



Profile: Svigals + Partners

“To engage, to enliven, to surprise and delight: this is our collective passion.”

At the center of company partners Barry Svigals and Jay Brotman’s imaginative approach to architecture is the integration of original figurative and ornamental art, a philosophy influenced by managing partner Barry Svigals and his classical training as a sculptor. In fact, Svigals + Partners is fast earning a reputation for reviving the practice of integrating sculpture, figurative and decorative art with architecture, and moving it into the design vernacular of the 21st century. Innovative projects at Boston College, Albertus Magnus College, Norwalk Community College and a host of Connecticut elementary schools, among others, exemplify Svigals + Partners’ commitment to crafting details that open to a building’s deeper purpose.

“We are interested in reawakening the tradition of figurative art in architecture to enliven our architecture with handmade sculptural artwork,” stated Svigals. “Sculpture gives voice to a building’s mission and provides evidence of the human touch often absent from more abstract and spare contemporary architecture. The relationship we create between architecture and art offers a dimension of expression that is unusual today, one that complements the functional response to individual and collective needs. It aims to engage people in the architecture at a more intimate and experiential level.”

He added, “A creatively designed environment that pleases and nurtures also encourages people and organizations to be more creative themselves.”

This desire to connect people to their environments in ways that are inspiring and engaging enables

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Svigals + Partners to bring a fundamentally humane approach to the clients it serves most often: those working in education and scientific research.

Enlivening Schools with Animation, Inspiration

Since its founding, Svigals + Partners has specialized in the design and construction of educational environments from children's museums to advanced university research facilities. Projects range from feasibility studies for elementary schools to master planning, and from renovation work to new construction. An aspect of the firm's expertise lies in the sensitive integration of new and expanded facilities that strategically maximize existing resources to create a coherent image – and an inspiring atmosphere for the students.

A particular area of focus that has developed during the last decade is the revitalization of urban schools. Since 1996, Svigals + Partners has successfully collaborated with the city of New Haven, Conn. in the replacement of four elementary schools, and is working with the cities of Bridgeport, Conn. and Waterbury, Conn. to transform several more. Every educational project reflects the company's interest in creating a symbiotic relationship between architecture and art, with the ultimate goal of creating colorful, captivating and highly stimulating learning spaces.

Experts in Sustainable and Biotech Design

Equal to its commitment to designing creative environments is Svigals + Partners' concern for sustainability – which permeates every design it generates, particularly laboratory facilities, such as those at Yale University and throughout Connecticut's biotech sector.

As laboratory architects, Svigals + Partners has an international reputation in the creation of life science research environments. In seeking to eradicate the typical dark, sterile rabbit warren-type laboratory, the firm is creating comfortable and visually appealing, yet highly functional, environments that encourage collaboration among workers, and contribute to lower absenteeism rates, higher productivity and talent influx/retention. By originating state-of-the-art biotech spaces that carefully balance research concerns with human elements, Svigals + Partners has built a strong reputation for fashioning innovative “green”

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designs incorporating sustainability with all aspects of laboratory design. Consequently, the company is responsible for designing a significant percentage of the new state-of-the-art research facilities now populating Connecticut's bioscience cluster, including those devoted to cell biology, molecular biology, chemistry, physiology and animal care.

Jay Brotman is considered an authority whose expert opinion in biotechnology facility planning and design is sought nationally and internationally. He is currently providing consulting services to Queen Mary University in London, England, on a \$40 million biotechnology incubator center.

"Our sustainable designs embody a sense of well being because people *feel* our architecture," stated Brotman. "We create spaces in which they can interact, and conduct business and sensitive research... spaces that balance functional needs with human needs. By bringing the human perspective into a highly technological society, we enable people to build a strong relationship with the world in which they work and live."

History

Svigals + Partners was founded in 1983 (then known as Svigals Associates) by Barry Svigals, a graduate of the Yale School of Architecture who studied sculpture at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts in Paris. With Svigals' experience in academic and corporate architecture, the firm received several major commissions, most notably with Boston College, which led to the 120,000 square foot renovation and expansion of the College's Carroll School of Management.

Early on, the firm earned recognition for its ability to support and express the mission and ideals of each client. Svigals accomplished this by being attentive to a wide range of concerns: individual, institutional, economic and ecological.

"Every design decision emerges from a deep respect for these dynamics, which shapes the success of the project," Svigals explained. "With such understanding built into the process, the conditions are created for an open collaboration between the client, architect, community and natural environment. Ultimately, the

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pleasure of the process is revealed in the quality of the design.”

The marriage of this process with Svigals’ passion for integrating sculpture and ornamental art into project interiors and exteriors paved the way for the firm’s success. It quickly grew to 15 architects, expanding its expertise to include school planning and laboratory design – the latter due in large part to Brotman’s green building consciousness and talent for configuring life science environments. Simultaneously, the company gained a reputation for developing creative and cost-effective solutions to architectural design challenges. With its growth came a partnership with Jay Brotman in 2001 and a new name: Svigals + Partners.

Today, Svigals + Partners is a full-service architectural design firm, still based in New Haven. The company employs 25 and serves clients throughout the United States.

Sample Client List

The Svigals + Partners project portfolio is varied and includes many prominent clients:

Achillion Pharmaceuticals	New Haven, Conn.
Albertus Magnus College	New Haven, Conn.
Boston College	Chestnut Hill, Mass.
Casey Family Services	New Haven, Conn.
Cellular Genomics	Branford, Conn.
Central Connecticut State University	New Britain, Conn.
City of Hartford	Hartford, Conn.
CuraGen Corporation	Branford, Conn.
Eastern Connecticut State University	Willimantic, Conn.
Eastman Kodak Company	New Haven, Conn.
Edgewood Avenue K-8 Magnet School	New Haven, Conn.
Federal Bureau of Investigation	New Haven, Conn.
Hole in the Wall Gang Camp	New Haven, Conn.
Ikonisys	New Haven, Conn.
John S. Martinez PreK-8 School	New Haven, Conn.
Mystic Aquarium Institute for Exploration	Mystic, Conn.
Norwalk Community College	Norwalk, Conn.
Planned Parenthood of Connecticut	New Haven, Conn.
Science Park	New Haven, Conn.

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Temple Israel
University of Connecticut
Vion Pharmaceuticals
Yale-New Haven Hospital
Yale University
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Westport, Conn.
Storrs, Conn.
New Haven, Conn.
New Haven, Conn.
New Haven, Conn.

For more information about Svigals + Partners, visit www.svigals.com

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