot of interest, and sales, helping fuel further development east of the Galleria. And a group is campaigning to build a new \$33 million aquarium on Lake Erie or the Cuyahoga River. **Ohio Technical College** is growing on Cleveland's East Side at St. Clair and E. 49<sup>th</sup> with 200,000-sf of building to be converted into classrooms, parking, and maybe student housing by late 2007. Another 100,000-sf of space may be added to that.

**The Shaia** parking lot dynasty is also bent on developing its share of the East Flats, joining with Walnut Grove Development Group in Richmond, VA, with a proposed Front Street Lofts, a 250 condo and mixed-use project on a three-acre parking lot on W. 10<sup>th</sup> that would cut into the **Scott Wolstein** plans. The Port Authority is being asked to come to Wolstein's aid.

**Myers University** hopes to add to

its Midtown campus and **Dealer Tire** wants to expand as well, but Fannie Lewis is holding up plans with her advocacy for a work-release jail on the site. **Westgate Mall** will add a target and a Lowe's.

**Seven Hills** wants to build a 70-acre, \$300 million Main Street lifestyle center planned by **Forum Architects** with 450,000-sf of offices, 300,000-sf of retail and 350 housing units, as well as a 170-room hotel and parking. **Key Corp.** wants to build a \$12 million computer center in Solon. **Beachwood Place** will do a \$15 million refurb with an expanded fashion tenant offering with plans by **KA Architects**, with construction to start in spring.

**The Trinity Building** on Detroit is being razed and the site prepped by **H2Wq Environmental Consultants** for the first piece of Cleveland's industrial land bank as the future home for **Energy Wise Building Systems**,

maker of energy conservation panels. **Technical Consumer Products** is expanding with a \$12 million, 130,000-sf project in Aurora next to its current 100,000-sf HQ..

The old **Office Max HQ** in Shaker Hts. may become a 50-acre mixed-use site. The University of Akron is moving on its **Medina Co. University Center** for workforce development on a 44-acre lot in Lafayette Twp., with the first building, 33,000-sf, going up this summer and opening next.

**Detroit-Shoreway** is growing with the four-building rehab called Gordon Square Homes into 85 rental units for low-income and 6,000-sf of commercial space. Rehab of two theaters and construction of a third will help create a \$20 million arts district, with a total of \$750 million of building now or soon to be underway. The Capitol Theater is part of this, slated for a \$4.5 million restoration.

**The Lorain County Metro Parks** has chosen Behnke Associates as lead designer for the 11.5-mile Black River Bike Trail Extension Project with KS Associates to provide design engineering, surveying and construction administration. **The Coral Co.** is adding 116 for-sale housing units this month at Robert Stark's Crocker Park but is withdrawing from the Domain on Lee project in Cleveland Hts. CVS may be moving to the old Joseph-Beth site at **Shaker Square**.

**Kertes Enterprises** wants to redevelop the southeast corner of Brainard and Miles into **The Shoppes of Solon North**, with the first building beginning this spring. The former Miles Drive-In site will become Cinema Park, a 21-acre development of single-family homes by **Rysar Properties**. **Benderson Development** wants to build an \$8 million Homewood Suites in Beachwood. **BXM**



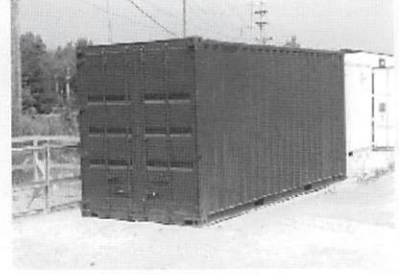
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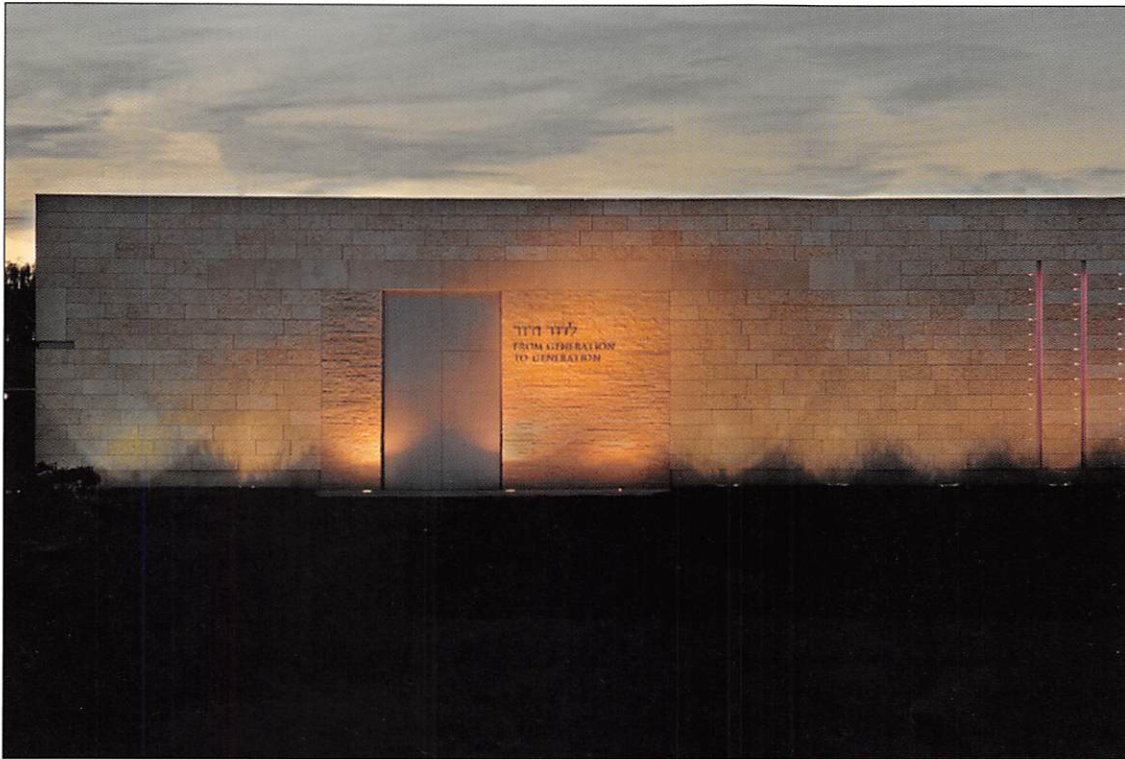
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**Left:** The eastern wall of the museum leads to the grounds and to a garden of remembrance.

