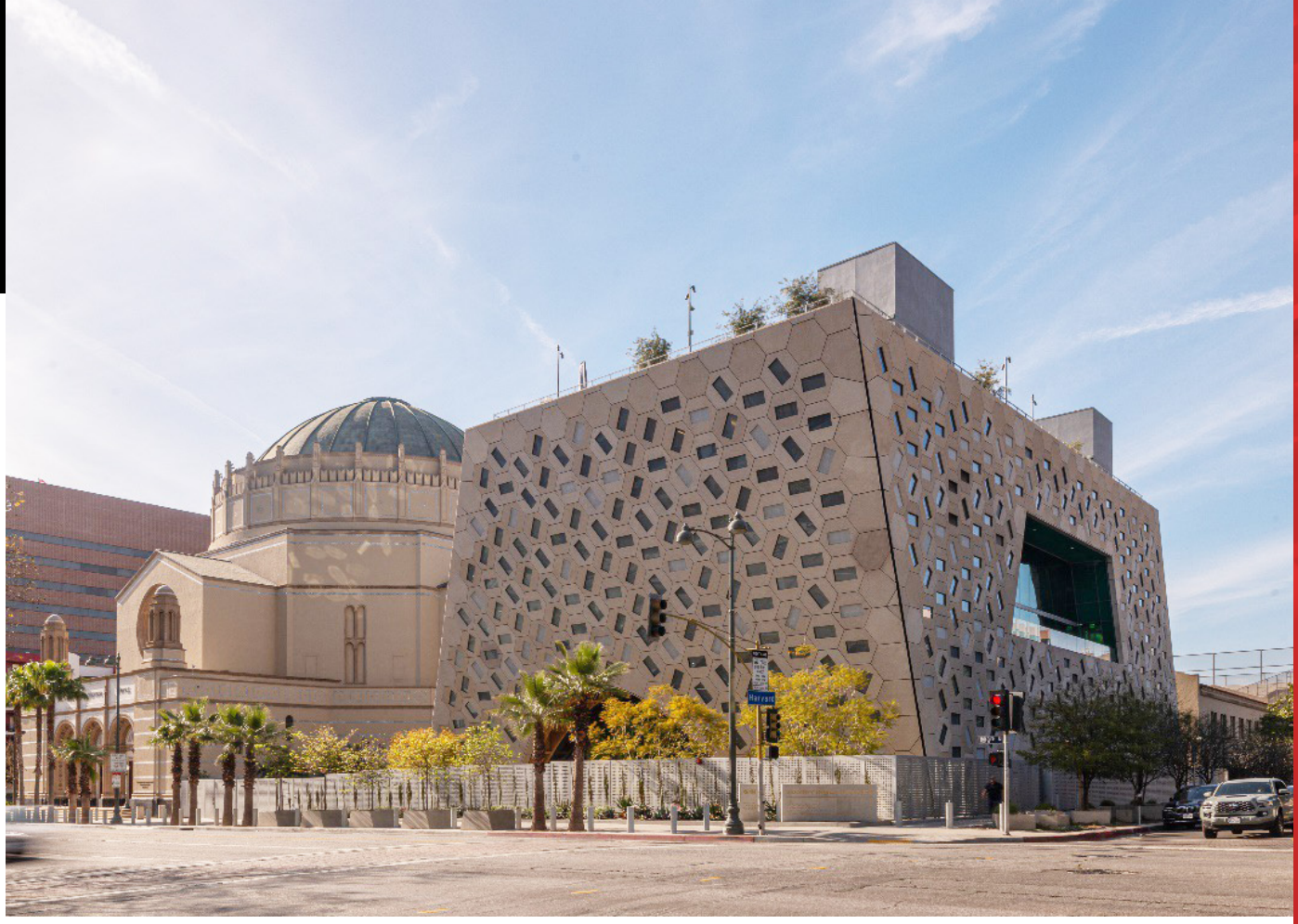


PROJECT PROFILE

MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC
ELEVATORS & ESCALATORS

Audrey Irmas Pavilion — Los Angeles, California

The Audrey Irmas Pavilion (AIP) is a three-story, 55,000-square-foot cultural center located on the historic Wilshire Boulevard Temple's campus in Los Angeles. Opened in 2022, the AIP has three floors: a ground-level grand ballroom, a second-floor chapel enclosed in green glass, and a rooftop garden and sunken terrace framed by performance spaces and meeting rooms. Adorned with hexagonal shapes and windows, the sloping facades on three sides of the building allow the AIP to gently lean away from the adjacent dome-topped, century-old, Byzantine-style temple for contrast and respect for the existing architectural context.

