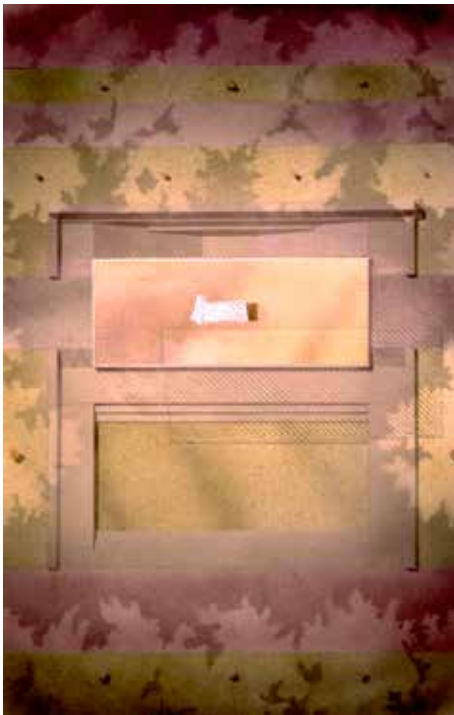


Holocaust Memorial in Charleston

Integrated urban planning, architecture & sculpture





Jonathan Levi Architects provided a synthesis of urban planning, architecture and sculpture for this memorial, which straddles a major path traversing centrally located Marion Square in Charleston, SC. The memorial's position in the square was chosen by the architect to reflect the intent of the city and local community to highlight the mission of remembrance. The piece is conceived through the eyes of the local survivors whose names are inscribed on a wall, which forms the backdrop to a long bench, which accommodates meditating visitors. The 'interior' of the memorial is formed by a two-story high screen of mill-finish stainless steel. The visitor is called upon to speculate on the nature of the boundary and his or her place in relation to it - whether to be within or without.

Features

- Key concept for Charleston's major public space
- Contemporary expression in a highly sensitive historical context
- Project consensus among diverse stakeholders
- Integration of architect's sculptural vision with architectural and urban design

Recognition

- 2001 Religious Arts Award – Visual Arts, Faith & Form Magazine and the Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art & Architecture;
- 2000 Award for Excellence in Architecture – Honor Award, AIA/New England;
- 1999 Award for Design Excellence – Honor Award, AIA/Boston Society of Architects
- "Millennium Awards Issue", Faith and Form, 2001
- "The Holocaust: A Reconciliation of Two Portraits", cover feature, B. Meyer/J. Levi, Faith and Form, 1999
- "Holocaust Memorial, Charleston, SC", World Magazine – Journal of the Unitarian-Universalist Society, 1999
- Harvard Design Magazine, Winter 2000
- "Remembering", R. Behre, Charleston Sunday Post and Courier, 1999
- "The Power of Memory", M.S. Grossman, Charleston Magazine, 1997



The ceremonial marker, sculpted by the architect, symbolizes the absence of the holocaust victims and sanctifies the memorial's inner "space of witness"



Program

A place of assembly whose footprint echoes that of the memorial sanctuary accommodates Charleston's annual ritual of remembrance. Its side aisles, walls and tilted grass floor quietly guide the observer to varied perspectives of the sanctuary's space and a gradual awareness of the sculpture lying prone within. They also serve everyday life as comfortable places to sit, recline and pause.

The memorial is constructed of specially mixed and finished concrete, detailed and heavily reinforced to reduce jointing beyond that normally expected by the eye, thus strengthening the monolithic aura of the material.

JLA Role

Programming & Architectural Design services including urban design & sculpture

Personnel Jonathan Levi FAIA,
Project/Sculpture Designer/Partner-in-Charge

Client Charleston Jewish Federation

Location Charleston, SC

Size 6,000 sf

Construction Cost \$550,000

Commemorated 1999



SITE PLAN

The memorial occupies and interrupts a major axial connection through Marion Square bringing forward its message into the context of everyday life in the square.

