



Figure 1

## The relighting of Hampstead Synagogue



Figure 3

The original electric lighting scheme, installed in the early 1900s [fig 1] featured a number of small but highly ornate pendants suspended from the edge of the dome and the outer edge of the Ladies Gallery. The initial installation had open shades which were subsequently replaced with what appear to

be Holophane globes. [fig 2] Senior members of today's congregation still recall the very poor quality of light that these fittings produced and welcomed their replacement in the 1960s.

The 1960s scheme included three chandeliers suspended down the centre line of the Synagogue, including a much larger fitting under the central dome. The original fittings around the dome were removed and the Ladies Gallery pendants replaced with smaller fittings in the same style as the new chandeliers. [fig 3] All of the new fittings used large candle lamps which created a brighter feel, but with considerable glare. In the fullness of time this installation was found to be very energy hungry, expensive to maintain, and still did not provide sufficient light in most parts of the synagogue.



Figure 2

The design of the new lighting scheme evolved over a series of meetings where different design styles were considered by a small group of representatives who visited a number of Anglican and Catholic churches of the same era. The chosen scheme was based on the patterns of the original fittings as shown in the historical images. The detailed design was developed by Light Perceptions with Heritage Architecture and Great British Lighting who went on to manufacture all of the fittings.

There are three magnificent chandeliers, which are complemented by ceiling fittings and wall brackets in the same style which features Holophane globes and dishes, with



Figure 4

ornate metalwork decorated with acanthus leaves and delicate brass mouldings. The Viraggio finish gives an air of authentic age to the fittings which now look as historic as the architecture. [fig 4]

All of the light sources are dimmable compact fluorescent so that different lighting levels can be set for specific services which are held at different

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times of day and night throughout the year. There are ten halogen spotlights which highlight the pulpit and reading desk and a set of LED uplights built into the platform in front of the Ark.

In addition to these new fittings the decorated Victorian lanterns in the vestibule and staircases have been restored, with some additional reproductions and modifications for emergency lighting.

Perhaps the crowning glory of the lighting scheme is the external illumination of the high level stained glass windows which is achieved with Meyer floodlights using Philips CDM light sources mounted on brackets on the roof. This is used only for late night services where the windows would otherwise be in darkness. Now, at night, the beauty of this extraordinary stained glass is brought to life. [fig 5]

All of the new lighting is controlled by a Lutron Series 4000 system configured to control the various halogen, fluorescent and discharge light sources and stores the twelve preset scenes used for different services and festivals throughout the Jewish Calendar. ■

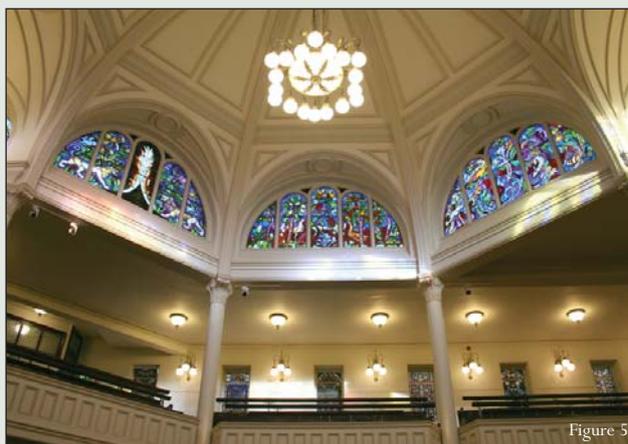


Figure 5

◆ LIGHT ◆ PERCEPTIONS ◆  
Lighting Consultancy and Project Management for Heritage Buildings

**Recently completed installations:**

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Harefield - St Mary the Virgin, Walbrook - St Stephen

**Work in progress:**

Coventry Cathedral, Newport Cathedral, Painswick - St Mary  
Holborn - St Alban the Martyr, Long Melford - Holy Trinity

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