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Women in the Design World: Work in Progress

Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts

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Susan Shender, RA / BA, 1975

Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts

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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 harvest holiday Sukkot. The design is influenced by traditional texts and sources. The form is inspired by three imaginative ideas interwoven during Sukkot: the Kabbalah's Sefirot, the ushpizin or guests welcomed in the sukkah and psalms read during the holiday.

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 another forming triads of relationships.

Seven of these manifestations coordinate with the seven hakafot-circuits when the Torah scrolls 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.



Alumnae Biography

**BIOGRAPHY**

Susan is an architect with over thirty years experience including twenty years in private practice with university, children's day care, zoo, community healthcare, commercial and religious projects. In 2004, Susan started Sukkah Soul. Susan designs sukkah kits and Judaica 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 second-year design teacher, with her work.