

Beit
Simchat
Torah

CONGREGATION

קהל קדישה בית שמחת תורה

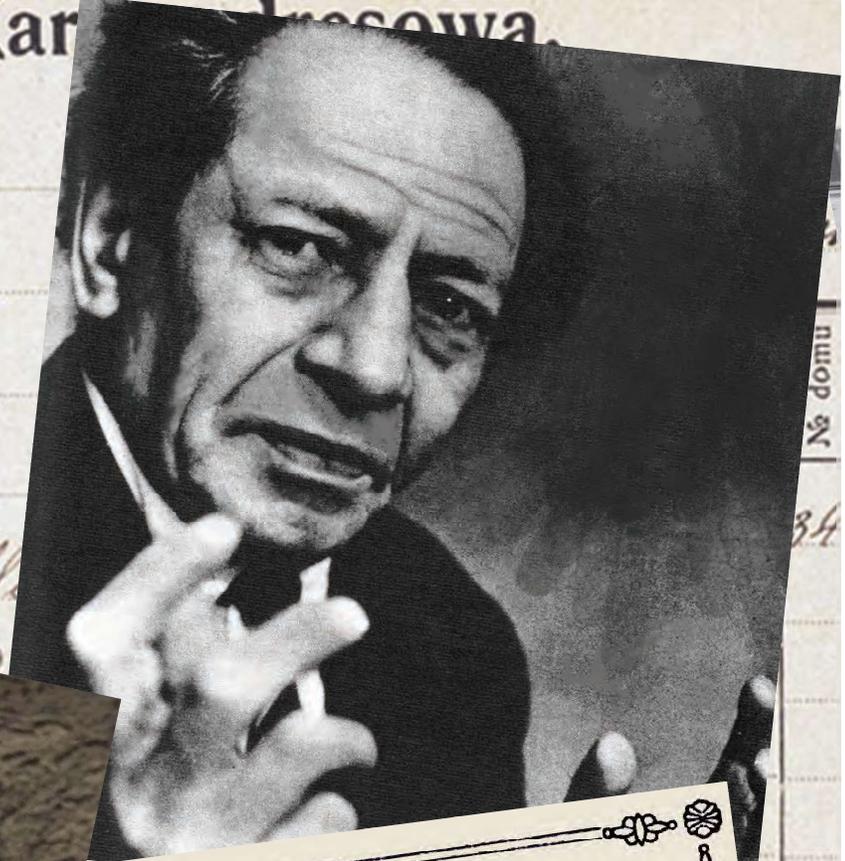
MEZUZAH FROM THIS HOME

THE ART OF MI POLIN
AT CBST

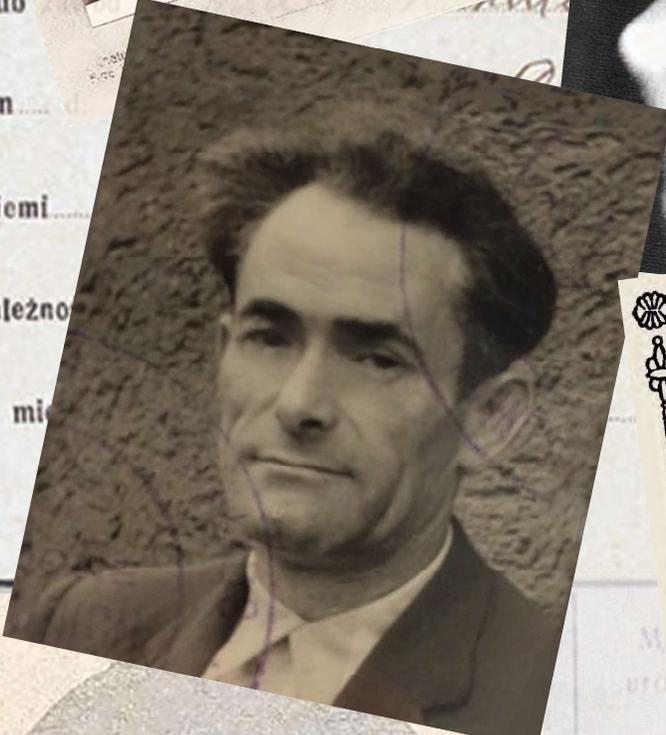


MI POLIN

Name and Surname: **SILBERMAN Tobiasz**
 Name and Vorname:
 Date and Place of Birth: **15.5.1913 - Lanoz - Poland**
 Geburtsort und Datum:
 Occupation: **Tailor**
 Beruf:
 Nationality: **pol-Jew**
 Nationalität:



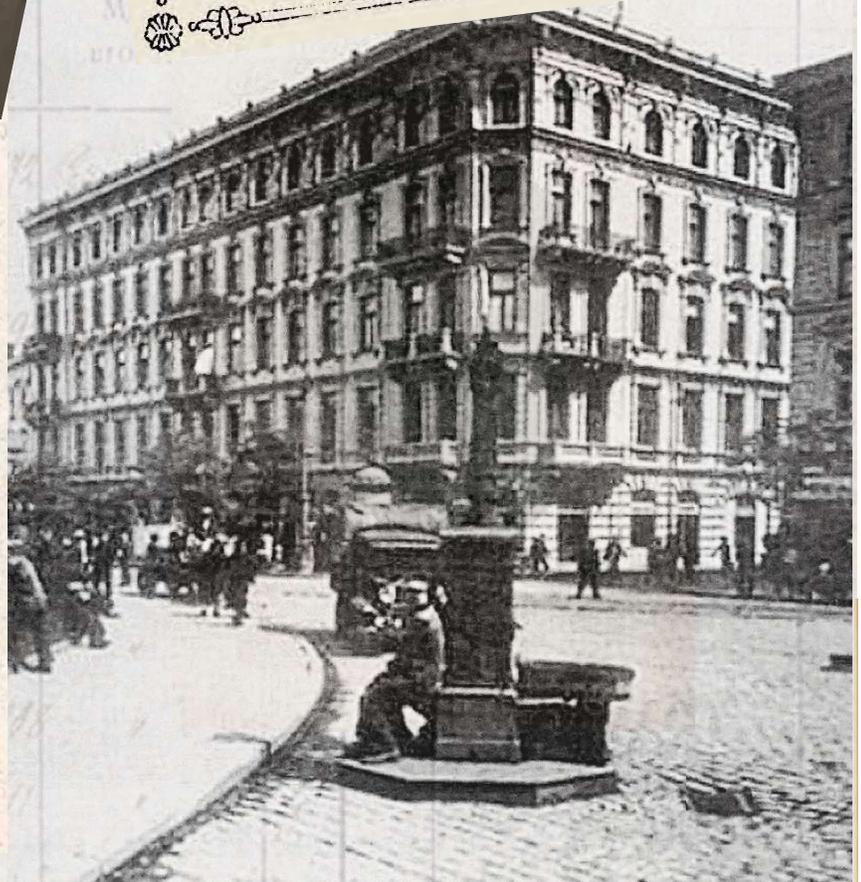
Imię
 Imię oj
 Stan lub
 Urodzon
 ziemi
 Przynależno
 Stał... mi



**Największy w Zagłębiu
 SKŁAD FUTER.**
 Wielki wybór krajowych i zagr.
 futer, oraz konfekcji futrzanej.
 Własna garbarnia i pracownia.
L. Goldsztajn i W. Tenenberg
 BĘDZIN, ul. Kollątaja No 14.

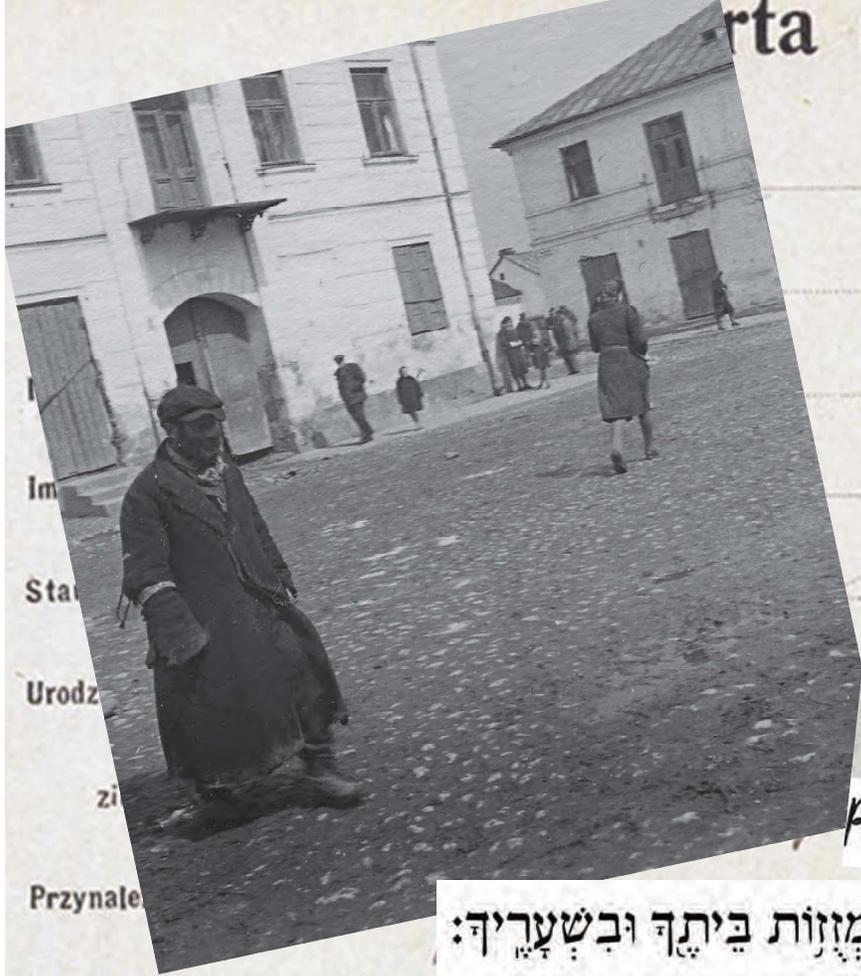


P. M. Wolanowski, założyciel.



ta adresowa.

30 XII 19



Róża Fiszman - Sznejdman

וְכָתַבְתֶּם עַל-מְזוֹזוֹת בֵּיתְךָ וּבִשְׁעָרֶיךָ:

U'chtavtam al-mezuzot betecha uvish'arecha

And you shall write them upon your doorposts and upon your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:9



4 Israel-Abram



NAJWIĘKSZE W ZAGŁĘBIU SKŁADY FUTER!
L. GOLDSTEIN i N. TENENBERG
 Będzin, ulica Kołataja 14. Sosnowiec, ulica 3-go Maja 19
 Telefon nr. 140 (vis à vis dworca głównego) Telefon 344

Polecają: FUTRA DAMSKIE i męskie, kołnierze, etole i t. p. oraz różne skórki krajowe i zagraniczne w wielkim wyborze.

Wykonują: we własnych warsztatach wszelką robotę, w zakres kuśnierstwa wchodzącą.

