

Dror

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Synagogue



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soho synagogue

Dror Benshetrit's Soho Synagogue is this New York community's first-ever synagogue and a marvellous design intervention to boot.

The design direction and details of the religious space evokes various meanings. The striped front window ensures that the space is private while the hanging strips are also reminiscent of the tallit shawl that Jewish men wear for their prayers.

Other features in the synagogue include an installation in shades of blue with the names of the donors that made the construction possible. Lines on the ceiling work to create a "narrowing" effect for the passage that leads to the prayer room, while the dual use of light bulbs and dark lines on the ceiling resemble a menorah.

Passing by elements of steel and glass, visitors arrive at a sanctuary where the art panels on the walls can be taken off and unfolded into chairs or tables. Here low couches replace traditional prayer benches and Edison bulbs work to add a retro lighting feel.

Some of the history and characteristics of the building were retained by leaving industrial elements, such as large pipes, exposed. There is also a Torah Arc, made with overlapping circles, which are able to open and close, with each featuring a triangle that together forms the Star of David.

Photos by John M Hall.