Challenge

Design an indoor/outdoor elevator system for a prominent religious and cultural institution with unique architecture

Solution

Diamond Trac® machine-room-less elevators from Mitsubishi Electric

Result

Seamless, quiet, safe vertical transportation suitable for solemnity or celebration

The AIP needed a vertical transportation system that would accommodate the pavilion's guest traffic, cultural sensibilities and unique architecture. As the project's elevator consultant, Syska Hennessy Group (Syska), a global engineering firm, worked with Mitsubishi Electric, the designer OMA and executive architect Gruen Associates (Gruen) to select a system that met those needs. The team also developed algorithms that specified elevator run times and capacities based on their analysis of pedestrian and service demands. Utilizing three Diamond Trac® machine-room-less elevators from Mitsubishi Electric, the vertical transportation system satisfied all requirements with a two-car passenger elevator bank and a service elevator.

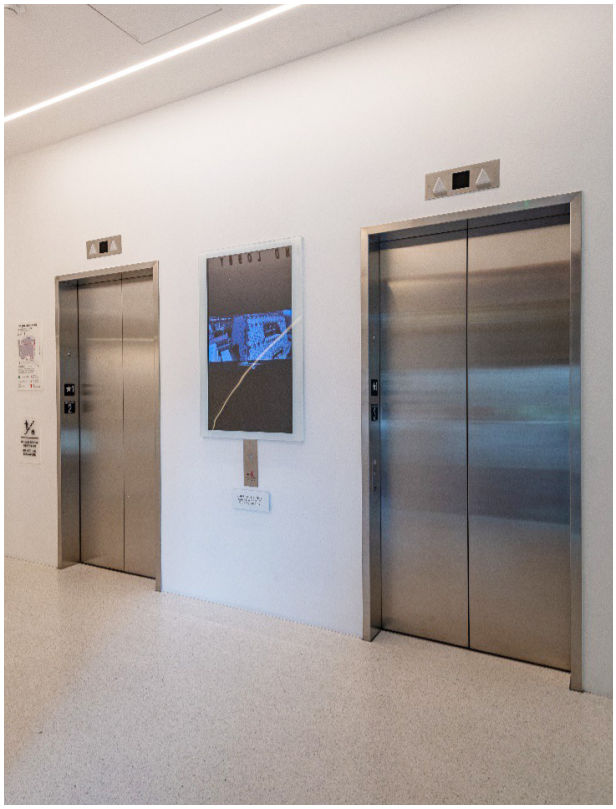
Why Mitsubishi Electric?