**Below:** Daylight is used effectively as museum goers get a view of the grounds.



WESTLAKE REED LESKOSKY

WESTLAKE REED LESKOSKY

**Limestone is the backbone**  
 Central to the concept of the building is the 126 tons of Golden Jerusalem limestone that clad it to 1.1/4-in thick. The open jointed cladding is backed by a waterproofing layer. Imported from Israel, it was cut and hand tooled with no hard joints to evoke ancient city walls and bring in a human dimension. According to museum executive director Carol Zawatsky, “If this limestone could speak to us, it would speak of the ancient past, but in a contemporary style.”

The main façade on the south is articulated with spacers, while the eastern wall, whose door leads to the Temple through a patio, includes long, slender recesses. These evoke scroll niches and are backlit with programmable LED lighting to provide the look of glowing candles. The stone is carried up to the roofline and turns at a stark 90 degree angle, offering a pure stone form and spare concrete rooftop that emulates the stone, while mechanical equipment is unseen behind open metal louvers.

The glass and aluminum of the simple curtain wall breaks into the stonework in a crystal band on the south side, while windows of the offices along the northern side offer a more modern feel. The metal for these was to be zinc but is now a zinc-looking aluminum, says WRL project director Amy Dibner, a response to the project’s tight budget and tight documentation. Its cool look sets off the warmth of the stonework.

an excavated object and vessel, engaged within its site as an artifact of elemental form, exquisite proportions and beautifully tactile surfaces. We have taken the notions of excavation, discovery and landscape as points of

departure, creating a sense of antiquity but looking forward in a very contemporary way.” He calls the building an “iconic and textural geometric form, symbolically integrated in its landscape.”

But what of the building proper? Its architecture expresses a highly sophisticated simplicity, with the key design element a solid cube, highlighted by the used of excellent materials and outstanding craftsmanship.



WESTLAKE PHOTO LIBRARY

**Left:** The Maltz Museum is sunk beneath the entrance level, creating drama and a sense of arrival.

**Below:** Artifacts on display include this stained glass window.

**Facing:** Treasures from The Temple can be easily seen from outside and symbolize freedom of religion.

Landscaping softens the spare geometry of the building. A major highlight of the building is a special area built into the south side and visible to the outdoors, which holds the museum's Judaica collection, a total of 170 pieces on loan from the Temple, one of the country's largest and one of the reasons that the museum needed to be built. The collection's visibility is a way of expressing the trust that Kristallnacht will never happen here.

"It is not a fortress," says Maltz. "It is visually accessible, and you can see the collection from the outside." Says Rabbi Richard Block at Temple Tifereth Israel, "It is a spectacular piece of artistic achievement— and a jewel at night."

**On the exterior**

The Jerusalem limestone is literally the key to the entire building, but it was the project's major hang-up as well. First, according to Mike Pierce, spokesman for construction manager The Austin Company, it had to be delivered from Israel to the U.S. via a port in Barcelona, but that shipment was hampered by a dock strike that held up delivery. And once the stone was delivered, it took the architect,

masonry consultant and Austin, working together, to come up with a proper design for the clips to hang the stones in place after the original design proved untenable. The result, says Pierce, were stainless steel clips. Both problems set the stonework schedule back, but both were eventually solved.