FUTRA!! Urzędnikom dajemy na dogodnych warunkach

CONGREGATION BEIT SIMCHAT TORAH



A HOME OF OUR OWN

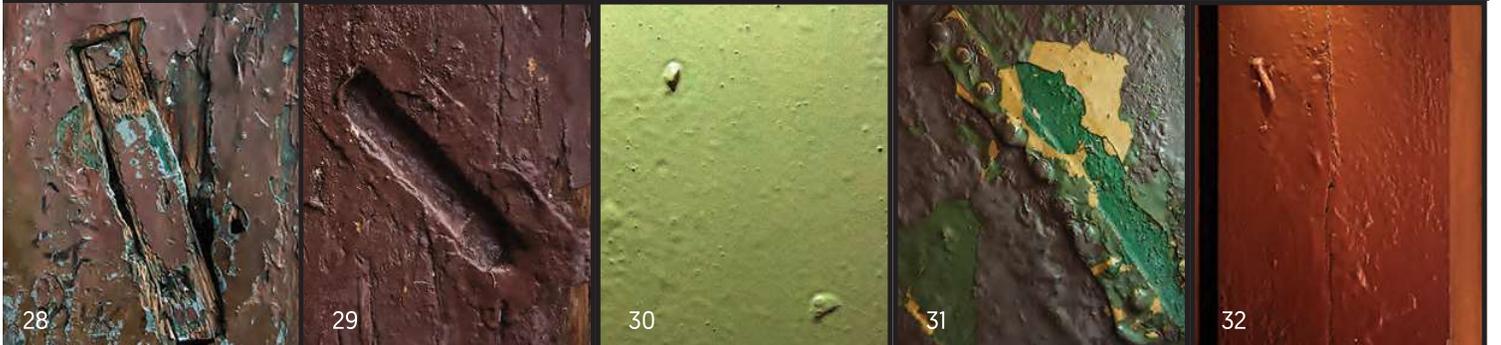
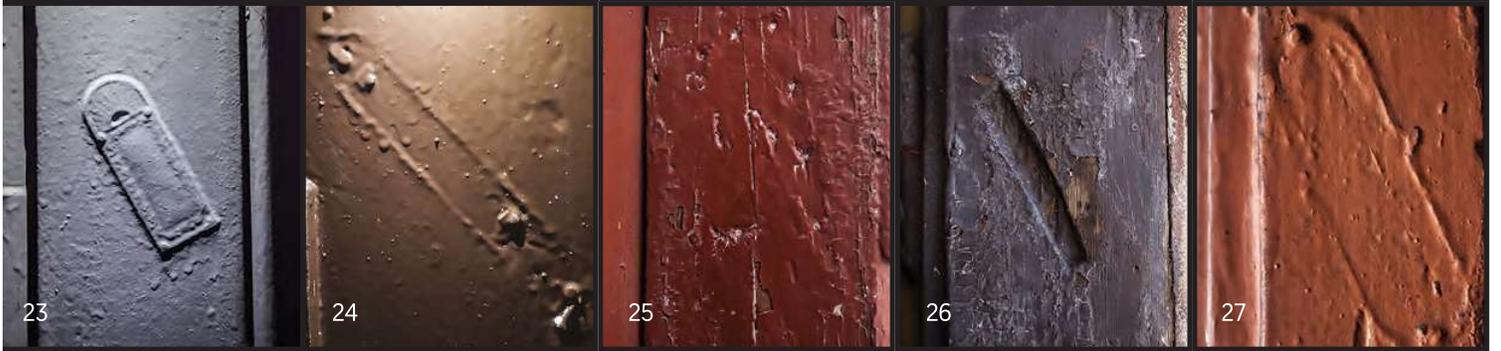
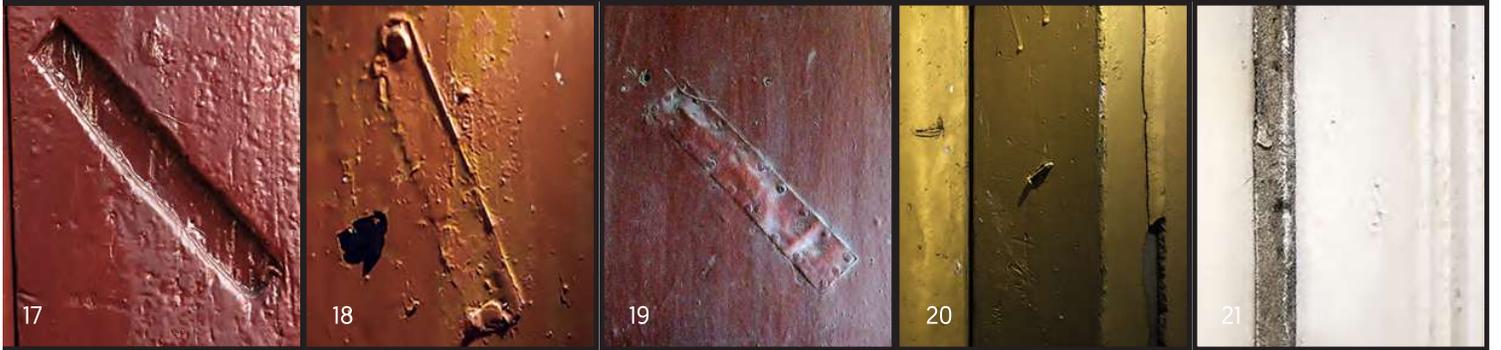
For 25 years, Congregation Beit Simchat Torah was in a dark loft on Bethune Street, hidden away in the West Village. For more than 15 years, a professional group of CBST volunteers, searched for a permanent home; one that would be more centrally located, as well as more proudly visible.

In 2006, the dream nearly became a reality, when a space almost secured, generated the receipt of a significant number of donations. The deal would eventually fall through; however in the process, CBST found its architect in Stephen Cassell, Co-Principal of ARO (Architecture Research Office).

Cassell began working with the rabbis, staff and congregants to define the essential components of CBST's ideal space, such as: proximity to public transportation, street-level visibility; and adequate room to accommodate a new sanctuary; and its growing membership, staff and programs.

With these criteria in mind, the committee visited over 40 sites before finally selecting two adjacent storefronts at 130 West 30th Street, in Manhattan. In 2011, on the eve of CBST's Annual Pride Shabbat, the space was secured. Ground was broken, in 2013. Then on April 3, 2016, CBST opened its new doors to A HOME OF OUR OWN.

Inside this new and vibrant space are 32 bronze mezuzot designed by MI POLIN, the first Judaica company in Poland since World War II. In order to create these beautiful and unique ritual objects, Polish artists and co-founders, Helena Czernek and Aleksander Prugar, search throughout Poland and the Ukraine for traces of mezuzot, that still remain in the doorways of Jewish homes and synagogues that existed before the war. This historic collection – assembled here at CBST for the first time, anywhere – traces the history of a once thriving Jewish life in Poland, to an ever-growing young, vital, and renewed spirit!



MI POLIN

THE STORY

MI POLIN is the first company to design Judaica in Poland, since World War II. It was co-founded in 2014, by Helena Czernek and Aleksander Prugar, to strengthen Jewish-Polish identity. Their creations combine Jewish tradition and contemporary design with the ethos of *hiddur mitzvah*, which states that ritual objects should be beautiful.

Before the war, there were 3.5 million Jews living in Poland, the largest Jewish community in the world. In almost all of these homes, businesses, and synagogues, there was at least one mezuzah; which means that before the war, there were several million mezuzot throughout the country.

As the Jews perished, so too did their mezuzot, leaving behind nothing but emptiness. Now decades later, the emptiness is all that remains of the Jewish life that once filled the heart of Poland.

MEZUZAH FROM THIS HOME is a series of bronze casts created from these traces, that commemorate the Jewish lives of pre-war Poland. When you affix the mezuzah to the outside of your doorway, you fill the emptiness and give it a second life. Touching the mezuzah activates an existing link between the past and the present. Hidden away and untouched for years, these mezuzot can now fulfill their holy function. Again.

** For the names of the mezuzah traces on the facing page, refer to the key on page 19.*



MI POLIN

THE TEAM



ALEKSANDER PRUGAR

Aleksander (b. 1984, Gliwice) studied Journalism and Mass Communications, at Warsaw University; Social Sciences, at Katowice School of Economics; and Film, at National School of Lodz. For five years, he worked as a photojournalist for *Gazeta Wyborcza*, a Warsaw newspaper. In 2009, critics, art historians and photo-editors associated with the Month of Photography, in Krakow, included him in the top 100 of the most significant Polish artists working in the field of photography.

HELENA CZERNEK

Helena (b. 1985, Warsaw) studied Product Design at the Academy of Fine Arts, in Warsaw; Bezalel Academy of Arts, in Jerusalem; and Hebrew Studies, at Warsaw University. Combining her interests in both design and Jewish heritage, her work focuses on the relationship between the past and the present. In 2010, her collaboration with Klara Jankiewicz, of a crosswalk designed as a piano keyboard, was awarded 1st Place, in a competition promoting Warsaw's "Year of Chopin."

MEZUZAH FROM THIS HOME

CREATING THE MEZUZAH



DISCOVER THE PROCESS

It takes a great deal of time and effort to create the bronze-cast mezuzah. Each one is taken through a 14-stage production process before completion. Discover the process of their creation and learn how the mezuzah comes into being.

TRAVEL PREPARATIONS

Thanks to pre-war maps, one of Helena and Aleksander's most valued resources, Jewish districts and buildings can easily be found.

TRAVEL

Each year, they travel thousands of miles to find disappearing mezuzah traces. Research is synonymous with incessant travel; but for Helena and Aleksander, this is both a mission and a vocation.

ON-SITE SEARCHING

When looking for mezuzah traces. MI POLIN checks every doorpost on every floor of each building — district after district, street after street, Jewish home after Jewish home.

CREATING THE IMPRINT

After much research and many trials, MI POLIN developed its own formula with which to make the trace imprint. The imprint is later used to create the mold. The resulting bronze cast is identical to its original trace.

DOCUMENTATION

MI POLIN knows the value that well-kept historical records can provide, and so they document all of the information they collect for each mezuzah, and enter it into a database in their office, in Warsaw. This information is then published on their website, and in the booklet that accompanies the mezuzah when you receive it.

CREATING THE MOLD

After each journey of discovering new traces, MI POLIN prepares various molds — all of which are necessary to make the bronze cast.

CASTING

At the foundry, the molds are filled with liquid bronze at 2732° Fahrenheit. This imbues the mezuzah with its eternal qualities and distinguishes it with a rare and unparalleled beauty.

FINISHING

The mezuzah are then carefully polished and finished by hand — a process that requires great time, effort, care, and concentration.

ENGRAVING

Before the mezuzot are ready to ship, they are engraved with the Hebrew letter, *Shin*, in keeping with Jewish tradition. Then its address of origin is added; not only to identify the location of where it was found, but also to commemorate its unique, unspoken history and the lives of the people who lived there.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

In their partnership with the Jewish Historical Institute's Genealogy Department, in Warsaw, MI POLIN unravels the mysteries and reassembles the stories of those forgotten long ago. In this way, they provide an opportunity to spark our collective conscious in remembering them.

DESIGNING THE BOOKLET

A unique and beautifully designed booklet is created, specific to each mezuzah. In addition, a Certificate of Authenticity accompanies every mezuzah to their new homes.

THE FINISHED MEZUZAH

A mezuzah isn't finished until each of these steps is complete — a labor-intensive process lasting approximately 50 days. But before it is shipped to its new home, it is packaged by-hand wearing white gloves. This ensures that the first point of contact with your mezuzah, is your own.





MEZUZAH FROM THIS HOME

CREATING THE MEZUZAH

Bronze is a precious metal alloy that dates back to ancient times. Items made of bronze are resistant to the elements. This makes the mezuzah eternal; and propels its history, infinitely in time. All stages of its casting are carefully monitored and controlled, to assure the finest quality possible.

CBST AND MI POLIN

IN THE BEGINNING

When we were preparing the move into our new space, and the dedication of April 3, 2016 was growing near; the Building Committee and Board kept asking, what kind of mezuzah we were going to place on our front door. A synagogue is not properly dedicated until the *Sifrei Torah* are placed into the Ark, and a mezuzah is affixed to its door.

