



Biography: Barry Svigals, FAIA
Managing Partner, Architect and Sculptor

“I am inspired by sculpture in architecture – a centuries-old tradition, which can serve as a meaningful and beautiful expression of the architecture. Figurative sculpture, in particular, has the power to engage people in an intimate relationship to their surroundings. It can bring to life the purpose and meaning of a building, enhancing its service to functional needs. Today, perhaps more than ever, we need this reminder of our humanity.” – Barry Svigals

The pursuit of sculpture in architecture is a natural path for Barry Svigals, who is both an architect and a sculptor. After working for several years as an architect, his interest in sculpture led him to Paris to study sculpture at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts. Working with one of the last, great professors of figurative sculpture, Maurice Calka, he developed his talent as a sculptor and recognized the powerful effect of combining sculpture with architecture. Incorporating figurative art in architecture has been a tradition for thousands of years and while modern architecture of the 20th century moved away from art and ornamentation, Svigals has embraced them.

After returning from France, Svigals opened his own architecture firm, Svigals Associates (which would become Svigals + Partners in 2001) in New Haven in 1983, where integrating figurative art in architecture, applied to all types of architectural projects, would become a signature capability of the firm. Through his elegant use of sculpture in architecture, Svigals has become known for designing “inspiring architecture” and for reviving figurative sculpture in architecture in the 21st century.

Svigals has considerable architectural experience in education, master planning, scientific research laboratories and corporations. He has designed projects for more than 200 clients throughout the Northeast including Yale University, Yale School of Medicine, Yale-New Haven

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Hospital, Mystic Aquarium Institute for Exploration, City of Hartford, Eastman Kodak Company, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, Cellular Genomics, CuraGen Corporation, Central Connecticut State University, Eastern Connecticut State University and a host of Connecticut elementary schools.

He is particularly known, however, for his striking work for educational institutions, from K-8 schools to universities. The rich combination and imaginative use of sculpture in architecture is prevalent in most of Svigals' projects, where he sculpted individual pieces expressive of the institutional mission:

- ❑ **Boston College, The Carroll School of Management**, Chestnut Hill, Mass.
Sculptures of apostles add rich detail and expressions of the College's Jesuit heritage, and are incorporated into the architecture at twelve locations where pilasters extended beyond the walls.
- ❑ **Norwalk Community College Center for Information Technology**, Norwalk, Conn.
Sculpted faces of prominent contributors to the field of communication, from Demosthenes to Alan Turing, are placed in a metaphorical conversation across time.
- ❑ **University of Connecticut, Center for Undergraduate Education and Neag School of Education**, Storrs, Conn.
77 sculptural panels were installed to create a frieze covering more than half of the exteriors of two major building additions; the sculptures are comprised of figures interwoven with 12 letters found in the University's name, forming inspirational words and phrases.
- ❑ **Albertus Magnus College**, New Haven, Conn.
A 950-pound (9' x 6'), inspiring bronze sculpture of St. Albert the Great, intended as a "moving" telemon for the entryway of the new academic center, expresses the mission and celebrates the history of the College.
- ❑ **Edgewood Avenue K-8 Arts Magnet School**, New Haven, Conn.
Inspired by photos taken by schoolchildren, Svigals sculpted a series of faces depicted in various styles, expressing the different moods and attitudes of the children contemplating going back to school after the summer; the sculptures were placed in the facades of the building and are illuminated in surprising ways throughout the day.
- ❑ **Beecher PreK-8 School**, New Haven, Conn.
A 500-foot-long ornamental frieze of dancing children – containing more than 250 "cut-out" aluminum images – wraps around the entire school; the frieze, a contemporary interpretation of classical architecture, acts as a playground for light and reflectivity.

Svigals has created inventive architectural designs for numerous other elementary schools and universities, many of which began with the inclusion of sculpture in the process of designing architecture. In addition, for the past decade, Svigals has been involved in the revitalization of urban schools, developing successful partnerships with the City of New Haven, Conn. and the City of Waterbury, Conn., in their local school renovation efforts. In his vision and work, Svigals is reawakening the tradition of sculpture in architecture and exploring its inclusion in both traditional and contemporary ways.

Svigals has been honored with many top professional awards throughout his career. Most recently, Svigals was elevated to the prestigious Fellowship of the American Institute of Architects (FAIA) in 2007, for his contribution to the architectural profession, specifically his sculptural artwork in architecture. In May 2006, he received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree from Albertus Magnus College for his creation of an extraordinary sculpture of Albert the Great, which was integrated into a major new academic center developed by his firm. He has also received the 2004 American School & University Louis I. Kahn Citation; a 2003 Connecticut Inner City 10 Entrepreneurship Award; the 2002 International Masonry Institute Golden Trowel Award; the 2000 AIA Connecticut Drawing Award; and the AIA CT Emerging Architect Award in 1990.

A member of the American Institute of Architects, and an FAIA Fellow, Svigals is a faculty member of the Yale School of Architecture, New Haven, and was previously a visiting critic and lecturer at the Unite Pedagogique d'Architecture, Charenton, France. He has conducted conferences on facility planning for creative enterprises at the Graduate School of Business at Harvard University and at Stanford University. Most recently, he presented a seminar on "The Impact of Information Technology on the Campuses of the 21st Century" at the Society of College and University Planners National Convention in Chicago. Svigals was formerly the Chair of the Cultural Affairs Commission for the City of New Haven and recently served as the president of ARTSPACE, a non-profit performing and visual art center in New Haven.

A native of Montclair, N.J., Svigals is a graduate of the Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, Conn., and was an English-Speaking Union Scholar at Uppingham School, Uppingham, England. He

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received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Yale College and a Master of Architecture degree from the Yale School of Architecture. He resides in Guilford, Conn. with his wife, Diane. They have three children.

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Contact:	Kathleen Stevens	Laura Stevens
	(860) 677-8821	(860) 677-8821
	kathleens@keiler.com	lauras@keiler.com