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The Best Synagogue Builders in the US

by JACK COOKSON



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A synagogue is a place of worship, a common space for reflection and communication for members of the congregation. Every synagogue features a series of core areas—a large prayer area, study rooms, and social event halls and offices. These components are all important as the building is not only for praying; it also acts as a shared space. Some famous synagogues include the Congregation Shearith Israel in New York—the oldest synagogue in America—and the Belz Great Synagogue in Jerusalem, Israel, the largest synagogue in the world.

The following firms are some of the best synagogue builders in the country. We constructed this list after extensive research, taking into account key factors such as company history, portfolio quality, the relevance of awards, client reviews, and each firm's backgrounds of principals. Religious structures require a specific set of rules when it comes to building and design. Respect for the history and tradition—as well as the community—should be strictly observed to honor the sacred principles of a rich religious tradition thousands of years in the making.

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Oliver and Company

1300 SOUTH 51ST STREET, RICHMOND, CA 94804

Oliver and Company's portfolio showcases over 2,000 buildings in the San Francisco Bay Area. It was established in 1946 and offers core services of construction, management, and development. Firm president Steven H. Oliver is an industry veteran with vast knowledge in the field. Under the guidance of Steven and his son, co-CEO Josh Oliver, the company has earned industry-wide recognition on both local and national levels. Notable accolades include the 2016 Honor Award from AIA San Francisco, the 2016 Mayor's Award of Excellence, and the 2015 Award for Historic Rehabilitation and Restoration from the Palo Alto Stanford Heritage Commercial Rehabilitation Awards.



The Temple Sinai in Oakland was completed in 2010 by Oliver and Company, with Michael Harris and Mark Horton of MH2 studio on the architectural details. The modern exterior aesthetic conveys a minimalist design; its interiors offer a welcoming ambiance for the worshipping community. Aside from synagogues, Oliver and Company's portfolio includes commercial, interiors, industrial, schools, and housing.

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