CBST is a very modern space, so did we want a traditional mezuzah? Or perhaps an antique mezuzah with Italian-Jewish filigree? Or maybe our children could make them in Hebrew School, but then we'd have mezuzot that looked like children made them. Or perhaps everyone could participate in a celebration of Arts & Crafts and create some unique expression of their soul? I couldn't figure it out! But I still kept trying to imagine what it was that I wanted to walk into each morning, and feel confident in knowing, that "this" was making our space holy?

I kept getting pressure from the Building Committee and Board, so I

thought – we could have different mezuzot. We can have an ancient 16th Century mezuzah with Italian-Jewish filigree on one door, and one that the children made in Hebrew School on another door, and the one from the adults on a third door. It all felt very *Kumbaya*, but not quite right for CBST.

I sat down at a computer with Rabbi Rachel Weiss, our Assistant Rabbi at the time, and typed in the word "mezuzah." We saw every mezuzah imaginable. We saw "this" mezuzah and "that" mezuzah, and even tried imagining "this" mezuzah and "that" mezuzah in our space; but again, it wasn't quite right for CBST.

Then we encountered a website from Warsaw, called MI POLIN, which means "from Poland." And there, out of the vestiges of cyberspace, hidden beneath all of that clutter, was the description of a very young company, started by two young Polish artists, who understood this: before 1939, there were 3.5 million Jews living in Poland, the largest Jewish

community in the world. Virtually all of them were killed (some tens of thousands survived, but not very many). In each of these 3.5 million Jewish homes, institutions, businesses and synagogues, had been a mezuzah. This meant that there were millions of thresholds throughout Poland, that had mezuzah traces.

These two young artists – these two young thinkers said, “OK, then! Let’s go out and find them.” They went to different places where Jewish communities had been, walked around and tried to find them. When they did, they made a mold. From that they created a bronze cast and on it engraved the address of its origin.

At the time, MI POLIN had created 36 trace-based mezuzot; and in the first moment that I saw them, I immediately knew that this was exactly what I wanted for CBST. It had history! It had depth! And yet, it was so beautiful and artistic! Its lines were absolutely gorgeous. The mezuzot were haunting in their beauty.

I immediately wrote to them saying that we wanted to buy their entire collection so that every doorway at CBST would have a mezuzah from a different place, in Poland, where a Jew had lived, or eaten, or prayed. We received a spectacular response;

one that was very moving in that, we were the first people in the world to purchase their entire mezuzah collection.

They shipped them to us in time for the dedication, and we purchased the *kosher klaf*. Then, in the threshold of every door, we put one of these mezuzah – in some places we put two to make them accessible to children and people in wheelchairs – from all of these places throughout Poland where Jewish life had once flourished. These are not, of course, just historical objects because they are now living, Jewish, ritual objects, fulfilling our obligation to have a mezuzah on each of our doors.

And so, to honor Helena and Aleksander, who have since become dear friends, it is with our gratitude and a full heart, that we have so humbly created this book so that everyone who visits CBST, and those beyond it, will know of your deep meaning and beautiful mezuzot.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Kleinbaum', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

RABBI SHARON KLEINBAUM

*introducing MI POLIN to CBST –
Chanukah Shabbat, December 7, 2018*



MEZUZAH FROM THIS HOME



You can use the numbers from the map above and the numerical key found on the chart on the facing page, to see where MI POLIN found the original traces used to create each bronze-cast mezuzah, at CBST. Then by using the same key, along

with the CBST floor plans on the following pages, you can see the location of each “Mezuzah From This Home” at “A Home of Our Own.” The key will also assist you in identifying the mezuzah traces in the series composite, on page 5.

A HOME OF OUR OWN

MEZUZAH LOCTION AT CBST	LOC. #	MEZUZAH FROM THIS HOME
CBST Main Entrance	(1)	Warszawa, Ul. Zabkowska 12
Sheffer Lobby, Vestibule East	(2)	Sokolow Podlaski, Ul. Wilczynskiego 4
Sheffer Lobby, Vestibule West	(3)	Ciechanowiec, Ul. Kozarska 1
Sheffer Lobby, Vestibule West / Accessible	(4)	Tangible Crystal Mezuzah
Administrative Suite	(5)	Siedlce, Ul. Sokolowska 18
Executive Director's Office	(6)	Warszawa, Ul. Prozna 14
Development Office	(7)	Lodz, Ul. Rewolucji 18
Finance & Operations Office	(8)	Suwalki, Plac Marii Konopnickiej 14
Hallway to Purple Room	(9)	Krakow, Ul. Mostowa 8
Purple Room	(10)	Dynow, Ul. Mickiewicza 1
Wine Family Sanctuary	(11)	Bedzin, Ul. Kollataja 14
Wine Family Sanctuary / Accessible	(12)	Lublin, Ul. Lubartowska 47
Wine Family Sanctuary, Inner East	(13)	Krakow, Ul. Jozefa 42
Wine Family Sanctuary, Inner West	(14)	Dynow, Ul. Mickiewicza 21
Wine Family Sanctuary, Balcony East	(15)	Krakow, Ul. Szeroka 38
Wine Family Sanctuary, Balcony West	(16)	Czestochowa, Ul. Targowa 14
Clergy, Music & Social Justice Suite	(17)	Kielce, Ul. 1 Maja 68
Clergy, Music & Social Justice / Accessible	(18)	Warszawa, Brzeska 18/7
Senior Rabbi's Office	(19)	Przemysl, Ul. Wladycze 17
Assistant Rabbi's Study	(20)	Gora Kalwaria, Pilsudskiego 13
Music Office	(21)	Otwock, Ul. Swiderska 6
Social Justice Office	(22)	Warszawa, Ul. Brzeska 18/7
The Study	(23)	Wroclaw, Ul. Wlodkowica 7
Hibsher-Orient Room	(24)	Grodzisk Mazowiecki, Ul. 11 Listopada 6
Dratfield Room	(25)	Ostroleka, Ul. Gomulickiego 20
Kessler-Karp Room	(26)	Klodawa, Plac Wolnosci 6
Kessler-Karp / Accessible	(27)	Zgierz, Ul. 1 Maja 29
Gaines Room & Kitchen	(28)	Lowicz, Ul. Browarna 11
Reich-Marran Room	(29)	Radom, Ul. Walowa 5
Education Office	(30)	Lomza, Ul. Polowa 59
Kuriel Chapel	(31)	Ozorkow, Ul. Wyszynskiego 5
Kuriel Chapel / Accessible	(32)	Krynki, Ul. Pilsudskiego 1



Sheffer Family Lobby



AN OPEN DOOR

CBST MAIN ENTRANCE



WARSZAWA, UL. ZABKOWSKA 12

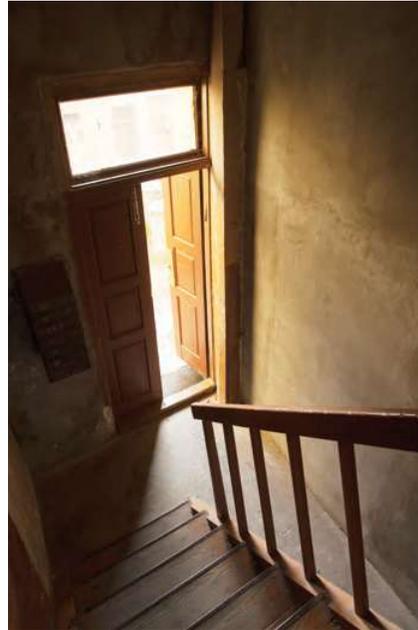
Praga was never attacked during the war, and retains its original character and charm.

12 Zabrowska Street was built in the 1880s by Zvsio Jurman. During the interwar period, M. Herzbein, its owner at the time, placed a statue of the Virgin Mary on its façade. Rosen's Bakery had its business here; and there was also a house of prayer on the premises.

Chaim Hochman, grew up right next door to 12 Zabrowska Street. He went to a Jewish school, and spoke Polish fluently. He remembers a lively Jewish community with no anti-Semitism. During the war, he was in the Red Army. When it ended, he returned in search of his family. When none could be found, he went to Germany with his wife Ellen, a survivor of Auschwitz. From there they settled in France.

SHEFFER LOBBY

VESTIBULE EAST



SOKOLOW PODLASKI, UL. WILCZYNSKIEGO 4

When Helena and Aleksander arrived in Sokolow Podlaski, on Sunday, June 22, 2015, they discovered that an old doorpost – from which they hoped to obtain a trace imprint – had been replaced with a new one. Luckily, a resident told them that it was still in the backyard, only to be discarded the following morning. Hearing this, they immediately decided to save it, and brought it back with them on the bus. The

doorpost is currently on display at the MI POLIN office, in Warsaw, which is open to the public.

At No. 4 there was a butcher's shop owned by the parents of Aaron Elster. After the war, Aaron wrote an autobiography entitled, "I Still See Her Haunting Eyes: The Holocaust and a Hidden Child Named Aaron." He and his sister, Ilene, were hidden for two years. Both survived.

SHEFFER LOBBY

VESTIBULE WEST



CIECHANOWIEC, UL. KOZARSKA 1

The mezuzah trace was found in an abandoned, partially collapsed house. But no further information can be found about its history, or the people who lived there.

SHEFFER LOBBY

VESTIBULE WEST / ACCESSIBLE



TANGIBLE CRYSTAL MEZUZAH

In Judaism, touching the mezuzah carries with it a deep and significant meaning. It creates a physical context for our connection and reminds us of the commandments of *mitzvot* – or moral deeds that are performed as a religious duty. Here, the word *SHADDAI* (one of the names of G-d) is written in Hebrew Braille. This not only reminds us of the mitzvot, but also conveys sacred information through the sense of touch.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUITE

OUTER DOOR



SIEDLCE, UL. SOKOLOWSKA 18

The tenement at Sokolowska 18 was part of the Siedlce Ghetto in Nazi-occupied Poland, between June 1941 and November 1942.

SIEDLCE, UL. SOKOLOWSKA 18

BRONZE CAST OF THE MEZUZAH TRACE



ADMINISTRATIVE SUITE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE



WARSZAWA, UL. PROZNA 14

In 1899, a new four-storied tenement was built at Prózna 14, in Warsaw, by Mayer Wolanowski, the owner of the Factory of Screws & Wires. It was a luxury-equipped building with apartments, available for rent, throughout. The character of the neighborhood at street level was typically mercantile. This Prozna 14 sought to accommodate, by having the Meerson & Epstein Department Store occupy its ground floor. Other shops and workshops that shared this illustrious

address included: a hardware shop belonging to Maurice Graff and H. B. Lebelson; P. Brykier's frames; and auto products shop, where Mordka Berghauer worked as a saddler.

THE GHETTO

From December 1940 to March 1941 Prózna 14 was a part of the Warsaw Ghetto. In 1943, another shop owner and tailor named Rogoziński, took two Jewish men, Notke and Mietek, into hiding. They, along with the

night watchman Jablonski, built a wall to conceal part of the hallway; and then added a secret exit, in case of a danger. Fortunately, all survived.

WARSAW UPRISING

In 1944, during the Warsaw Uprising, a barricade was built between Prozna 9 and Prozna 14. Located in the basement of No. 14, was a field hospital and a kitchen serving the insurgents. The complex became the headquarters of “Kiliński” Battalion’s 9th Squadron. Here, one of the most important battles of the Uprising was planned – an attack on the Polish Telephone building. Heroically, the Kiliński Battalion won after 20 days of fighting. Taking part in the battle was

Zbigniew Grabowski, “Chemist,” better known as the grandfather of MI POLIN co-founder, Helena Czernek.