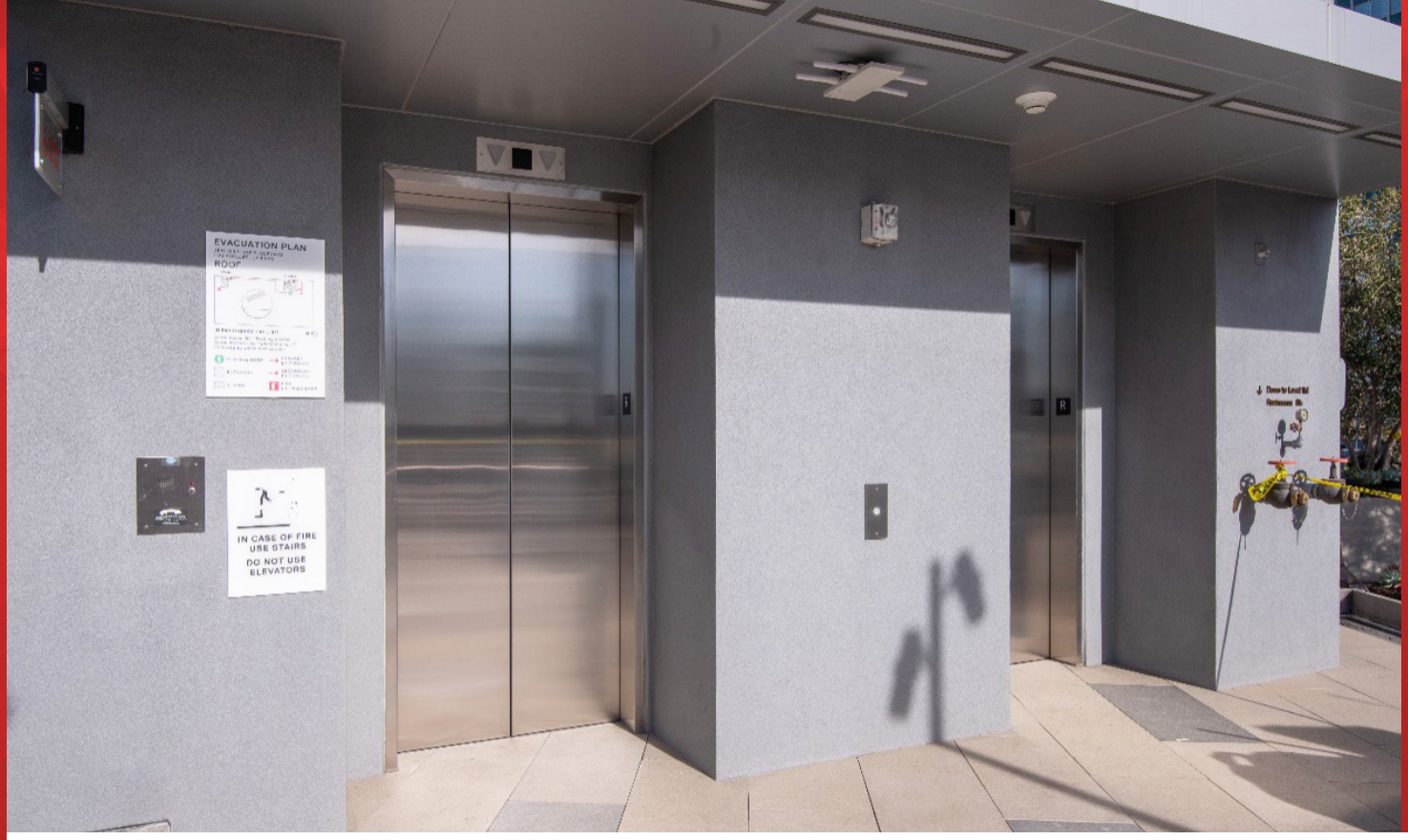
The design team selected Mitsubishi Electric elevators for their reliability, sleek appearance and smooth, quiet rides. Passengers move seamlessly between the AIP's floors using the elevators, which blend with the pavilion's aesthetics and run quietly without disrupting the chapel's contemplative atmosphere. "Visitors, worshipers and staff could easily forget that the elevators are there. That's exactly what we wanted," said Debra Gerod, partner at Gruen.

Due to the sloping facades on the north, south and west sides, Mitsubishi Electric had to install the elevators on the pavilion's east side. Syska and the collective team designed a system of walkways and bridges connecting the east and west ends, enabling easy access to the elevators.

Weatherproofing and revitalization

The rooftop level presented a challenge for the design team. Both passenger elevators open into an outdoor garden, where visitors enjoy breathtaking views of Los Angeles and nearby mountain ranges, but that also meant the elevators would be exposed to the elements. As a solution, Mitsubishi Electric customized the AIP elevator system for water resistance with special gaskets and extra protective layers.





Elevators engineered and serviced by Mitsubishi Electric have industry-leading uptime, averaging less than one service callback per unit, per year due to proactive preventative maintenance, which addresses potential service issues before they occur. This expertise was crucial for the AIP because the construction team used one of the passenger elevators for over a year. For context, crews typically use elevators for three to six months on construction projects. Mitsubishi Electric technicians thoroughly reviewed and refurbished all components after the construction-use period to ensure the elevators operated like brand new when the building opened to the public.

Superior Elevators for a Superior Building

The AIP is an award-winning facility recognized with the 2022 Building Team of the Year award from the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and Engineering News-Record's "Best of the Best" award in the cultural/worship category. Given the building's preeminence, high-quality Mitsubishi Electric elevators are ideal for keeping each of the pavilion's floors accessible to congregants and community members while reducing the total cost of ongoing operation. The elevators' reliability and smooth, quiet operation allow people of diverse physical abilities to enjoy the pavilion's religious, cultural and community events on any level.