According to Austin's Mike Pierce, this project worked a little differently than the typical Austin project, in that the firm was functioning as construction manager rather than design builder. "It took a little more to navigate through the design process, as we are used to having more control," he says.

WRL's Monica Green notes many green features, such as reuse of the materials dug out of the ground to create a berm with native plantings and a reduction of stormwater runoff via permeable strip of grided grass that can be used as a fire lane.

**Outside serenity, inside immersion**

Inside the building, natural light enters the lobby from the high crystal band windows. The ceiling is of perforated metal to control noise, with a replica zodiac from an historic syna-

logue set into the composite floor. A timeline in the lobby shows American, world and Jewish history and leads to the exhibits. Visitors can choose to go to the main floor of the museum, the theater, special exhibit area, store or the Judaica collection. The museum is also able to present dinners at its events, and a two-sided kosher kitchen is able to serve all guests.



MALTZ MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE

THE TEMPLE - THERETH ISRAEL  
GALLERY



ADMISSION

ADULTS: \$7.00  
SENIORS & STUDENTS: \$5.00  
CHILDREN 12 & UNDER: FREE  
MEMBERS: FREE

MUSEUM HOURS

SUNDAY - WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY  
10:00am - 5:00pm

THURSDAY  
10:00am - 8:00pm

SATURDAY  
12:00pm - 5:00pm



Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage

he said. "We created it as a team so that everyone would understand it." According to the plan, the journey begins with an iconic document, a German rabbi's guidebook to the 45 emigrating members of his congregation about how to keep their faith alive in the New World. From there, the visitor is led through a maze of rooms that represent a journey through time, with scenes from the Cleveland

immigrant experience, from pushcarts to the origins of Forest City and American Greetings to Superman pushing through a wall. He or she is surrounded by specific environments, complete with sound and even a sense of the taste and smell of lives lived. A small theater recognizes the contributions of Jewish entertainers, and the Holocaust is represented, as well as a Room of Hate that shows

Inside, museum visitors are plunged into the immediacy of the displays. One can hear the sounds of the street and almost smell and taste the foods offered in immigrant shops.

Klan robes, lynch mobs and other symbols of bigotry.

The exhibits present an American story, which any immigrant can find familiar; the museum is working with such partners as the Catholic John Carroll University on relevant exhibits. Indeed, the entire project represents a "true collaboration of partners," says Zawatsky, a partnership including the Maltz Fam-

ily Foundation, the Jewish Community Foundation of Cleveland, Temple-Tifereth Israel, and the Western Reserve Historical Society. And its tight budget, she adds, demanded the utmost from the various partners in the way of creative design.

The project has been given the Cleveland Engineering Society's Excellence in Design and Construction Award. **BXM**

## Project specs:

### Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage

#### Project developer:

Malrite Co.

#### Architect:

Westlake Reed Leskosky

#### CM:

The Austin Co.

#### Timeline:

Groundbreaking, July 2003, structural steel erected Nov. 2003, opening October 2005

#### Cost:

\$15 million, \$200/sf

#### Expected:

45,000 visitors a year.

#### Size:

24,000-sf, with 7,000-sf of permanent exhibition space, 4,000-sf special exhibit space with no columns, thanks to the use of long span joints, and a 40-seat theater, as well as an 2,300-sf Judaica art gallery and museum store.

#### Vendors:

- Exhibition design, Gallagher & Assoc
- Exhibit fabrication, Exhibits Int'l.
- Civil engineers, Gutoskey & Assoc.
- Acoustics, Jaffee Holden Acoustics,
- Lighting consultant, George Sexton Assoc.
- Interactive exhibits, Blue Robot
- AV consultants, Romeantics
- AV producer: Telos Video Communications
- Landscape arch.: Hargreaves Assoc

- Landscape implementation, Knight & Stolar Inc..
- Security: ADR Corp.
- Construction signs, North Coast Sign Co.
- Steelwork, Comm Steel
- Concrete work, site work, etc., Marous Brothers
- General trades, G. Q. Contracting
- Masonry, SPS & Associates
- Fluid Applied Roofing, Weather Mark, Inc.
- Electrical, Atlas Electric
- Mechanical, E. B. Katz, Inc.
- Hollow metal and wood doors, Functional Building Supply
- Asphalt paving, Velotta Paving
- Fire protection, Fox Fire
- Alum glass, Lorain Glass
- 400A Transformer, First Energy
- Painting, Dependable Painting
- Metal Siding / Roofing, Commercial Siding & Maint.
- Landscaping, SJS Landservices
- Exterior Signs, Budget Signs
- Waterproofing, Foundation Systems, Inc.
- Port. Toilets, Waid's Rainbow Rentals Inc.
- Dumpster, Weingold Rubbish Co.
- Temp. Power, Atlas Electric Co



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*Builders Exchange—The Magazine & Sabre Publishing Group, Inc. salute everyone involved on the Maltz Museum of Natuaraal Heritage, project for their efforts to make our communities a better place to live & work.*

**Best Wishes for the future!**



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