

*Restoring  
Our Glory*



# THE RESTORATION & RENOVATION OF THE STADTTemple

## INTRODUCTION

Constructed in April 1826, The Stadttemple, or Vienna City Temple, has been home to the prayers for one of Europe's most admired Jewish communities. Jews have gathered here through joyful and challenging times, beseeching G\*d on Yom Kippur and celebrating the Joy of Purim. Its halls have witnessed countless bar and bat mitzvahs, weddings, and circumcisions. It sadly also witnessed devastation by the Nazis during the November Pogroms of 1938.

The City Temple was discreetly built behind a simple five-story tenement house due to laws prohibiting direct visibility of non-Catholic places of worship from the street. This nestling saved it from destruction during Pogrom Night making it the **ONLY** Viennese synagogue not destroyed. Nonetheless, it was desecrated inside, with Adolf Eichmann participating in the atrocities.

After World War II, the temple was restored and reopened with limited funds. Over the years, significant renovations have included the addition of a lobby, community center, kosher restaurant, emergency exits, and the return of old administrative offices.

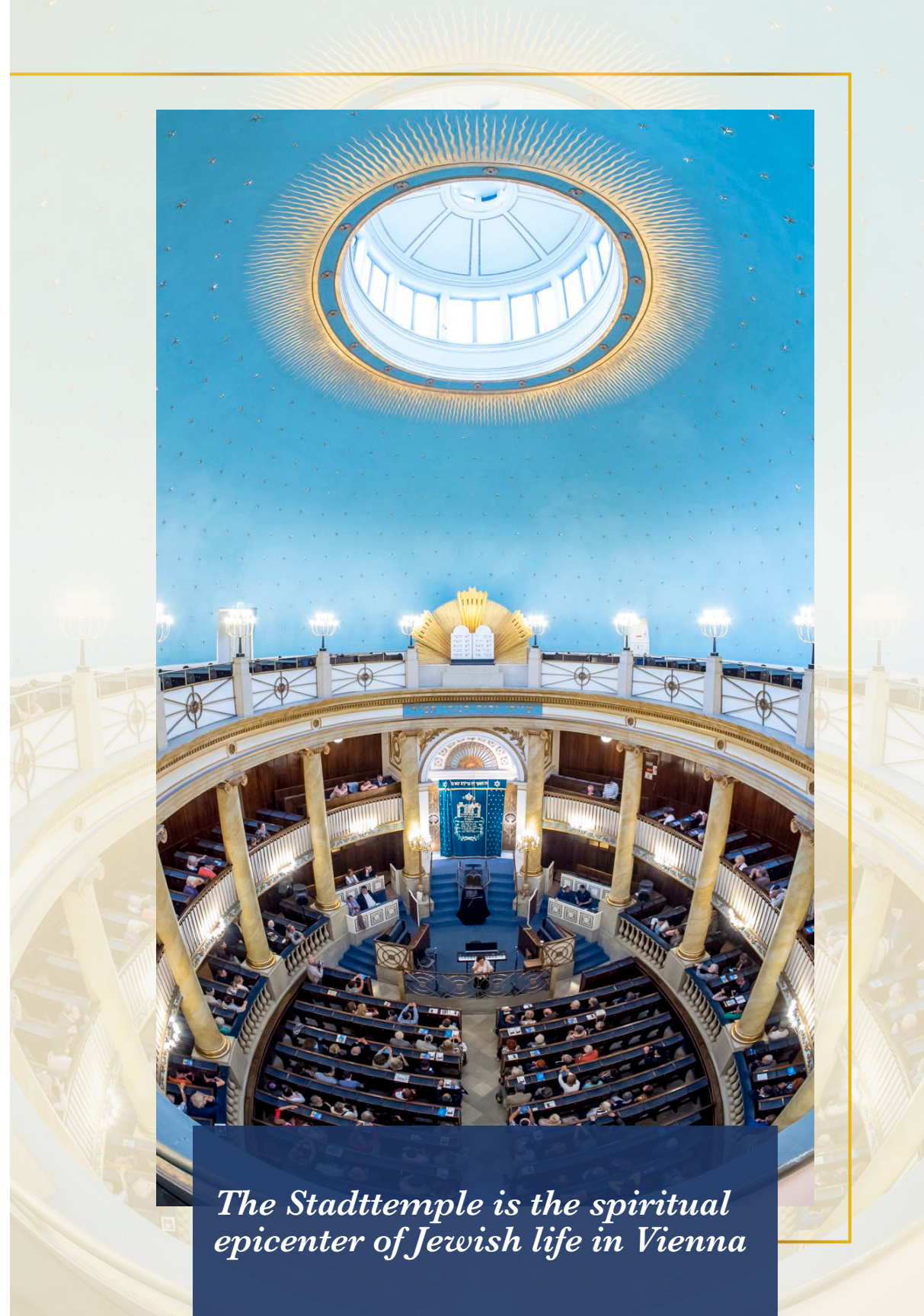
## 200<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