THE HOME

After the war, Prózna 14 became property of the Polish National Treasury. It was never renovated and fell into total decline. Today, it has the haunting characteristic of a social housing project. Due to its poor condition, entry is prohibited; however in years past the building was completely ransacked. Because Prózna is the only street in the Warsaw Ghetto to survive the war it’s original buildings in tact, it makes an important tourist attraction. However, the future of No. 14 is unknown.



ADMINISTRATIVE SUITE

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE



LODZ, UL. REWOLUCJI 18

Rewolucji Street, as it is known today, was once called Poludniowa Street.

THE SCROLL

At 18 Rewolucji Street, a mezuzah containing its original scroll, was found in a bookbinder's shop.

THE FAMILY

On October 9, 1930, Chaim Mosezek Dudelzak registered with his wife,

Rywka. Chaim was born in Nowe Miasto, in 1889, and died in the Lodz Ghetto, in 1942. No information can be found as to the fate of Rywka.

According to documents provided by the Central Committee of Polish Jews, the building at 18 Poludniowa Street, was mentioned by 454 Holocaust Survivors as their postwar address.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUITE

FINANCE & OPERATIONS OFFICE



SUWALKI, PLAC MARII KONOPNICKIEJ 14

During the interwar period of 1918–1939, what is known today as Konopnicka Street was first called Rynkowa Street and then later, Bakinowskiego Street. Here, in a commercial space on the ground floor, was a bootmaker's workshop called, "Minister."

Rafał Lejb Raczewski owned and lived in the building at No. 4. Rafał

Lejb was born in Suwałki, where his parents – Lejzer Raczewski and Rywka Garbarska – lived for many years. In 1899, Rafał Lejb married Jacha Chłudniewicz.

We know that in 1927, Rafał Lejb paid a fee to the Jewish Community, in Suwałki. But after that, all trace of him is lost and no further information about him, could be found.

PURPLE ROOM

HALLWAY



KRAKOW, UL. MOSTOWA 8

THE HOME

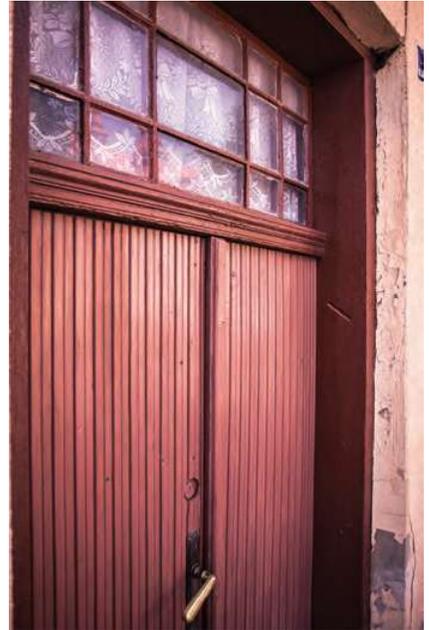
The mezuzah trace was found on the doorframe of apartments 18 and 19. The bronze cast commemorates the Steiner and Lednitzer families who lived there. 8 Mostowa was built between 1868 and 1873. Abraham Lednitzer and his wife Chana, were both owners and residents. In 1907, they built a house of prayer on the premises. It was later destroyed in the war. Today in its place is a workshop.

THE FAMILY

In 1940, under Nazi rule, the Jews were deported from Krakow to Kazimierz. Among them was the Steiner family. Chaskel Jaub and his wife Scheindel Matel moved into apartment 19, at 8 Mostowa Street, with their children: Fela, Bronislawa, Szaja and Pinkus. Fela and Szaja registered on November 27. They were then sent to the Lubicz Camp, where most likely they did not survive.

PURPLE ROOM

INTERIOR



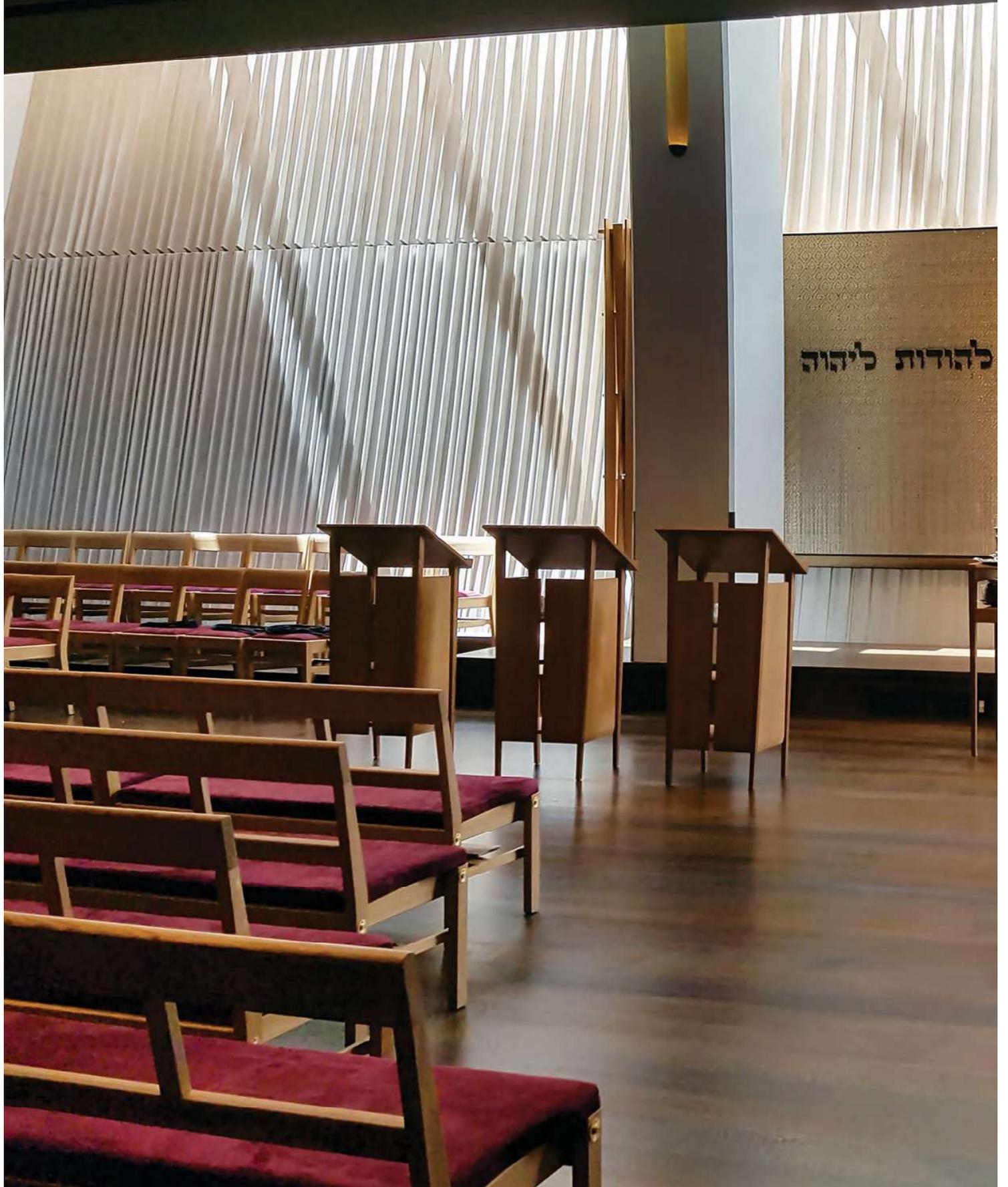
DYNOW, UL. MICKIEWICZA 1

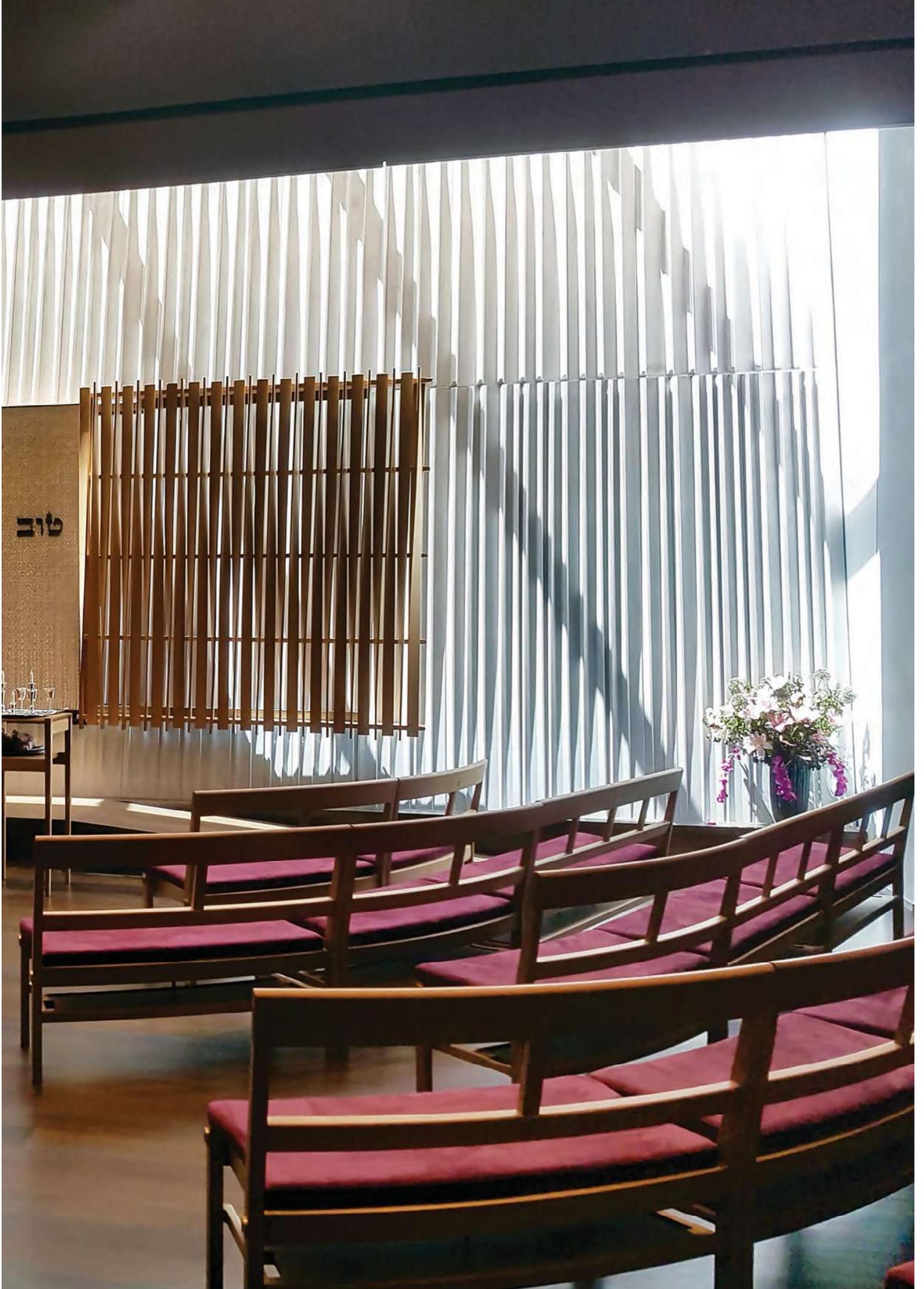
Dynow is a small town in Rzeszow County and hometown of Tzvi Elimel-ech Spira, founder of the Munkacs Chasidic Dynasty. During the Nazi invasion of 1939, 200 Jews were murdered en masse by Wehrmacht soldiers, who also burned the Great Synagogue. Those who remained were quickly expelled to Soviet territory, where barely 200 survived.

