

The **Chabad House**
Jewish Student Center
AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN



A Beacon at the Crossroads

Sending young people off to college is one of the most difficult things for a parent. It is both an exciting and angst filled time. Four years away from home will bring about many changes....independence, new knowledge, learning, socializing.... People concerned with Jewish life, continuity and a strong future are bound to wonderWho is there for our young people?

The Chabad Jewish Student Center has been meeting the religious, educational, social and pastoral needs of Jewish students at the University of Texas since 1971. Thousands of students have passed through our doors. Their lives have been enriched, and wherever they go, they count themselves among the extended Chabad family, as stronger, connected Jews with a sense of identity and a feeling of belonging.



A different kind of building.

A building for **you.**

for your **soul** for your **mind**

for your **hands** for your **heart**

for your **children** for your **teens** for your **parents**

for your **family** for your **community**

For the **Whole** You.



A human **life** is a **universe**...

Human beings are a lot like trees.

We need lots of sunshine, plenty of space and frequent watering.

That's what you'll see in this building: high ceilings and plenty of strategically placed windows. And there's the sunshine of warm smiles and caring hearts that is so much a part of what Chabad is all about.

There's lots of space—all kinds of space—because we want everyone who comes in to know “there's a place for you here.”

As for watering—that's the teachings we provide to quench thirsty souls.

...and the Chabad Center is a building designed to house it.

The Chabad House is not just another building... it is a home away from home for everyone who comes through its doors.

The building is designed with spaces for huge Shabbat and Holiday celebrations, lectures and special events, and spaces for smaller groups to connect. Spaces for study and research; spaces to meet and plan; spaces to relax and play; spaces to pray; spaces to enjoy delicious kosher food; spaces for lounging and comfortable conversation; spaces to find counsel and comfort in time of need.

A place you never want to leave.



“As a scared freshman in 2004, I turned to Chabad hoping to find a place for Shabbat dinners. To my delighted surprise, I found much more. I discovered a welcoming community that acted as my home away from home for four wonderful years. Chabad has inspired me to get more involved in the Jewish community, open myself up to a variety of different Jewish traditions, and feel comfortable asking questions about my religion. Best of all, Chabad provided me with the opportunity to meet some amazing Jewish people, and my experience at UT would not have been the same without that building on the corner of Nueces and 21st. I hope this new building project will help encourage more students to get involved with Chabad so that they have the opportunity to experience and add to Chabad’s unique spirit like I did.”

Karen Studelman
Proud Longhorn graduate of '08



If you're Jewish you belong...

A campus is a place of varied social groups and strata. It is not always easy for students to find where they fit in. There is the Greek scene, political groups, sports teams, the theatre, the media, a capella groups, professional fraternities, language and hobby clubs and the list goes on.

Chabad House transcends these dividing lines. It is quite simply a place for every Jewish student.

What kinds of students are part of the Chabad Community?

- ◆ Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors, Grad Students
- ◆ Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist
- ◆ Unaffiliated Jews
- ◆ Liberals and Conservatives
- ◆ Greeks
- ◆ Party Animals and Book Worms
- ◆ Introverts and Extroverts
- ◆ Sephardim and Ashkenazim
- ◆ Students on campus and students from off campus

A representation of a broad cross-section of the student community

“As a home away from home, Chabad is a place where any Jewish student can feel comfortable. Through meals, activities, events, and much more, the Chabad House provides a nurturing environment that helps students grow and mature not only in their Judaism but also in life in general as well.”

Craig Gremont
Texas Alum '07



...Because labels are for shirts **not** for human beings.



“ It’s really exciting to have a new face (the Johnsons) here that Jewish students can look to. You can feel the family’s energy, and their passion and commitment to making Jewish students feel welcome at UT. Their doors are always open, and their Shabbos table is very warm. ”

Frankie Shulkin

UT Senior and Vice President of the Student Government at UT

Chabad Jewish Student Center



The Chabad House—open 24/7 and home to an ever growing roster of activities—has gained a reputation as one of the most successful campus in-reach and outreach programs in the country and has, to our great joy, become a victim of its success. Our present facility will be renovated to accommodate the growing number of students who wish to join in our programs and avail themselves of our services.