For nearly 200 years, The Stadttemple has been the spiritual epicenter of Austrian Jewish life, still hosting daily and Shabbat services. However, it now shows significant signs of age, with no air conditioning and outdated plumbing.

Together with the Federal Monuments Office of Austria, we plan a glorious restoration for the Temple's 200th anniversary. New wooden seats will be imported from Israel. We will replace windows, the facade, staircases, plumbing, flooring, and wall fixtures. Security will be upgraded to the highest standards, and accessibility for people with disabilities will be a priority. **Please join us in support of our iconic European Jewish landmark.**

## PROJECT COSTS

The restoration is expected to begin in October 2025 and continue through the High Holidays of 2026, costing approximately 10.5 million euros. We are working to secure two-thirds of the sum from the Austrian government, with the remaining one-third to be financed through donations from the global Jewish community. The following centerfold—a menu of dedication opportunities—has been laid out with hopes that generous supporters, friends, and those with familial ties to Vienna will contribute to this significant restoration.



*The Stadttemple is the spiritual epicenter of Jewish life in Vienna*



## DEDICATION OPPORTUNITIES

	SUGGESTED PRICE
Men's Section, Main Sanctuary	\$1,000,000
Women's Section, Main Sanctuary	\$1,000,000
The Chief Rabbi's Study	\$500,000
Kiddush Room	\$250,000
Children's Room	\$250,000
The Main Lobby	\$150,000
The Historical Gallery	\$150,000
The Security Station	\$100,000
The Main Doors	\$75,000
The Hand Washing Station	\$50,000
The Large Community Sukkah	\$36,000
The Large Community Chanuka Menorah	\$36,000
Dignitary Bimah Seat (2)	\$20,000 each
The Parsha Board	\$18,000
The Silver Havdala Set	\$15,000
A Family Cluster of Stars in the Dome (8)	\$15,000
A Family Row of Wooden Seats made in Israel (8)	\$10,000
Bronze Stars in The Dome	\$2,500 each
Windows	\$2,000 each
Wooden Seats Made in Israel	\$1,800 each

For wire transfers  
use the following  
information

**Purpose:** City Temple Restoration  
**IBAN:** AT82-1200-0100-3011-8409  
**BIC:** BKAUATWW

For more information, contact  
Robert Katz: [robert.vienna@safikg.org](mailto:robert.vienna@safikg.org)



# OUR HISTORICAL JEWISH VIENNESE COMMUNITY

The Jewish Community of Vienna (Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien, or IKG) comprised of 8,000 members is served by Oskar Deutsch, President (2012), and Jaron Engelmayer, Chief Rabbi (August 2020).

The IKG offers social, religious, and educational services and publishes the bi-monthly newspaper, Die Gemeinde. It supports and advises Jewish victims of National-Socialist persecution with reparations and compensation.

The IKG's archive, established in 1816, contains documents from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to post-World War II. It includes meeting minutes, decrees, reports, letters, emigration documents, lists of deportees, photographs, and plans, aiding survivors' restitution claims. Today, these documents are a record of the fate of exiled and murdered Jews, and are used to aid survivors' claims for restitution and compensation.

The Society of American Friends of IKG (SAFIKG) raises funds for Jewish Vienna's needs and connects Jews of Viennese descent in America with current citizens of Jewish Vienna.