The mission of Rabbi Pinchas Pomp,

founder of the Polish Jewry Heritage Center, was to create a living museum and memorial to the Jewish lives lost in the Nazi invasion. The Center offers lodging and community to the Chasidim who annually visit the gravesites. Dynow has become the center of Chassidism, and Jewish life has returned. In addition, Dynow provides synagogue services, a kosher mikveh, and kosher restaurants for its guests all year long.

להודות ליהוה





טוב

WINE FAMILY SANCTUARY

OUTER DOOR



BEDZIN, UL. KOLLATAJA 14

Bedzin is an industrial city in the southern part of Poland. Before the World War II, it had been home to more than 20,000 Polish Jews, or approximately 62% of the city's total population. At the time, Bedzin was a vibrant, spiritual community where *shtiebeles* – houses of prayer or small, private synagogues – were popular. The mezuzah trace for this bronze cast, was found in the basement, on the *shtiebele* door.

THE HOME

L. Goldstein and N. Tenenberg were the proud owners of “*Składy Futer,*” a very successful fur company, with branches in Sosnowiec and Katowice. DURING the war, the back of the building was completely destroyed. Goldstein and Tenenberg were distinguished members of Jewish life in Bedzin, and in 1937, they became members of the Jewish Community Council.

WINE FAMILY SANCTUARY

OUTER DOOR / ACCESSIBLE



LUBLIN, UL. LUBARTOWSKA 47

The first owner of 47 Lubartowska Street, managed its 78 apartments – which housed 341 Jews and 10 gentiles. Roza Fiszman-Sznajdman, author of “My Lublin,” lived in a 4th floor apartment. In her book, she writes, “The tenement consisted of four buildings that surrounded a dirty backyard. The tenants consisted of mostly the poor.” Of flat 14, where the mezuzah trace was found, she wrote, “The big apartment on the 2nd floor

is where the Grynbergs lived. They had four sons and two daughters; the youngest of whom was my friend, and in my class at school. I visited there often and saw terrible poverty. Mr. Grynberg always seemed to fail, at his various attempts to find work, in sales. Abram was the youngest son. He was very intelligent, but he lacked friends, due to the scrofula.” In 1946, Roza moved from Poland to Sweden. The Grynbergs fate is unknown.

WINE FAMILY SANCTUARY

INNER DOOR



KRAKOW, UL. JOZEFA 42

The building at 42 Jozefa Street, was renovated in 1810, by the *Kovea Itim leTorah*, who led Talmud classes here for Jewish adults. This mezuzah trace is the most distinguished of all that still remain, in Krakow. It is considered a must-see tourist attraction.

Wolf Brausand Jakub Hanbium managed the *Kovea Itim le Torah* society

before the war. During the war, the Nazis destroyed the building; and after it, the building was run by a Jewish Social Service Department, serving as a shelter for displaced people. The original Hebrew inscription, with the name of the house of prayer, "*Chevra Kedosha Kovea Itim leTorah*," can still be seen on the façade.

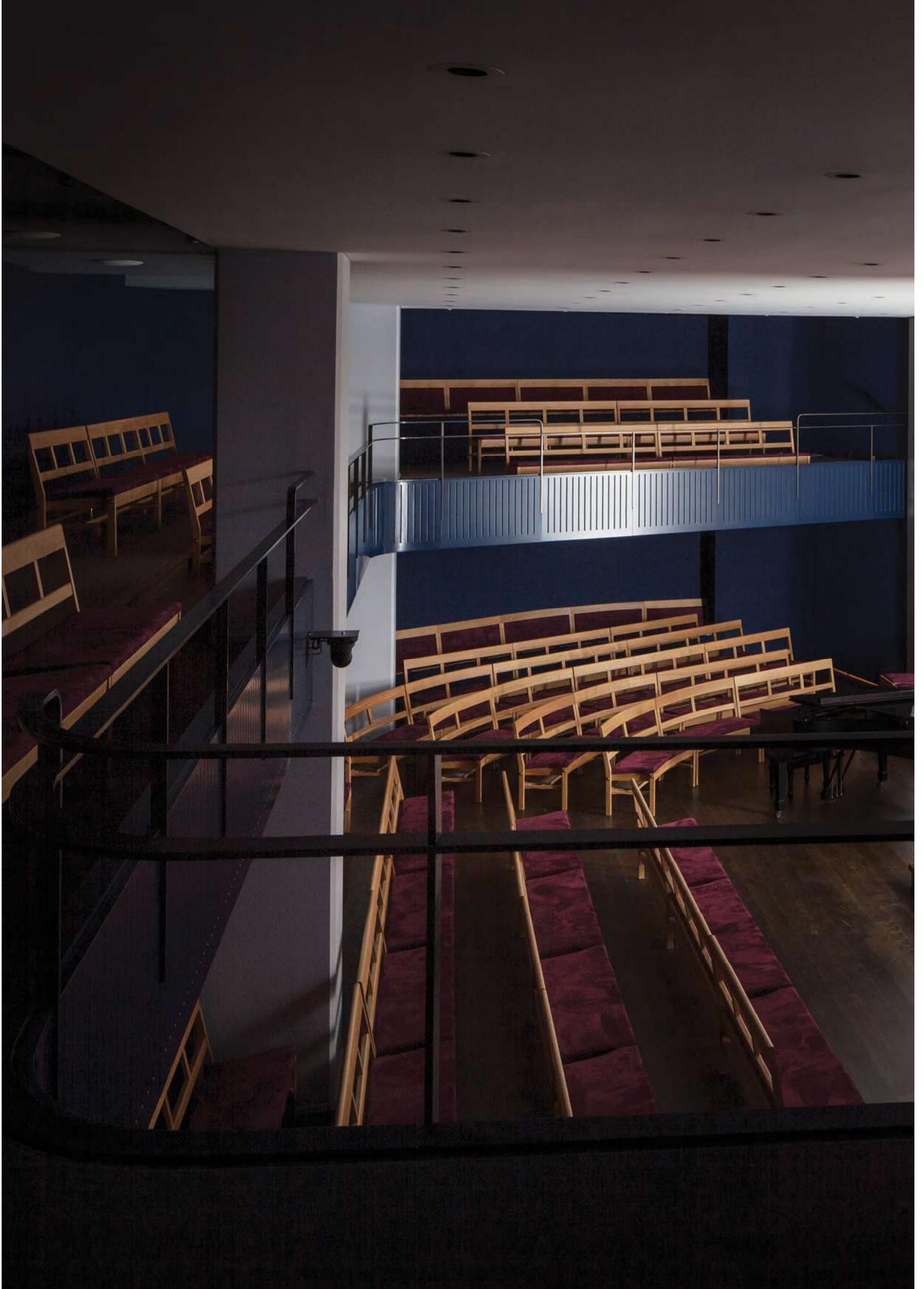
WINE FAMILY SANCTUARY

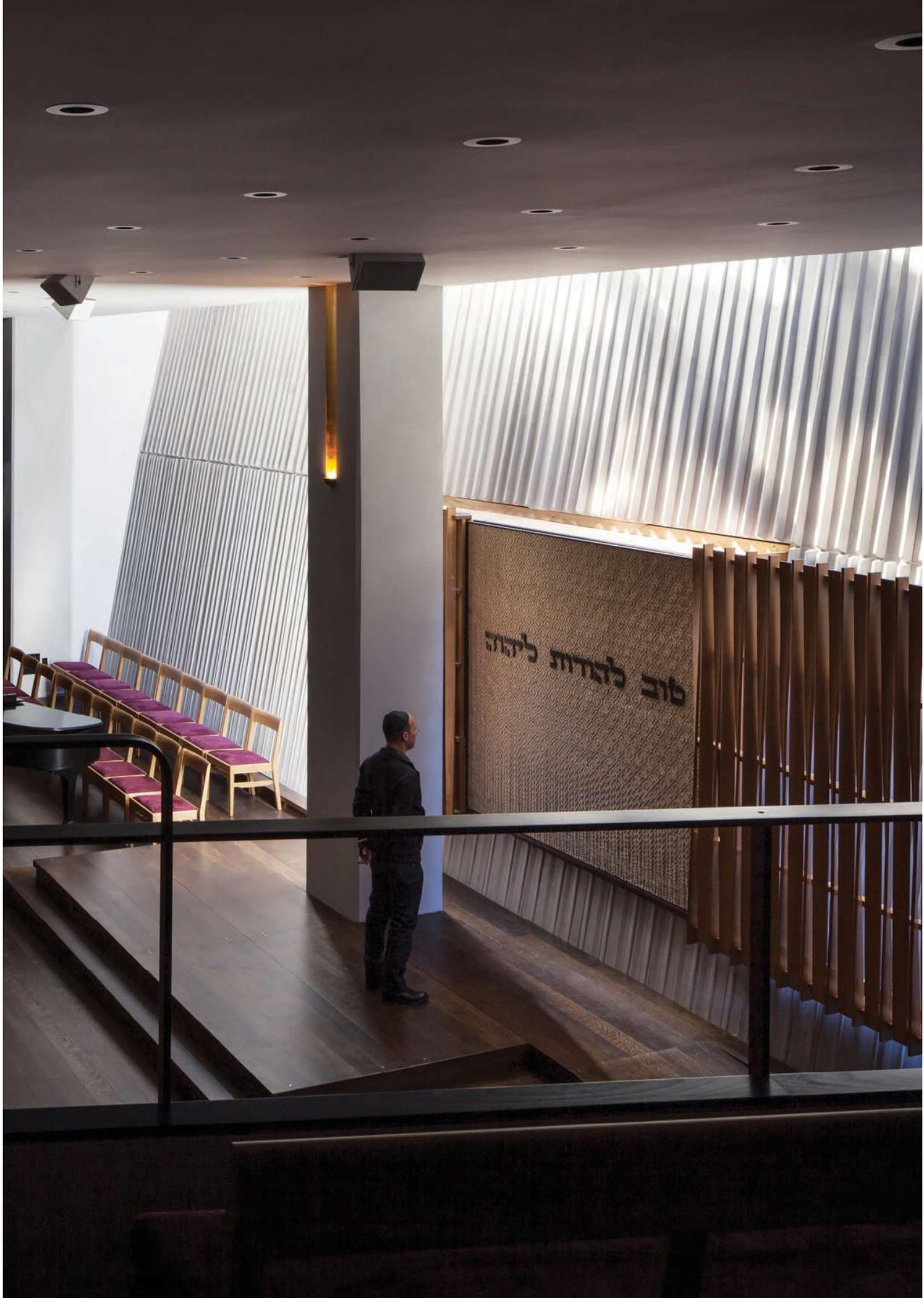
INNER DOOR / ACCESSIBLE



DYNOW, UL. MICKIEWICZA 21

The description for this mezuzah is the same as that of the Purple Room.





אור למודות ליהודה

WINE FAMILY SANCTUARY

BALCONY EAST



KRAKOW, UL. SZEROKA 38

The most notable resident of the tenement at Szeroka 38, was Rabbi Joel Sirkes (1561–1640), of Krakow. He is probably the person who affixed the mezuzah to the stone doorpost, some 400 years ago; and the trace still exists to this day.

Rabbi Sirkes, was known as BaCH because of the title of his book, “*Bayit Chadash*,” (*House of New Be-*

ginnings). He was Krakow’s Chief Rabbi, and head of the local yeshiva, from 1614–1640. He is buried in Remuh Cemetery, located behind this building.

Szeroka 38 was mentioned in a real estate tax document, in 1653. After the war, the building was almost destroyed. It was re-built in the late 1950’s.