“ Shabbat at Chabad is the place you go to wind down at the end of a busy week. Whatever stresses you are dealing with, whatever lists of things you have to get done, you leave at the door. Inside is full of spirit and life, food and good friends. You are revitalized and filled with the spirit of Shabbat, getting lost in the melodies, laughter and stories. Chabad brings together a collection people who, as the weeks pass, become family. ”

—Erica Krivoy,
Texas Grad Student



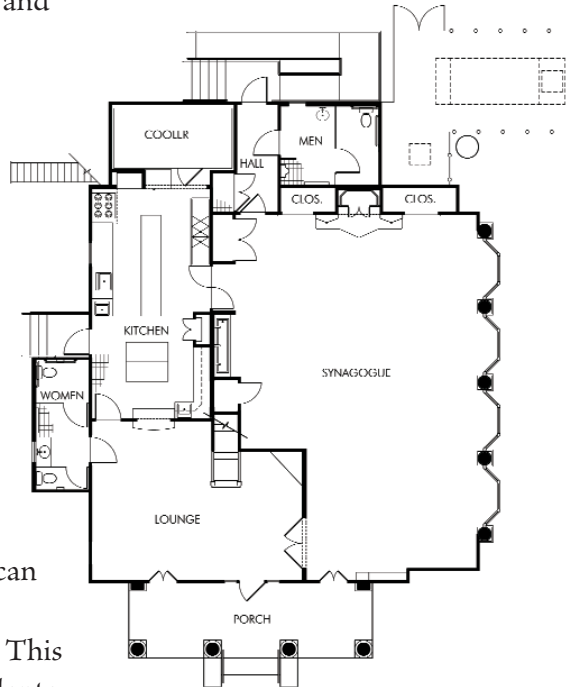
Because the only type of Judaism that will transmit from generation to generation...

First Floor

Walking in, you will be greeted by a contemporary and comfortable **lounge** and **coffee bar**. This will be a place for students to relax, socialize, and work.

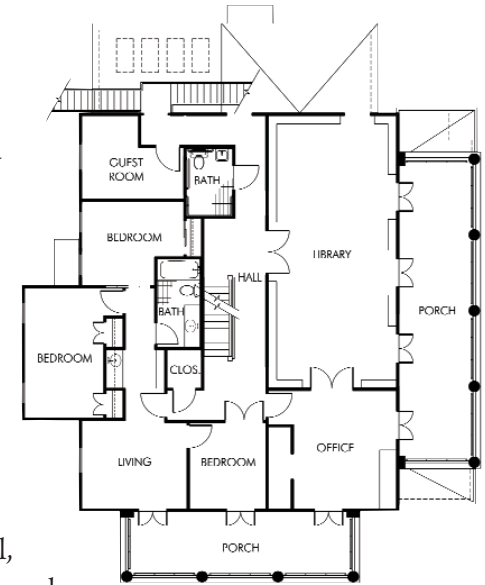
Chabad House is the place to be for chillin n' grillin BBQ's, weekly classes, women's circle and events, midnight breakfasts, sushi & fondue events, and countless other occasions. The building will have the only commercial kosher pizza oven in town.

The heart of the new building will be the **dining room** that also functions as a **Synagogue**. It can seat over a hundred students comfortably. This is the place where students will enjoy full course, home cooked Shabbat and Holiday meals, Passover Seders and Rosh Hashana dinners, not to mention Purim Feasts. This room will also host lectures, performances, special presentations and celebrations of all kinds. It will also feature a media center that will have a **52 in. TV screen** and **Nintendo Wii**.



