



Margulies & Associates Receives Accessible Design Award

*Receives award in public architecture for work with
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts*

BOSTON, Mass. – June 13, 2006 – Margulies & Associates, one of Boston’s most innovative architectural and interior design firms, announced today that it was awarded an Accessible Design Award in the public architecture category for its work at the Quincy facility of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (BCBSMA). Co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (AAB) and the Boston Society of Architects (BSA), the Accessible Design Awards Program recognizes excellence in the design of buildings or facilities that are accessible for persons of all abilities. Margulies & Associates accepted the award at a ceremony at the Massachusetts State House on May 31st.

“Margulies & Associates used inventive design methods to increase building access. Through the use of ramps and sloping walkways, designers created an exciting and updated lobby welcoming all people with disabilities who visit and work at BCBSMA’s building in Quincy,” said Thomas Hopkins, executive director of the Architectural Access Board, a division of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Safety. “The designs reflect an inviting and accessible entrance to a public office building, offering employment and training for people with disabilities and thus meeting the goal of increasing workplace accessibility for disabled people.”

“The ADA guidelines established a bare minimum of what design professionals need to consider when designing, building or renovating a public or commercial facility. But these guidelines are cold and abstract – sinks must be so many inches high, doorways must be so wide, etc. What we tend to forget is that these guidelines were designed to make life easier for people. Going above these guidelines doesn’t necessarily cost any more; but it can have a huge impact upon the people actually using the space,” said Janet Morra, AIA, principal of Margulies & Associates.

BCBSMA arranged a focus group of employees with disabilities and invited the design team from Margulies & Associates to participate. Over the course of a few hours, the group talked about the everyday challenges individuals with disabilities face. Most people won’t complain because they don’t want to rock the boat and they were thrilled to be invited to share their experiences. In fact, one

participant commented, “no one has ever asked us before.” It was very empowering for the people with disabilities and had an equally powerful impact upon Margulies & Associates, the design professionals, and the solutions selected to solve design challenges.

About Margulies & Associates

Now in its 18th year of operation, Margulies & Associates is a Boston design firm providing architecture and interior design services to the corporate, institutional, and real estate communities. The firm's corporate clients include Liberty Mutual, Partners Healthcare, Forrester Research, RSA Security, Akamai Technologies, and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. For more information, please visit www.margulies.com/.

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