WINE FAMILY SANCTUARY

BALCONY WEST



CZESTOCHOWA, UL. TARGOWA 14

David Hoffer was born in Biala Podlaska and moved to Częstochowa. He and his wife, Rochma nee Schacher, and their three children: Sarah, Israel and Basia lived in the building here, at 14 Targowa Street.





CLERGY, MUSIC & SOCIAL JUSTICE SUITE

OUTER DOOR

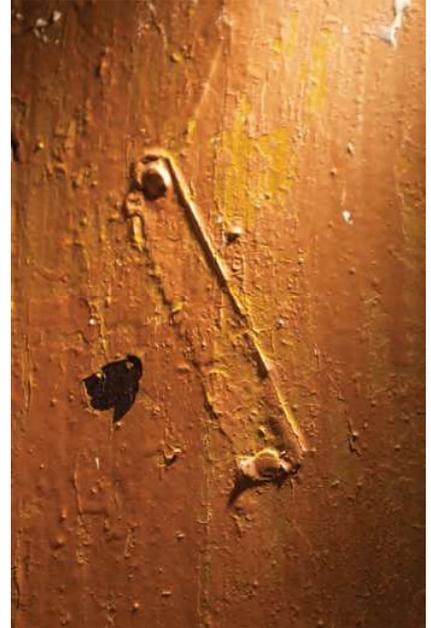


KIELCE, UL. 1 MAJA 68

History unknown.

CLERGY, MUSIC & SOCIAL JUSTICE SUITE

OUTER DOOR / ACCESSIBLE



WARSZAWA, UL. BRZESKA 18/7

The tenement was built by Menachem Rothlevi, in 1914; and in 1940, it was sold to Konstanty Waleruk. The building had apartments, businesses and shops, that included: a bakery, a sewing school for girls, a butcher's shop, and a hairdresser. In the 1930's, all of the residents were Jewish. After the war, the building was nationalized, which resulted in years of neglect. The mezuzah trace for this bronze cast is from

Apartment 7, on the 2nd floor, where Menchem Rothlevi lived with his family. The building is currently being restored, to its original architectural grandeur, by the Magmillon Company. MI POLIN has partnered with them to ensure that all doorposts with mezuzah traces be carefully saved. The doorpost from Apartment 7 can be seen when visiting MI POLIN's office, and another was donated to the Jewish Historical Institute.

CLERGY, MUSIC & SOCIAL JUSTICE SUITE

SENIOR RABBI'S OFFICE



PRZEMYSL, UL. WLADYCZE 17

In December 2014, MI POLIN went to Przemysl, to do an imprint of a mezuzah trace. During their research they found something more.

THE HOME

The building at 17 Władycze Street, was mentioned for the first time in 1852. Then at the end of the 19th century, it was converted from wood to brick and graced with an eclectic array of decorations. The information

found in the 1894 mortgage register, says that the owner of 17 Władycze Street was Zygmunt Orzechowski. The last Jewish owners of the building were Kreszower and Lakser.

THE SCROLL

As Helena and Aleksander were preparing, as they had intended, to make the imprint of one mezuzah trace, they noticed an untouched metal plate on the front door of

17 Wladycze Street – typical of pre-war mezuzot. With the permission of the building's owner, they opened it, and found the original mezuzah scroll inside. The *klaf* was examined by a conservationist at the National Museum, in Warsaw, and is currently on display at their office, in Warsaw, which is open to the public.

THE FAMILY

It was here that Salomon Karitan, an entrepreneur and teacher from Przemysl, ran his School of Commerce. He was the author of the book, "*Nauka o wekslu a licznymi przykladami*" [*Bill of Exchange Explained with Numerous Examples*] and a handbook on commercial negotiations.

Salomon Karitan was born in 1868, in Lviv. In 1905, he married Hudes Retter, in Przemysl, where they had two daughters: Klara and Marya.

THE BUSINESSES

Originally, Hashomner Hacair (a Socialist-Zionist youth movement) had its seat in the building. There were also several small businesses, located inside, that opened their doors in the following years:

- 1928. Wnorowska opened a tailor and seamstress shop
- 1935. Jozef Iacak had a painting and varnishing studio
- 1937. Alojzy Taworski offered delicious confectionary treats.







CLERGY, MUSIC & SOCIAL JUSTICE SUITE

ASSISTANT RABBI'S STUDY



GORA KALWARIA, UL. PILSUDSKIEGO 13

In 1904, this tenement was co-owned by the Messyng family, who lived on the first floor. It consisted of apartments throughout, and shops on the ground floor. The building remained intact during the war and then in 1945, it became the property of the Polish State Treasury. The synagogue of Rabbi Alter, founder of the Ger Dynasty, is nearby.

THE MESSYNG LEGEND

Legend has it that Wolf Messyng,

born in 1899 in Gora Kalwaria, was a famous Fortune Teller. He began performing while still in his teens and drew the attention of Albert Einstein and Sigmund Freud, both of whom conducted experiments with him. He predicted that if the Germans attacked Russia, they would lose the war. In the years that followed, he escaped to Russia and worked for Joseph Stalin. He died in 1974, without anyone knowing for certain, if any of this is true or not.

CLERGY, MUSIC & SOCIAL JUSTICE SUITE

MUSIC OFFICE



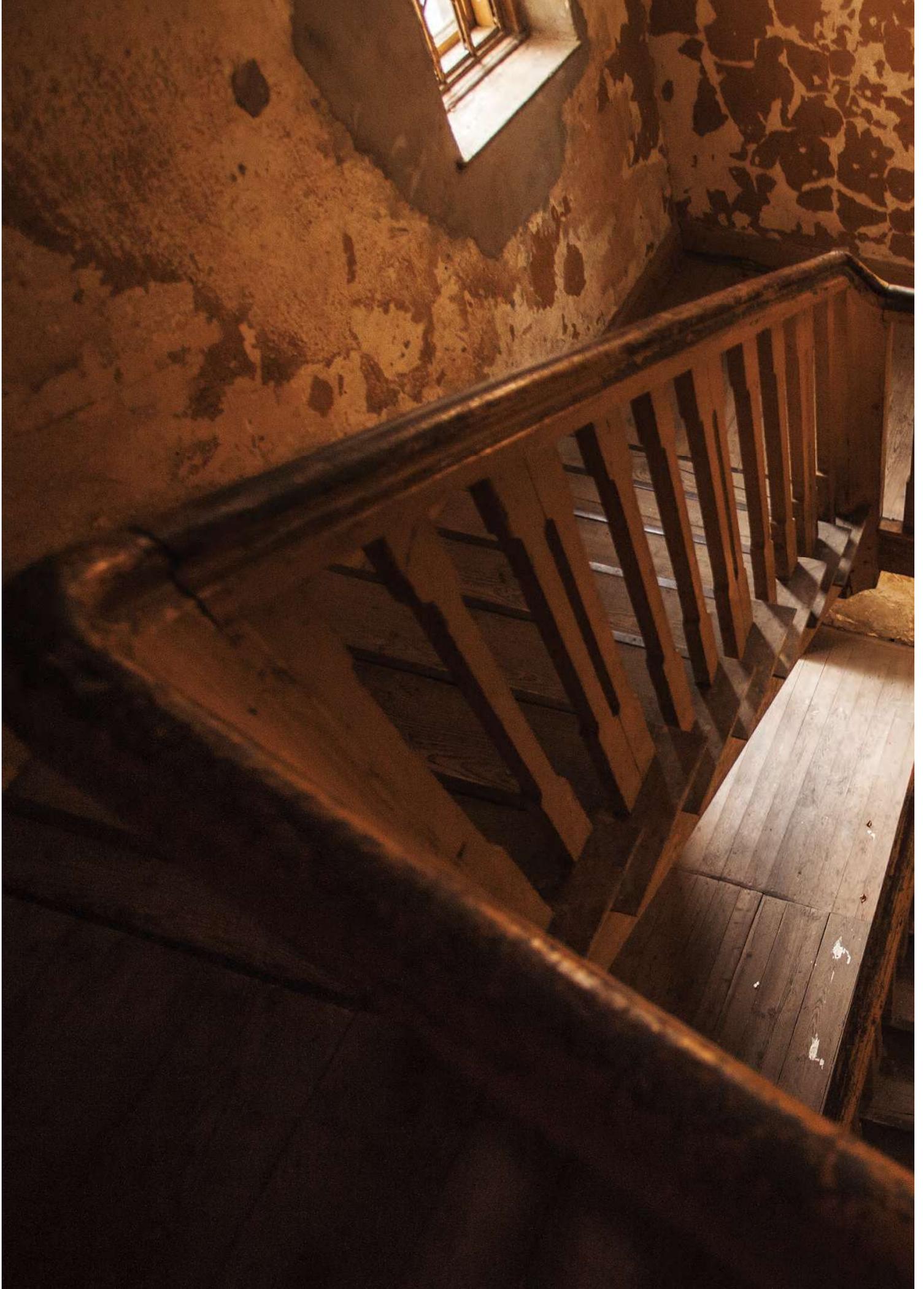
OTWOCK, UL. SWIDERSKA 6

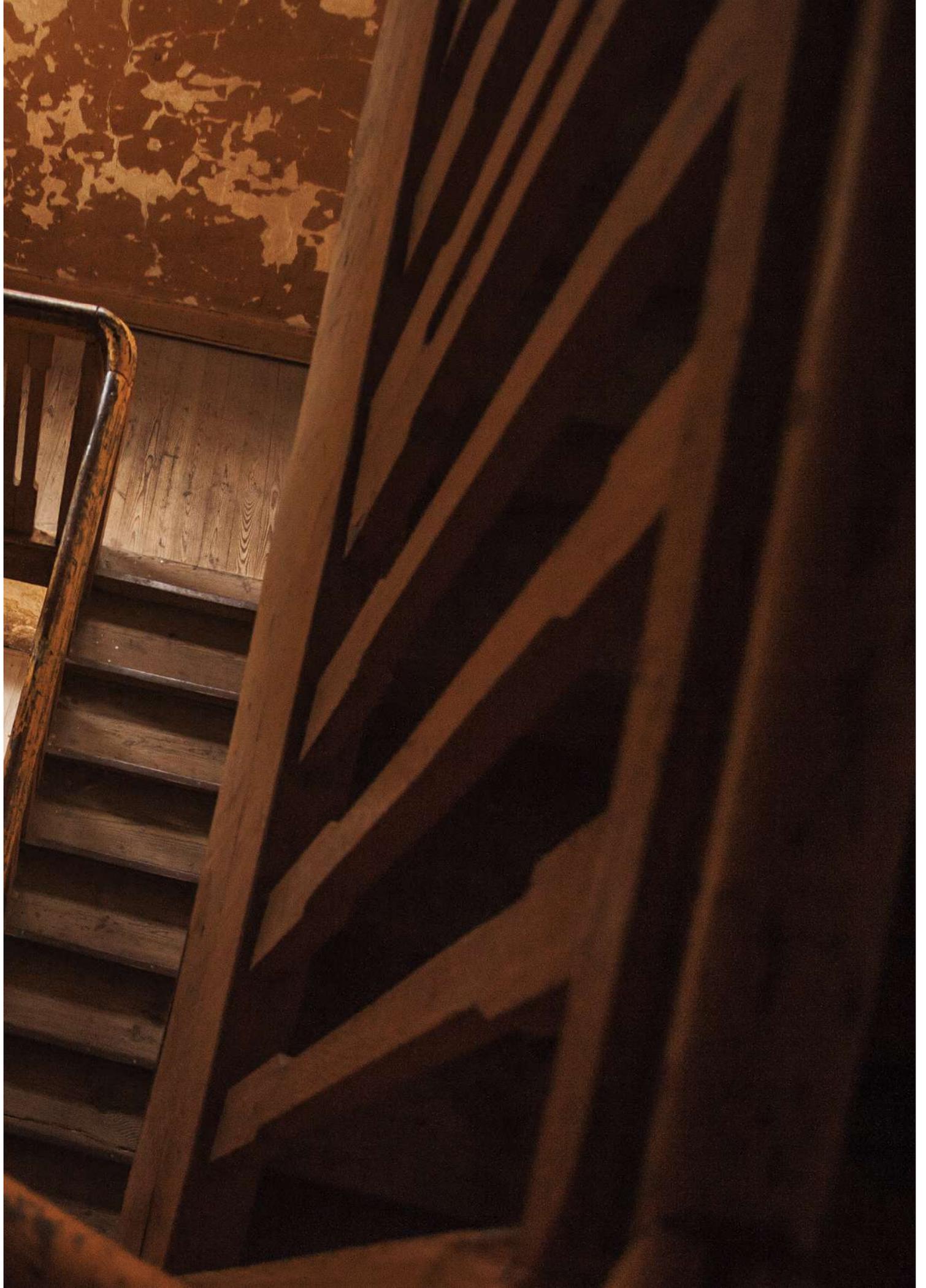
This house was co-owned by Benjamin Rozenwald, Jankiel Frydenzon, Zalman Szajman and Hersz Gutner; all of whom were from Karczew, a small city nearby.