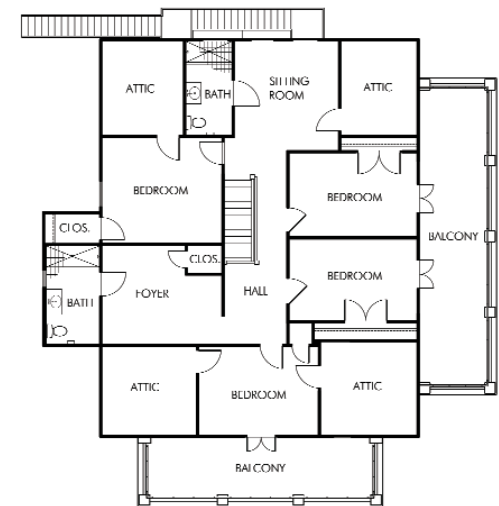
Second Floor

Featuring a beautiful, spacious and sunlit **library**, this will be an area for education, studying, one on one lessons, and lectures. It is a place where students can grab a book and sit at the far end of the library, which will include another **lounge**. Students can pursue their quest for knowledge, read for sheer pleasure or research a paper. There will be plenty of outlets for students to plug in their laptops and the whole building will have **Wi-Fi** Internet access. The second floor will also have beautiful porches with chairs, tables and overhead fans, where students can enjoy the views of the capital, downtown, and the UT campus. The second floor also has the **Rabbi's office** and apartment where his family will stay during Shabbat and Holidays, as well as a guest room.



Third Floor

The Third floor features **guest rooms** and spare rooms that can be used for **games** and the **Chabad Student Board** office.



...is a Judaism that is authentic, deeply relevant and joyful.



“ Chabad has helped make UT a lot smaller, more familiar, and a little more like home. I know I can go there and put aside the week's worries and reconnect to Judaism. No matter how far away from my home and family I may be, Chabad is like a second home. ”

- Gerald Rich
Freshman

and the most important lessons in college...



“ I’m not super religious, but I’ve been going to Chabad over the years. They (the Johnsons) bring so much life and so much energy. They inspire me to learn more. ”

Cheryl Nolan,
Senior

... are gleaned between classes.

The Chabad **Jewish Student Center** is an incubator of cutting edge ideas for engaging the contemporary Jewish collegiate. At Chabad our students are the number one leaders; they work hard to bring Jewish love and excitement to the wider campus community. It is a joy to watch our students develop their **leadership skills** and use their talents. It is incredible to see how many of our alumni have taken up leadership positions in their respective communities. The **new building** will provide a **board room** for students to meet and brain storm and ample space to work on programs and projects.

College is associated with parties, fun experiences and carefree times but college can be a challenging time for students as well. Jewish students at UT know there is **a place they can turn to** any time of night and day where people with open hearts and mind will be there to help them. The new building will offer private, comforting areas for students in distress who come to Chabad for **counseling**, crisis intervention and referrals.

“ The Chabad House has shown me the best of Judaism. I grew up far away from any Temples or Synagogues and never learned about this part of myself. Thanks to Rabbi Zev, Ariela, and fellow members, I can grow spiritually while learning about my heritage. The activities are always fun and engaging, which makes the experience even better. If you are looking for a family atmosphere and fun practicing Judaism, then the Chabad House is definitely for you. ”

- Isaac
PHD student 2013



What is Chabad?

About Chabad

Chabad-Lubavitch is a philosophy, a movement, and an organization. It is considered to be the most dynamic force in Jewish life today.

The Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, motivated by his profound love for every Jew and spurred by his boundless optimism and self sacrifice, set into motion a dazzling array of programs, services and institutions to serve every Jew. The Chabad approach combines faith and tradition with a welcoming, inclusive and non-judgmental attitude. This is most effective in today's campus environment. Chabad seeks to help shape the next generation of engaged leadership within the Jewish community and within American society at large.

Today, 4,000 full-time emissary families direct more than 3,300 institutions (and a workforce that numbers in the tens of thousands) dedicated to the welfare of the Jewish people worldwide.

Chabad on Campus is a home-away-from-home for tens of thousands of Jewish Students. Chabad Student Centers are active full-time on over 130 campuses, and Chabad offers varied activities at an additional 150 universities worldwide.

About Us

Rabbi Zev and Ariela Johnson, along with their children, co-direct the Chabad Jewish Student Center at UT. Rabbi Zev is an alumnus of UT. He continued his education at the Rabbinical College of America and received Rabbinical Ordination at The Mayanot Institute of Jewish Studies. Ariela is a graduate of the Yeshiva of Greater Washington. She continued her advance Jewish studies in Australia and Israel. Rabbi Zev and Ariela are living their dreams co-directing the Chabad House, where they strive to fulfill UT's motto, "What starts here, changes the world."





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