



# Sid Jacobson Jewish Community Center

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# Introduction

The objective of our study for this portion of the project is to find out how the community center influence its surrounding and how it operates. For examples:

- Governmental regulations
- Aesthetic considerations
- Historic influences
- Cultural considerations
- Environmental factors
- Construction standard



After founding out theses' factors, we are to see if there is any way of improving this facility.

## Cont. Introduction

The objective of this assignment was to gather information about the functionality of a community center and important aspects a community center must have from the perspective of an architect. As we encountered several conflicts regarding physical and dimensional properties of the complex, we instead focused on how a Community center functions. We spoke with Lisa, the VP, to gather insight on her complex functions during various activities and environments and how the complex could be improved.

# Governmental Regulations



There is currently no major government regulation on the center, but there could be for future development. The government/town board most likely may impose restrictions onto the basement construction, height discrepancies of the building along with parking spaces and maximum person capacity. This can hinder the facility's future expansion and further increasing the amenities and services it can provide. Being a strong supporter of childcare and disease research/awareness, certain regulations and limitations can be imposed onto the facility regarding medical practice and facilities, a space JCC would benefit from. Private agriculture and gardening may also be an issue as being able to supplement the large population at this community center may create a conflict for local farmers along with local stores that also sell agricultural goods.

# Aesthetic and cultural influences

This community center is influenced by the community and the people that are involved in it.

- Because the center has Jewish connections with the community, certain holidays and cultural events take place in the center. A good example is during the Jewish fall harvest of Sukkot, the center plays a big role in its agricultural Festivities. The center brings its members together to eat and gather together to share food. This is mainly done near the center entrance as this is a location where most people will gather. A necessary change would be to change the entrance into implementing more glazing to allow more sunlight to enter the space along with creating a larger space for this large gathering
- Lisa mentioned that a second Floor and rooftop would greatly help in the facility management. This would help increase the space required for the members along with being able to place a garden on the rooftop. This would further help with the architecture as it would help with creating a much larger space along with being able to implement landscaping to promote the architecture.



# Historic and environmental influences

The history of the facility dates back to the origins of a small church which was erected in the early 1980's. Due to the increasing population of members and funding the center had the possibility to transform into the large center it remains today. The history of the facility which promotes Cancer research, child Disabilities and other protective and caring services help the facility in its expansion and adding multiples spaces for such services to take place.



There's many instances in which the Center will be hosting multiples events simultaneously. These types of events pose an issue in parking space along with means of egress. Large groups of people which include communities with disabilities, children, elderly, and members of the community, can result in crowds, in which the facility struggles with to maintain order and a safe environment. The history of the facility shows that it was not prepared to accommodate crowds it was expecting decades ago.

# Construction standard



Currently the building is mainly government funded and provided grants, in which the community center can direct towards its research and development services that it provides. Unfortunately, this money cannot be used for building repairs at maintenance. This further affects the architecture of the building regarding the type of materials and functionality of the building when focusing on economic principles along with lasting durability and use of the building over an extended period of time.

Access to certain spaces in the building lack ADA accessibility, which don't allow for all spaces to be easily accessible. Certain doors and windows may also not be easily usable by people with disabilities, a population of people that is prominent in this facility.

Future additions to the building and expansion are limited due to the structural integrity of the supporting structures of the building. As mentioned by Lisa, the structural Beams of JCC would not be able to support a large amount of load, and additionally create limitations on to large gatherings and emergency use.

## Cont. Construction Standard



As shown in the photo, we can clearly see that the most possible space has been utilized on the gross area of the property. Additionally, we can see the building adapted the square shaped building to optimize for as much space as possible.

# Conclusion

The facility has grown over the years into a successful facility which provides needed services to the community. Infused into the general community, JCC is a center which draws new homeowners to the community and creates an attentiveness to further expanding the facility and supporting its commitment to the people. However, as demand rises, and populations grow JCC is slowly becoming overwhelmed and is beginning to reach its maximum capability to further increase services. Visiting this community center shows the importance of being able to successfully create a building that can support large crowds and can allow for safety. Additionally, using LEED, community centers can gain on being more efficient and self sustainable to be able to save money along with having additional resource of goods and services to the community.

# Reference:

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Being in the know of all thing's SJJCC is Lisa Rosenkrantz, who has grown to oversee Operations, Security, Facilities and Customer Relations in her latest role. Lisa's career at the JCC has flourished from a 3's teacher in our Bernice & Ira Waldbaum Family Children's Center – Early Childhood and staff member of Camp Jacobson in 2009 into the Executive Assistant for the Senior Management Team and valued team member for the Board. Prior to this most recent promotion, Lisa held the role of Chief of Staff and Director of Teen Services.