THE HOME

Before the war, Zalman Szajman owned a restaurant, but used the basement for counterfeiting. In 1927, as his underground market was expanding, reports emerged that the police were closing in; and

Szajman, able to take a hint, began moving elsewhere. As the printing press began its journey in a horse-drawn coach. It was stopped by police demanding to know their destination. When they refused, their coach were searched. In addition to the obvious, police found the matrices for banknotes and a small crumpled piece of paper that read: "Recipient: Zalman Szajam, Karczew." Needless to say, Szajman was arrested. He later died in the Holocaust.





CLERGY, MUSIC & SOCIAL JUSTICE SUITE

SOCIAL JUSTICE OFFICE

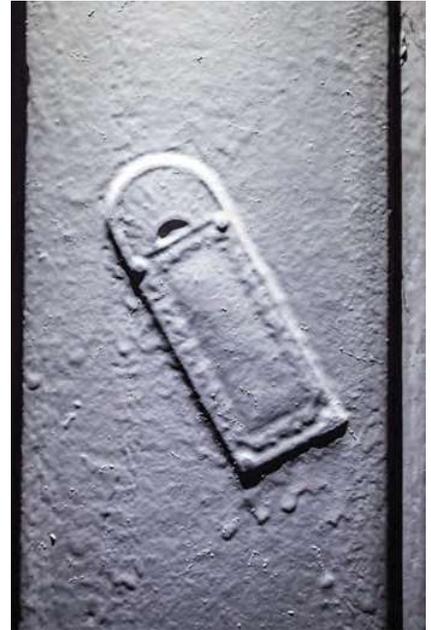
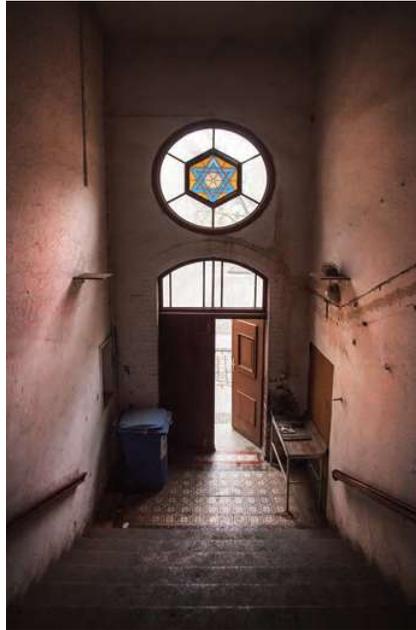


WARSAWA, UL. BRZESKA 18/7

The description for this mezuzah is the same as that of the Rabbinical Suite, Outer Door / Accessible.

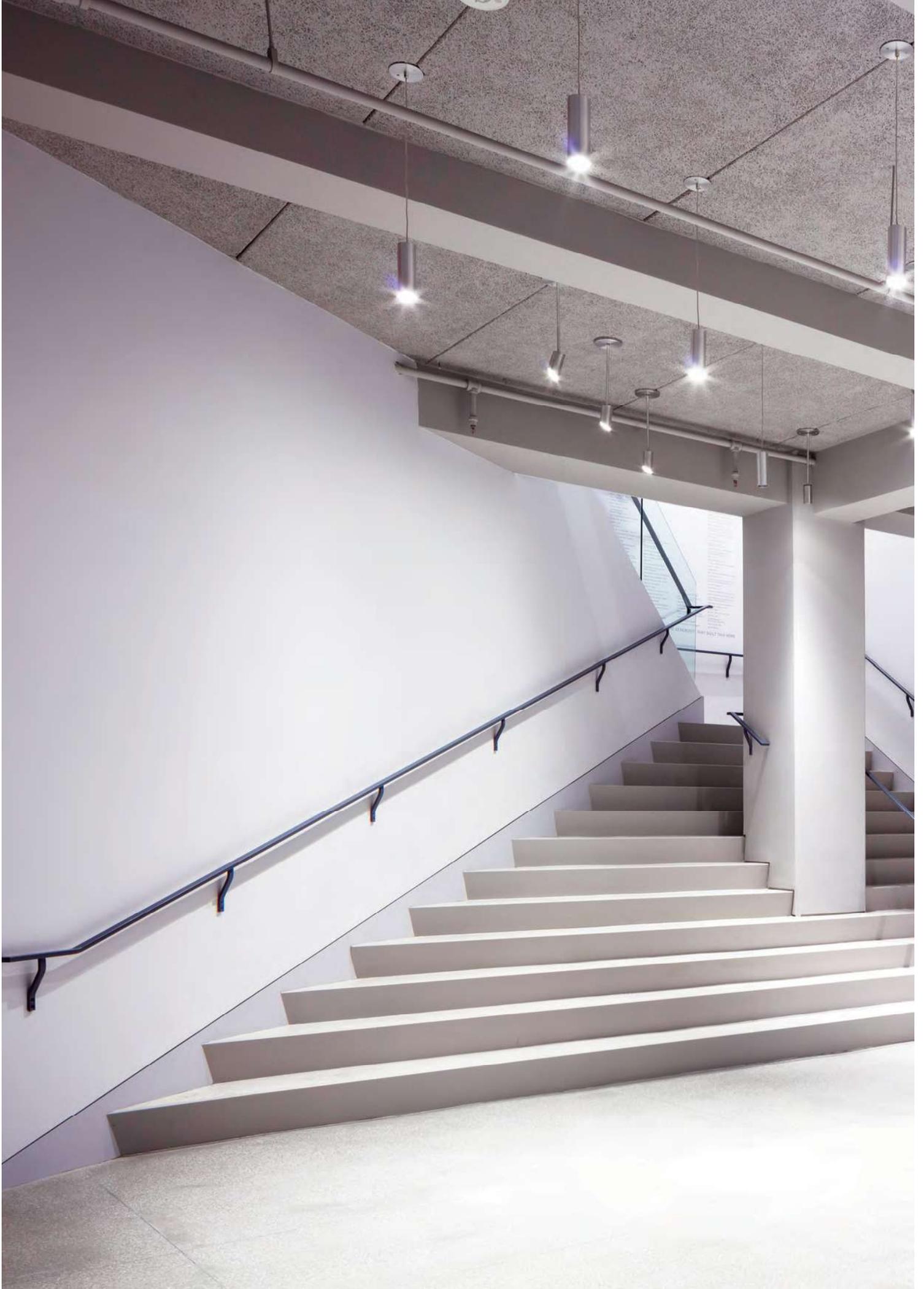
CLERGY, MUSIC & SOCIAL JUSTICE SUITE

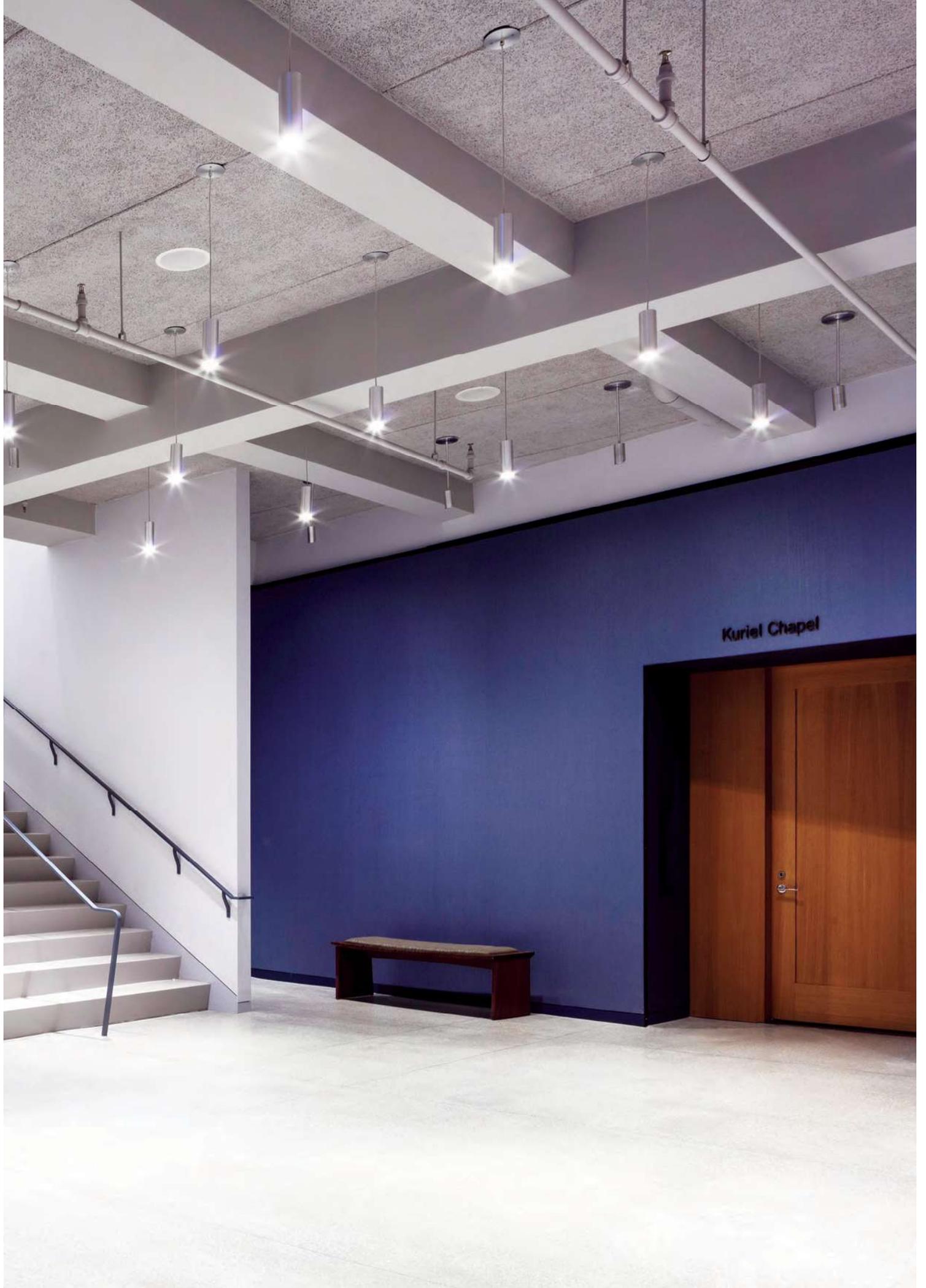
THE STUDY



WROCLAW, UL. WLODKOWICA 7

7 Wlodkowica is the address of the Jewish Community Center, in Wrocław. Here, on the doorpost of the Kosher Kitchen and Steward's Office, Helena and Aleksander found an original prewar mezuzah with its parchment still inside. This is a very rare find, as only a few with their scrolls still intact, are known to have survived from before the war. This one was first affixed to its doorpost, more than 80 years ago.





