

Issue Date: 12/12/2007, Posted On: 12/12/2007

Margulies & Associates Renovates Historic Building for Shelter, Inc.

BOSTON - Margulies & Associates announced that it is renovating a historic building in Cambridge, Mass. for Shelter, Inc. When completed, it will serve as a 14-bedroom supportive housing facility for homeless women.

Founded in 1974, Shelter, Inc. is a non-profit organization built on the belief that providing affordable housing to families and individuals as quickly as possible, along with intensive support services, is the solution to ending homelessness. The house is currently under renovation and will be completed in the spring of 2008. Each woman will receive her own room, and a staff member will work intensively with each tenant to get her the help she needs, including education, job training and placement, and medical services.

“It was extraordinary to have someone of Marc Margulies’ stature on our side,” said Tom Lorello, executive director of Shelter, Inc. “As an architect, he is used to seeing beyond what exists today and can imagine the possibilities. Having someone with such experience to visit and evaluate potential properties is a huge asset to an organization like ours.”

As the building is a historic structure, the decision was made to restore the existing façade to its original 1860s look, including window placement, while completing gutting and renovating the interior. To work with the constraints of the existing building in converting it from a single-family home to single-room housing, Margulies & Associates changed the internal stair configuration and removed a wooden fire escape.

“On any given night, there are more than 5,000 homeless individuals in Greater Boston, including more than 3,000 children,” said Marc Margulies, AIA, principal of Margulies & Associates. “The core mission of architecture is to provide shelter from the elements. The design community can work together to do its part to create shelter for the homeless. We are proud of our work with Shelter, Inc. and look forward to the day when these women can move in and have a place of their own.”

The project team consists of Development Concepts, Inc., contractor; The Collaborative Engineers, mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineer; and, Nitsch Engineers, Inc., civil engineer. Margulies & Associates worked closely with the Cambridge Historical Commission.