



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **NATIONAL SUKKAH DESIGN COMPETITION: A STUDY IN THE COMPLEXITY OF A SIMPLE STRUCTURE**

CHICAGO – Chicago Sukkah Expo '16 is a national design competition that challenges entrants to re-imagine the sukkah. The sukkah, a temporary structure that is built during the Jewish festival of Sukkot, commemorates the 40 years that Jews spent wandering the desert (*Leviticus 23:42-43*). The impermanence of the sukkah reminds us that many community members do not have adequate shelter and are threatened by the dangers of homelessness. We must devote attention and support those without a permanent home.

Invitations are extended to all architects, builders, artists, planners, interior designers, and students in related disciplines to design and build a sukkah. Entry fees are \$48 for professional entrants and \$24 for students. Our esteemed jury will select eight winning renderings which participants will then develop into models for an exposition at Anshe Emet Synagogue in September and October 2016. First place prize is \$3,000. The models will be auctioned off and net proceeds from the premiere reception will benefit The ARK.

"Sukkot is the only holiday in the Torah where happiness is a command: 'and you will rejoice in your festival' *Deuteronomy 16:14 (Ve'Samachta Be'Chagecha)*. The temporary nature of the dwelling is a reminder to us of our vulnerability not only in the desert experience of the Exodus, but also throughout Jewish history," remarked Rabbi Siegel, Anshe Emet Synagogue's senior rabbi. "Anshe Emet is honored to bring Chicago Sukkah Expo '16 as an educational opportunity to the city of Chicago, which highlights the holiday of Sukkot and brings crucial awareness to the plight of the homeless in our community. We are thrilled that The ARK is our partner in this special endeavor."

"The Chicago Sukkah Expo '16 is a wonderful, tangible expression of Sukkot that encompasses far more than just history. Like Noah's ARK, the sukkah represents the theme of protection that has long been one of the guiding principles of The ARK. As the community's resource for providing physical and spiritual shelter for our Jewish brethren in need, we are honored to participate in this project," said Dr. Marc Swatez, executive director of The ARK.

For more information on Chicago Sukkah Expo '16, including registration and requirements, visit [www.AnsheEmet.org/ChicagoSukkahExpo](http://www.AnsheEmet.org/ChicagoSukkahExpo).

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### **About Anshe Emet Synagogue:**

Anshe Emet Synagogue is one of the oldest and most prominent congregations of Conservative Judaism in America. It is well known for a variety of prayer services, a multi-generational membership and a broad range of programming.

### **About The ARK:**

The ARK is a not-for-profit, community-funded health and human services agency with facilities on Chicago's North Side and in Northbrook, which provides free social and medical services to help distressed members of the Chicagoland Jewish family return to self-reliance.

### **About the American Institute of Architects Chicago:**

The American Institute of Architects Chicago (AIA Chicago) is the largest chapter of licensed architects, architectural interns, and allied professionals within AIA Illinois, and the second largest AIA chapter in the country.