Kuriel Chapel

MEETING & CLASS ROOMS

HIBSHER-ORIENT ROOM



GRODZISK MAZOWIECKI, UL. 11 LISTOPADA 6

History unknown.

MEETING & CLASS ROOMS

DRATFIELD ROOM



OSTROLEKA, UL. GOMULICKIEGO 20

On September 10, 1939, German forces seized Ostroleka. From that point on, it had become part of the Third Reich. A minority of citizens declared themselves “Volksdeutsche” (a German living outside of Germany) and signed the Volksliste (German People’s List). Most of the Jews from Ostroleka were murdered in the death camp at Treblinka, and the majority of those who survived, immigrated to Israel.

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

KESSLER-KARP ROOM



KLODAWA, PLAC WOLNOSCI 6

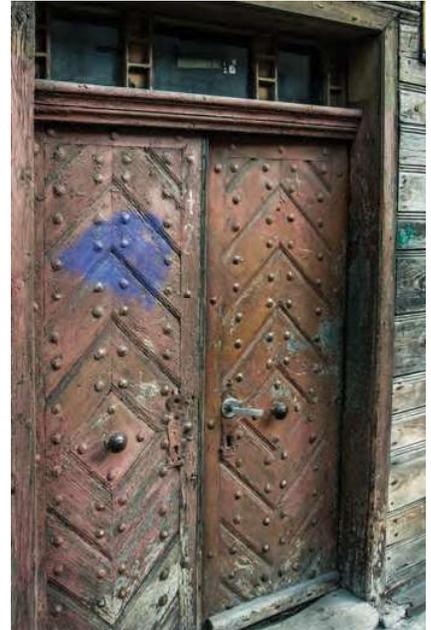
The Kuperwasner and Przedec ki families lived side by side. By the early 1900's, they had become good friends and together with their dreams in tow, went to live in the United States.

MI POLIN was asked by the Kushnir family, to make an imprint of a mezuzah trace in Klodawa - the town from which Carole Kushnir, granddaughter of Isadore Kuperwasner

– connects with her ancestry. The Kushnirs arrived for their first trip to Poland; and together with Helkena and Aleksnder, traveled to Klodawa. In August 2015, with the Kshnir's at their side, MI POLIN made the imprint of the mezuzah trace. A couple of months later, 10 bronze casts were shipped to Carol in the US, and she proudly presented one to each of her children and grandchildren to remind them of their Polish heritage.

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

KESSLER-KARP ROOM / ACCESSIBLE



ZGIERZ, UL. 1 MAJA 29

In 1939, there were 4,800 Jews in Zgierz, 20% of the total population. Immediately following the German occupation, persecution of the Jews began. During World War II, the only Jewish families that remained there, were craftsmen - those whose skills were useful to the Germans. In the early years following the war, there were only 60 Jewish families from Zgierz that remained in all of Poland. Only a few of them ever returned.

MEETING & CLASS ROOMS

REICH-MARRAN ROOM



RADOM, UL. WALOWA 5

Before World War II, this was the address of Mojzesz Zajdman (Zajdenman). Mojzesz was born in Radom, in 1915. His parents were Michel and Sura Laja nee Glatt. Michel Zajdenman, like his father, was a wine trader, a social activist, and a member of the Jewish Community in Radom. Mojzesz had 6 siblings. He survived World War II in the Soviet Union. In 1946, he registered with the Jewish Committee in Warsaw.

LOWER LEVEL

GAINES ROOM & KITCHEN



LOWICZ, UL. BROWARNA 11

In 1940, during the Nazi Occupation, German authorities established a ghetto in Lowicz. Here the Jews were persecuted and exploited. It closed in March, 1941, when all of its 8,000–8,200 inhabitants had been transferred: first to the Warsaw Ghetto, and then to the death camp in Treblinka for extermination.

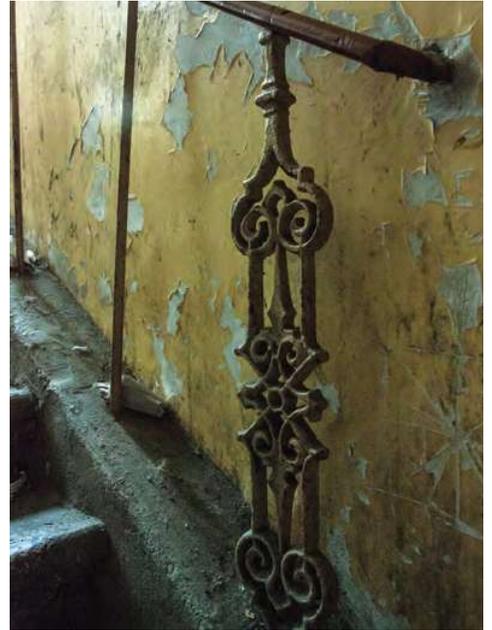
THE FAMILIES

Documents at the Jewish Historic In-

stitute state that Chaia and Josef Etinge, from Lodz; and Sara Rembielinsk, from Konstanynow, once lived here. They used the soup kitchen of Centos, the National Society for the Care of Orphans. The Blau family; which included: Josek and Hela, and their parents Sumer and Mirel – who were refugees from Wloclawek – were also residents here. It is very unlikely that any of them survived the Holocaust.

LOWER LEVEL

EDUCATION OFFICE



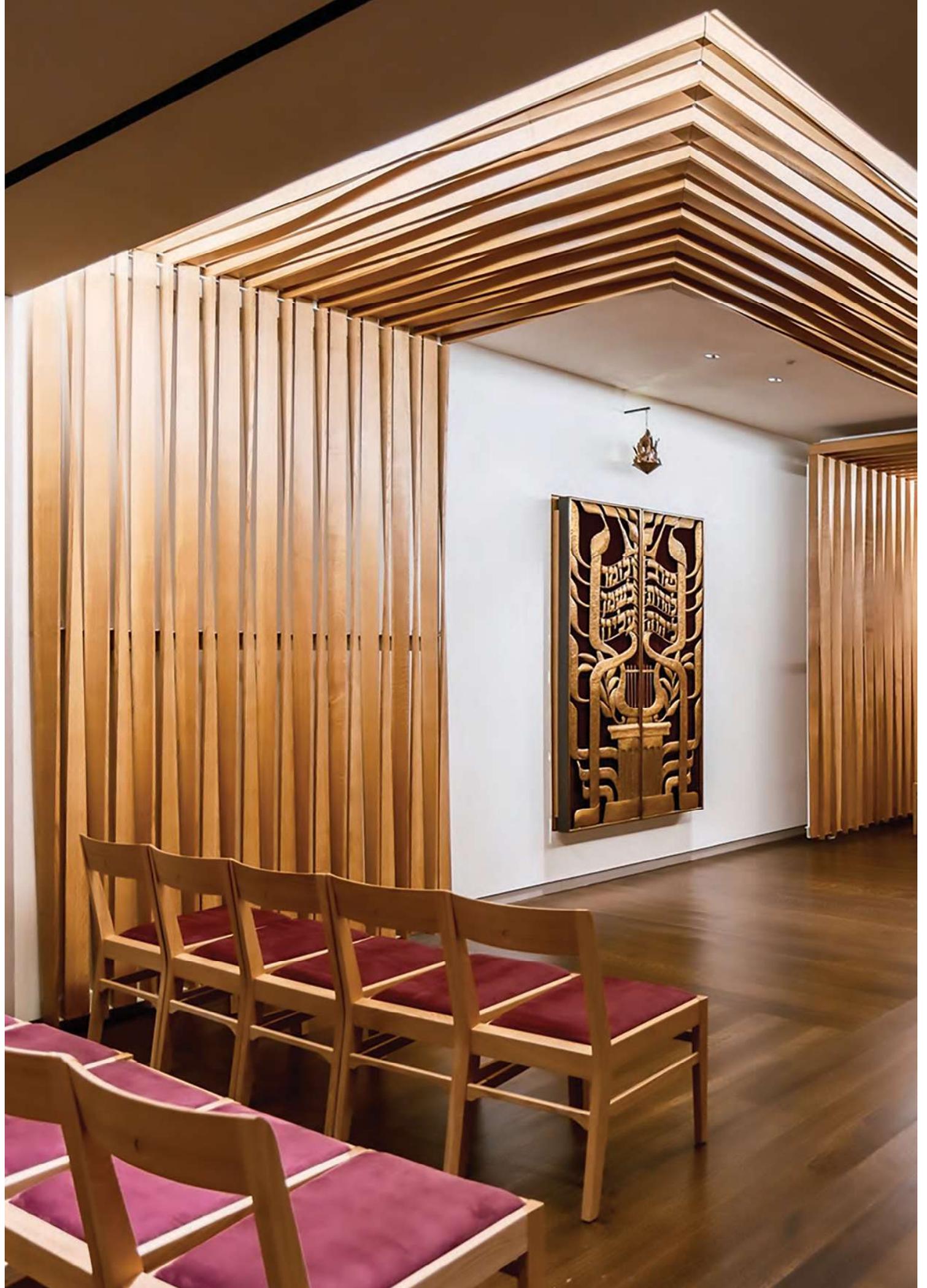
LOMZA, UL. POLOWA 59

In September 1939, the entire town of Lomza was practically destroyed. On August 12, 1941, the Lomza Ghetto was created in the vicinity of the Old Market Square. The ghetto was shut down during the final deportation act of November 1, 1942. Only a small number of Jews from Lomza, survived the Holocaust.

LOMZA, UL. POLOWA 59

BRONZE CAST OF THE MEZUZAH TRACE





MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE FOR A BLESSING זיכרונם לברכה



LOWER LEVEL

KURIEL CHAPEL



OZORKOW, UL. WYSZYNSKIEGO 5

The period during the Nazi occupation, was devastating to the history of Ozorkow. The city was immediately absorbed into activities and operations of the Third Reich. The synagogue, which dated back to 1868 and was located on Wyszynski Street was completely destroyed by the Germans.

THE HOME

The tenement at 5 Wyszynskiego

Street (formerly known as 5 Pilsudskiego Street) was built in 1914, by Abram Fiszer, whose initials can still be seen on the main gate.

THE FAMILY

Abram Fiszer, was the owner of this tenement and an iron warehouse. He married Chana Benczer and they had three children: David, Wolf and Ari. The lives of this entire family were lost to the Holocaust.

LOWER LEVEL

KURIEL CHAPEL / ACCESSIBLE



KRYNKI, UL. PILSUDSKIEGO 1

Krynki is a town in the northeastern part of Poland, where the first Jews settled in the 17th century. During the war, Krynki was occupied by both the Nazis and the Soviets. In December 1941, Germans created a Jewish ghetto, and imprisoned 6000 people with insufficient food, and severe overcrowding. Soon after, they were sent to the death camp in Treblinka. Before World War II, there were three synagogues in town:

[1]The Great Synagogue was completely destroyed by the Germans. [2] The Synagogue of Slonim Chasids was partially devastated by the Nazis. In its place today, is a private warehouse that prohibits anyone from entering. [3] Caucasian Beit Mi-drash was set to fire. And today in its place, is a Municipal Cultural and Sports Center.

Currently, no Jews live in Krynki.



