

More and more American Jews are becoming interested in the spiritual and ritual possibilities of mikveh: the building that houses the ritual bath. The Mayyim Hayyim initiative is committed to providing safe and meaningful experiences for alternative mikveh uses. Together with representatives from the Jewish Domestic Violence Coalition, the Jewish Coalition for Breast Cancer, the Wellness Community of Greater Boston, and many local synagogues, programs are being developed to provide support and healing during times of adversity as well as celebration. The biblical image – locating Eden as the source of fresh water – speaks to the mystical ways that water can be an element of transformation.

The project is an addition to an historic nineteenth century structure that houses the Center’s meeting rooms and offices. The addition consists of two mikva’ot and changing rooms, along with a receiving space and living room. The spaces are designed with tiles evoking basic earth tones, coupled with water and ample clerestory light, giving each bath a sense of historic connection while packaged in a contemporary design. The exterior of the building is clad with the same clapboard as the existing structure, but highlighted with two textured slate walls.



Client  
**Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters  
 Community Mikveh  
 and Education Center**

Contractor  
**Buildout Construction**

Project Manager  
**Kaufman & Arnold**

Size  
**2,900 S.F.**

Cost  
**\$750,000**

**Top**  
 Main entry

**Center Left**  
 Meeting Room / Reception

**Bottom Right**  
 Mikveh

**Bottom Left**  
 Detail, Mikveh