Photo Credits: IKG Vienna/Schmidl, Graf

**IKG WIEN**

## A TIMELINE OF IMPROVEMENTS

**1826**

- Construction based on plans by Joseph Kornhäusel
- Ceremonial laying of the foundation stone
- Reinauguration on April 9

**2**

**1923 (2<sup>nd</sup> renovation):**

- Temple is repainted and a new electrical system is installed
- Installation of an elevator

**4**

**1947 (4<sup>th</sup> renovation):**

- The first post-war "rebuild"

**6**

**1963 (6<sup>th</sup> renovation):**

- General renovation by architect Otto Niedermoser
- Inauguration on September 9, 1963
- Stars no longer painted but now made of brass
- New lighting fixtures

**8**

**2025 (Restoration):**

- Start: after the high holidays in, September 2025
- Planned completion: after the high holidays in 2026
- Architectural office: KEHN Architekten ZT GmbH

**1895 (1<sup>st</sup> renovation):**

- General renovation by architect Wilhelm Stiassny

**1**

**1934 (3<sup>rd</sup> renovation):**

- Renovation of the temple's entrance hall

**3**

**1963 (5<sup>th</sup> renovation):**

- Cloakroom and winter temple constructed

**5**

**1988 (7<sup>th</sup> renovation):**

- General renovation by architect Thomas Feiger
- New foyer with cloakroom
- Restoration of the entire interior (painting, gilding)
- New adaptation of the furniture (wood surface, padding, bench compartments)
- Memorial for Holocaust victims
- Doors and windows renewed (bulletproof)

**7**



# THE ORIGIN OF THE STADTTemple

After Jews were expelled from Austria in 1670, they faced 150 years of restrictions, with only individual court Jews allowed.

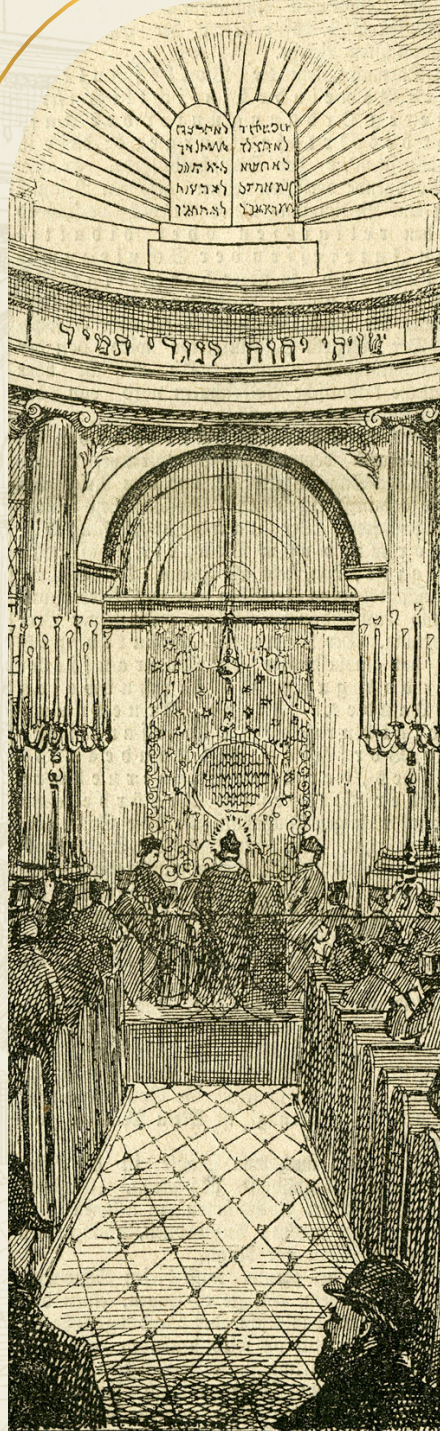
Before 1811, Vienna's Jews lacked communal worship spaces, using a cramped prayer room at "Weißen Stern" in Sterngasse. They purchased and renovated the Pempflingerhof on Seitenstetengasse in 1811, opening it as a synagogue, school, and ritual bath in 1812.

By 1819, Vienna's Jewish community sought a larger synagogue. After initial rejections, the city council approved construction on the Pempflingerhof site in 1823. Architect Georg Kornhäusel designed the new synagogue, funded by a loan from wealthy Jews including Anselm Salomon von Rothschild. Construction was completed in 1826, and the Vienna City Temple opened on April 9, 1826.

After 200 years, or 10 generations, Vienna is restoring its glorious main synagogue!

## OUR LEADERSHIP

- **Oskar Deutsch** *President*
- **Isabella Martens** *Vice President*
- **Samuel Konig** *Vice President*
- **David Eiselt** *Treasurer*



## CONTACT INFO

Robert Katz (robert.vienna@safikg.org): +1 (917) 721-4664 • Visit us at: [www.safikg.org](http://www.safikg.org)