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Susan Shender, RA / BA, 1975

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Alumnae Biography

Susan Shender, RA
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SUKKAH SOUL SUKKAH KIT
DESIGNER
CEDAR, POLYETHYLENE NETTING, METAL CONNECTORS
2004

The Sukkah Soul sukkah is a booth used during the Jewish har-
vest holiday Sukkot. The design is influenced by traditional texts
and sources. The form is inspired by three imaginative ideas
interviewed during Sukkot: the Kabbalah’s Sefirot, the ushpizin or
guests welcomed in the sukkah and psalms read during the holi-
day.

Through the language of the Sefirot, G*d is expressed in ten
manifestations, as it were, like kindness, strength and beauty.
These manifestations have avenues of connection to one anoth-
er forming triads of relationships.

Seven of these manifestations coordinate with the seven Sefi-
rot-circuits when the Four-sons are carried around the bima.
Each circuit is honored with the reading of a psalm related to a
Sefirotic emanation. The seven manifestations are also paired
with our patriarchs, who serve as guests.

People may feel surrounded by the Sefirot / psalms / guests
when they dine and study in the sukkah.

BIOGRAPHY
Susan is an architect with over thirty years ex-
perience including twenty years in private prac-
tice with university, children’s day care, arc,
community healthcare, commercial and reli-
gious projects. In 2004, Susan started Sukkah
Soul. Susan designs sukkah kits and ladle
as well as pendants based on ancient art and
Hebrew sold nationally through her website
SukkahSoul.com. A native of Chicago, Susan
lives in St. Louis, Missouri.

Design philosophy: good design needs a rich
program.

Susan honors Professor Leslie Laskey, her sec-
d year design teacher, with her work.