June 4, 1968

COMMMENTS ON THE DESIGN FOR
ADGU DATH BNAI ISRAEL

The designs shown represent two different approaches to the concept of the Burning Bush. One involves more material forms, takes these materials forms and stylizes them, developing rhythms and movements within the basic material derivative form. The other takes the mass of the Bush and stylizes the mass shapes into angular forms. Into these angular forms decorative details, some abstract and some derived from nature, are drawn.

Both designs deal with the concept of the Burning Bush. The effect is generally intended to be a major color accent at about the center of the screen close to the lectern at the front of the Bema. From this point flame shapes will move rhythmically along the front of the sanctuary and Bema toward the Ark.

The comment has been made that the flame shapes assume too much importance when the Bush should be predominant. However, our intent is to depict the flames as the guiding point toward the development of the promise exemplified by the Ark. We might add some green leaf forms to one or two of the flame shapes to continue the continuity of the Burning Bush concept.

We have also introduced flames shapes leading up to the Burning Bush as a device to soften the impact of the mass of color.

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The background panels will be tints of glass representing the color of the gems of Twelve Tribes of Israel.

On the other side of the sanctuary, the design represents the Diaspora. The design encompasses the destruction of the Temple at Jerusalem and the spreading of the Jewish religion throughout the Old World. The main concept centers about architectural motifs representing Solomon's Temple at Jerusalem. Under these details is shown a large Torah flame shape, and Stars of David spread from this motif across outlines of the continent of Europe.

These symbolize both destruction of the Temple and the dispersion and persecution of the Jews. Further along, a Torah is superimposed on the Star of David symbolizing the permanence of the Jews in religion. The Mogen Davids continue along toward the Ark in the same sense that the flame shapes move along on the other side.

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