

## Aron Kodesh Materials

### textiles:

tapestries, curtains, and tent hand-woven of linen, cotton and rayon

### wood:

cedar, mahogany, ebony, douglas fir

### metal:

bronze, copper

### line and canvas:

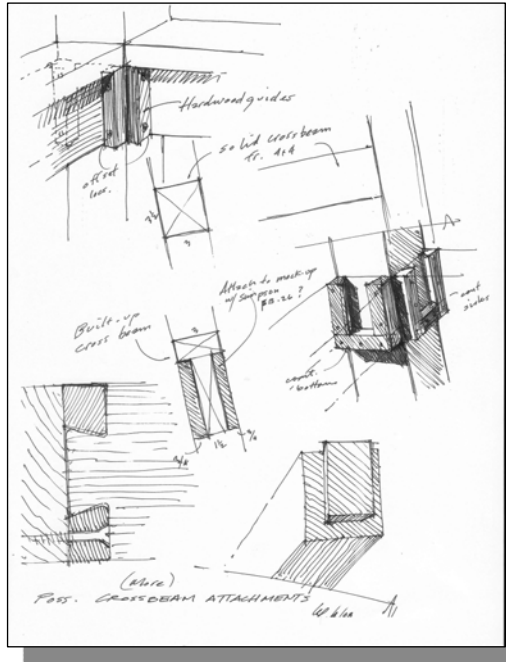
ultra-low stretch sailboat racing line, such as Vectran V100  
Sunbrella, awning grade

### wood finish:

beeswax & flax seed oil

### dimensions:

11' (L) x 5'6" (W) x 9' (H),  
rising to 12' at the peak



The entire structure is put together without metal fasteners, using interlocking joints and dowels, with the exception of the floorboards which are attached with bronze screws so that if needed the boards can be removed. All materials are of the highest quality, as befits a sacred object, such as kiln-dried vertical grain cedar, true mahogany from Honduras, and ebony from Gabon in Africa. Each piece of wood was hand selected for grain and appearance.

The textiles were hand-woven on an electronically controlled Jacquard loom, using yarns of Swedish linen, Italian cotton and American rayon. The textiles were realized using computer-aided software for Jacquard weaving.

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To complement the Aron Kodesh, we look forward to a new Torah cabinet (David Finn, design concept) and bimah ensemble (Cathy Bolding, textiles).

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## The Dedication of our Aron Kodesh

## ק"ק נתיבות שלום Congregation Netivot Shalom

### Honoring the Weissman/Steinbaugh Family



כ"ז תשרי תשס"ט  
October 26, 2008

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The interior imagery of the ark itself is meant to contain echoes of another world and time, based on descriptions in Exodus. As you approach the ark, you see, and hopefully feel, more and more of a spiritual realm within the tent than was glimpsed from the sanctuary seats. The cherubim that guarded the Holy of Holies are suggested in the winged curtains that will open to reveal a distant horizon seen through the edge of a palm grove, making the depth of the interior seem unbounded. For within there is another sky, a deeper more meditative blue, shading to violet. ...Our congregation's services sometimes have a hypnotic effect on me. And in this state the Torah's world of trials, wandering and uplift becomes profoundly real to me, and from the very first time, the rich description of the *Mishkan* [Tabernacle] was very compelling. I felt that it expressed our congregation, but not only for our lack of a permanent home at the time. Our congregation has a directness in worship and ritual, rooted in participatory practice. The simplicity and immediacy of the *Mishkan*, and the notion that everyone contributed what they could to its making, suits us far better than the imposing magnificence of the Temple in Jerusalem, and so it is our inspiration.

-Blair Prentice

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*Celebrating the Dedication of our Aron Kodesh  
Congregation Netivot Shalom  
27 Tishrei, 5769 - October 26, 2008*

☞ **Kavannah / Invitation**

Rabbi Menachem Creditor

☞ **Birkat HaTorah**

Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech haOlam,  
asher kidshanu beMitzvotav veTzivanu  
la'Asok beDivrei Torah, hafoch ba!

Praised are You Adonai our God, who rules the universe,  
instilling in us the holiness of mitzvot by commanding us  
to soak in words of Torah. Turn it over and over again!

☞ **Chazon / Vision**

Blair Prentice

☞ **Birkat Shirah / A Blessing of Song**

Rabbi Stuart Kelman

וְעָשׂוּ לִי מִקְדָּשׁ וְשָׁכַנְתִּי בְּתוֹכָם:

Ve'Asu Li Mikdash, VeShachanti BeTocham

Let them make for Me a Sanctuary, that I may dwell amidst them.

Exodus 25:8

☞ **Peticha / Opening the Aron Kodesh**

Weissman/Steinbaugh Family

☞ **Chazon / Vision**

Cathy Bolding

☞ **A Prayer for our Aron Kodesh**

Rabbi Menachem Creditor

☞ **Birkat Shirah / A Blessing of Song**

All

☞ **Refreshments in the Social Hall**

## Congregation Netivot Shalom Aron Kodesh

The originality and artistry of this project are the direct result of the particular talents of Cathy and Blair, and how well their generosity and capabilities combined to create this sacred structure.

### Blair Prentice

Architectural Concept, Design and Detailing

Carpentry and Production

Artwork for tapestry and curtain

### Cathy Bolding

Tapestry, Curtain and Tent Textiles

Design, Weaving, Pattern-making and Tailoring

### Acknowledgments

*A special thank you to*

Al & Connie Weissman & Family for on-going support of Congregation Netivot Shalom—our spiritual community and artistic expression.

*Consultation on ritual requirements*

Rabbi Stuart Kelman

Rabbi Menachem Creditor

*Workshop space*

Karen Friedman

Josh & Noga Gressel

*Carpentry*

Josh Gressel, Primary Carpenter

Burt Dorman

Michael Feeley

Debbie Graudenz

Milt Greenstein

Noga Gressel

David Jeffrey

Mark Priven

Asa Prentice

Graham Prentice

Christopher Romer

Brad Rudolph

Peter Strauss

Naomi Horowitz, tent fabric motif

Yvette Vloeberghs, Berkeley beeswax

*General Assistance*

Joe Meresman

Helaine Kaplan Prentice

*Review and Endorsement*

CNS Ritual Committee, Glenn Massarano, Chair

CNS Arts & Objects Committee, Sheila Braufman, Chair

Appreciation to CNS members who volunteered in myriad ways to ready the Aron Kodesh for dedication after this program was printed.

*Professional support*

Tom Brown Cabinetmaker (wood milling)

Walter Mork Sheetmetal (finials and roof cap)

Acme Awning (canvas canopy)

Russo Windows (procured mahogany)