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Award of
EXCELLENCE

Lincoln Square Synagogue

New York, NY

Tillotson Design Associates

Suzan Tillotson, Ellen Sears, David Burya

Undulating ribbons of glass form the east facade of this Upper West Side synagogue, representing the sacred Torah scroll and uniting the Sanctuary, the Beit Midrash and the classroom space. The stone ends of the facade suggest the protective covering for the Torah and the Tabernacle within. The glass ribbons are formed of facets of double-laminated, insulating glass panels encapsulating bronze-colored, pleated, sheer-woven Trevira in between. A white ceramic, silkscreen dot pattern on the interior lite allows a slightly obscured view to the interior, while increasing privacy for worshippers inside.

The Tillotson Design team incorporated lines of LEDs behind the facade's extrusions, with complex wiring details running through to remote drivers. The ceramic frit catches the light, creating a glowing wall that in the evening forms a backdrop for the Sanctuary's Ark. Tiny recessed LED downlights sparkle like stars in the gently convex ceiling, but they are zoned to provide purposeful accent and aisle lighting. LED coves, with resin diffusers, spill soft light onto the angled acoustical wall panels to accentuate the form, and to complete the imagery of the first tabernacle: a nomadic tent under the desert sky.

