

The Biber Partnership Details the Cooperman JCC in West Orange

By The Biber Partnership
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The award-winning New Jersey-based architectural firm, The Biber Partnership, has completed the Leon and Toby Cooperman JCC, also named the JCC Metrowest, located at 760 Northfield Avenue in West Orange. The Jewish Community Center has completed

its renovations and additions to include 60,000 additional square feet to the existing 103,000 square feet to house a licensed day care center and a brand new fitness center. The expansion also included a much-needed new 350-car parking garage. The overall cost for the project was \$18 million.

New amenities as a result of the renovation and addition included an art gallery, a fitness center comprised of aerobics/group exercise rooms, preschool and nursery rooms, a teen center, conference rooms, classrooms and a kosher café.

Completed in three phases, the project initially started with the creation of the parking garage, which now provides direct access into the building to the atrium level. The additional two phases were also completed while the center remained fully operational and are comprised of an atrium consisting of centralized socialization spaces and cafe with all program spaces and amenity spaces branching out from the atrium and the spine.

Materials for the facility were selected to include Jerusalem stone in the atrium. The color palette is calm and muted in the public spaces of the atrium to help promote socialization in a relaxing atmosphere. In active areas, such as the teen center, fitness center and aerobics rooms, the color palette intensifies to promote activity.

The unique topography of the entire complex, which was built into the side of a hill, made the venture quite challenging in terms of architecture. The entire complex was joined together by a series of ramps that provide access to the rear and front of the building and continues access through multiple levels of the building complex.

"Designing such a large community center with such unique topography was thrilling, exciting and a challenge," said Peter Biber, AIA, The Biber Partnership. "It let us fully implement our firm's fundamental design philosophy of designing buildings that are appropriate for their use and specific to the site."