

What began as The William Breman Jewish Home expanded and grew over the past 60+ years to become Jewish Home Life Communities (JHLC), a comprehensive system of life care communities. Repositioning for growth, JHLC is a non-profit system of 8 life care communities and services providing care and resources for seniors and their families.

THW Design has had the honor of partnering with JHLC to realize their strategic long-term goals. Most recently, renovating the Cohen Home as well as providing the architecture and interior design services for Berman Commons that opened in 2015. Below is a snapshot of these two premier communities.

## The Cohen Home | Johns Creek, GA

### What They Wanted

The original Cohen Home Extra Care Dining and Living Rooms were not large enough to serve the needs of the residents as they were boxed in and compartmentalized. The tight kitchen area was not functioning well with its limited counter space and underutilized appliances. The Cohen Home is a roaming facility so the entire building is the resident's home - not just their personal units. They wanted the renovation and expansion to give residents free range of



BEFORE EXTRA CARE DINING

movement and also give care-givers and staff better lines of sight.

### What We Delivered

The design team removed walls and opened up the area, and added a sun room off the existing dining room. When the two existing rooms were combined into one 3-zoned Extra Care Living Area, the residents gained a much-needed multi-functional space that ranges in activities from dining, socializing, and gaming, to quiet reading nooks in the sunroom and late night TV watching in the new comfortable lounge.

A farmhouse table is a wonderful addition for eating, hosting guests and activities. Caregivers are free to stand on one side and provide help in guided activities and meal service. Floor outlets were installed below the table for personal laptops as residents frequently take online cognitive tests as part of their therapy. Smaller under-counter refrigerators and a microwave are compact and versatile. The FF&E selections were purposely made to make the staff's work easier, particularly when help is in short supply. The chairs by Kwalu were selected because they are designed with senior ergonomics in mind, no sharp edges or chair backs to catch crumbs or "accidents". The chairs even have a grab bar for easy handling by caregivers which also aids in keeping chair fabric clean.



AFTER EXTRA CARE DINING

The Cohen Homes 's Executive Director is very community driven and wanted some special touches to the project. The new space allows her to invite pianists and other musicians to play for the residents along with sponsoring various outreach projects between the Cohen Home and Next Dor. Transcending age barriers to form friendship bonds between senior residents and teenagers, flower boxes in the courtyard were created through a multi-generational experience with a local Eagle Scout group. The joint project will culminate into the creation of a video documenting the dialogue and encounter between the teens and residents.



## Berman Commons | Dunwoody, GA

### What They Wanted

The Owners wanted to build a 90-unit assisted living and memory care facility as a part of a community wide effort to address the growing need for senior care options in metro Atlanta. Berman Commons, named for Past Board Chair Steven M. Berman to honor his support for the



elderly for 40+ years, would be built adjacent to the Marcus Jewish Community Center (MJCC). Proximity to the MJCC encourages an active, inter-generational lifestyle and enables use of their facilities and extensive programs. Berman Commons was a long awaited solution for many looking for a high quality and kosher living environment for their aging loved ones.

### What We Delivered

A truly exquisite hospitality venue that opened in March of 2015, Berman Commons is a unique community whose goal is to provide residents with exceptional care, an enriched lifestyle and, a vibrant place to call home. THW Design was honored to have had the opportunity to design and create a beautiful, inviting, hospitality environment that would radiate unparalleled luxury, and timeless charisma.

A variety of architectural details, products, and materials gives voice to the aesthetic language of the entire building. The custom carpets help to establish a cohesive collection of patterns that sets the tone for the whole residence. Inspired by the warm tones and textures found in stained wood, natural stones, crystals, a rich color palette was developed. The large scale linear pattern found in the lobby is a vibrant compliment to the grand scale of the crystal light fixtures which illuminate the space. Upon entering the building, the atmosphere of opulence is evident. The goal was to create a space that emits a homelike energy and a welcoming sense of community.

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