

A TRADITIONAL-STYLE HOME
FEATURING AN ELEGANT
EYEBROW-ROOF DORMER
ABOVE THE FRONT PORCH,
A MIX OF COMPOSITE
HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL
SIDING, STONE DETAILING, BAY
WINDOWS, AND STANDING-
SEAM COPPER ROOFING.

meet the architect
TODD ROSENBLUM

INTERVIEW WITH TODD ROSENBLUM

Behind every exceptional home is an architect who ensures every detail is just right, and for many families, that architect is Todd Rosenblum. As the founder and principal of Rosenblum Architecture in Rockland County, NY, Todd has spent more than three decades shaping spaces with a rare balance of creativity, practicality, and technical mastery. His portfolio spans luxury custom residences, shuls, and retail environments throughout the Tri-State Area and beyond. Renowned for managing everything from exterior architecture to complete interior space planning, Todd designs spaces that are both eye-catching and thoughtfully crafted.

Looking back, what interests or experiences first sparked your curiosity about architecture?

As a child, I spent much of my time drawing, building with Legos, Lincoln Logs, Tinkertoys, and Erector sets. During high school, I took several classes in art and mechanical drafting. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to speak with a Professor of Architecture at a local college, and that conversation convinced me that architecture was my true calling.

What was your training like, and how did your career begin?

Once I decided to become an architect, I applied to several schools

PHOTOS BY AVI SURKIS

of architecture and ultimately chose Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Upstate New York. I enrolled at just 17 years old in a combined five-year program that awarded two bachelor’s degrees: in Building Sciences and in Architecture.

At what point did you start your own firm, Rosenblum Architecture, and how did that shape your career?

After graduating from RPI, I worked for three years as an intern architect before I could take the architectural licensing exam. After passing the exam, I opened my first architectural firm, Adaptive Architecture, in Albany, New York, with a friend. For *chinuch* reasons, my family left Albany and moved to the Monsey area, where I subsequently opened Rosenblum Architecture.

Is there a big difference between how you worked 30 years ago and the tools you use today?

The use of AutoCAD, Revit, SketchUp, and other similar programs has completely revolutionized the practice of architecture. During college and my first five years working as an architect, everything was hand-drafted. I still sketch my basic floor plan ideas on tracing paper, then move to the computer as soon as possible. Today, we build 3D models for all projects and produce color renderings, so our clients have a complete understanding of their house or building ahead of construction.

A TRANSITIONAL-STYLE HOME WITH SMOOTH STUCCO, A LIMESTONE WATER TABLE, AND AN EYEBROW ROOF AT THE FRONT PORCH. AN ARCHED DORMER WITH BLACK STANDING-SEAM METAL ROOFING CROWNS THE BONUS ROOM ABOVE THE GARAGE.



When you start a new project, what are the key factors you focus on first?

For every project, I conduct a detailed client interview and prepare a complete list of project requirements, including rooms, spatial relationships, construction budget, and architectural style. I then share this document with the client so they can provide any additional comments, ensuring we are all in agreement before I start designing. I have found this process to be invaluable, and it helps my initial design presentation to be very close to the end product.

What’s one thing you wish every client understood before starting a project?

Many clients think that architects are just pushing a few buttons to create the drawings we present to them. The computer is simply a tool, only as good as the person using it. So whether designing by hand or computer, the architect’s creativity is the driving force behind every design. And while making revisions is certainly easier on the computer compared to hand-drawn documents, clients typically do not realize what is involved in coordinating the changes throughout the entire set of drawings, especially once the construction documents are started or completed.

How do you work with builders, designers, and other professionals to bring a project to life?

I aim to establish a team relationship on every project. Of course, the most important team members are the client, followed by the architect, engineers, interior designers, and builder. Everyone has to work together to complete the project successfully. Every project has challenges and surprises. It’s how you deal with these that ultimately shapes the project from the client’s perspective.

How involved are you throughout a project, and is there a stage you enjoy most — and if so, why?

I think a project is most successful when the architect is involved from start to finish, from initial space planning, design, and throughout construction. I certainly enjoy the initial design phase and observing the construction to ensure it aligns with the construction documents. Seeing my clients enjoy the finished product is, of course, very satisfying.

Can you share what it was like working on The Marketplace located in Spring Valley, with numerous Jewish shops?

A TRANSITIONAL-STYLE RESIDENCE DEFINED BY EXPANSIVE WINDOWS, SMOOTH STUCCO, STONE ACCENTS, AND GENEROUS ROOF OVERHANGS. THIS DESIGN BLENDS A CLASSIC ARCHITECTURAL SILHOUETTE WITH MODERN DETAILING AND REFINED FINISHES.



A SHINGLE-STYLE HOME CLAD IN AUTHENTIC WOOD SHAKES, FULL-THICKNESS STONE VENEER, AND STANDING-SEAM COPPER ROOFING, INSPIRED BY THE TIMELESS COASTAL ARCHITECTURE OF THE HAMPTONS, NANTUCKET, AND CAPE COD.

The Marketplace project is both exciting and challenging. We continue to be involved in the full renovation of the mall, including conversion of the former Michael’s and Bed Bath & Beyond into an indoor mall, and conversion of the former Christmas Tree Shops into an entertainment venue. Many well-known Jewish retailers and restaurants are tenants there. As the mall architect, Rosenblum Architecture has worked with multiple builders, numerous interior designers, and of course, the development team, including the owner and real estate agents. For the interior mall project, at one point, I was interacting with thirteen different interior designers!

Architecture involves both creative design and technical problem-solving. How do you balance the two?

Yes, architecture is a blending of creativity and structural design and detailing. The trick is not needing to compromise on either, while ensuring both work together in harmony.

For someone considering a career in architecture, what natural talents or strengths do you think are most important?



A MODERN STYLE, SINGLE-STORY HOME FEATURING FLOOR TO CEILING WINDOWS, CUSTOM TRAPEZOID WINDOWS, COMPOSITE 'WOOD LOOK' VERTICAL SIDING, AND STONE, PRESENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

To be a successful architect, you must have passion, drive, dedication, and talent. I would say the most important skills are creativity, three-dimensional thinking, understanding how buildings work, and the ability to communicate and present ideas clearly to your clients.

Can you tell us about a favorite project that was particularly challenging or exciting, and what made it stand out?

A SLEEK MODERN HOME COMPOSED OF STUCCO, LIMESTONE, AND STANDING-SEAM METAL ROOFING, CURRENTLY TAKING SHAPE.



I think every architect remembers their first large commission. Mine was designing a unique house for a disabled man and his family. The entire house had to be wheelchair accessible, with one wing set up like a hospital. The family wanted the house, located in a rural area of Upstate New York, to be inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie Style. Today, while still having a great zeal for designing unique custom homes, commercial, and retail environments, I also have a strong commitment to working on Jewish community projects, including *shuls*, *mikvahs*, and *yeshivas*. ●

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Perfect Form & Function

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