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IFMA Boston Award of Excellence nominees:

May 05, 2011 - Owners Developers & Managers

Best Practice: Large Project (>150,000 s.f.)

Avid Technology, Inc.

Burlington, MA

The new 203,000 sf global headquarters creates a setting that transforms both employee and client experience through a branded, functional, and engaging environment. The new space highlights Avid's products and achievements, provides seamless multimedia integration of the customer experience, and creates a workplace with a focus on technology and adaptability. The result of unified and focused teamwork, the new facility acts as an effective sales tool, attracts and retains talent, allows for future flexibility, and improves Avid's business operations through a 20% reduction in footprint per seat, the incorporation of optimal adjacencies, and the tripling of available team work spaces to better support Avid's collaborative approach.

Biogen Idec

Weston, MA

The project team for Biogen Idec's new office space, assembled early on, was able to impact the building footprint and site development which led to a project that was tailored to the end users' needs. The decision to occupy a LEED CS Platinum base building and to design the two-phase fit-up project for LEED CI Gold Certification, demonstrates Biogen Idec's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint. The resulting design encourages collaboration and provides opportunities for cross-functional employee teaming in a thoughtfully-branded space which speaks to the patients, products, and research activities of this biotech corporation.

Acme Packet

Bedford, MA

Acme Packet, the leader in session border control solutions, relocated from its 75,000-square-foot campus in Burlington to 150,000 square feet of space at 100 Crosby Drive in Bedford. The new space conveys the message that Acme Packet is a great place to work while attracting and retaining employees and customers alike. The unified environment, which includes numerous, well stocked and easily accessible kitchens, a central café, and multiple small meeting areas, was designed to encourage communication and promote an atmosphere of teamwork and increased productivity. The onsite, central lab space is a key design element of the space and expresses competency, playfulness and cohesion, taking the company "to the next level."

Ropes & Gray, LLP

Boston, MA

Early collaboration between an expert team was at the core of successfully delivering the 450,000 square foot high-end renovations within an occupied high-rise tower on an 8-month schedule for Ropes & Gray, LLP's move to the Prudential Center. It was Ropes & Gray's commitment to sustainability, modern technology, open communication, an interactive and supportive work culture, and first-rate work environment that drove the project. As the 1,400 employees grow increasingly fond of their new location with each passing day, it is evident through its space and its operations that Ropes & Gray is truly committed to their mission of moving forward and thinking smarter.

Best Practice: Medium Project (50,000 - 150,000 s.f.)

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Boston, MA

The new Art of the Americas Wing at the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) features the Ruth and Carl J. Shapiro Family Courtyard, a soaring glass structure and spectacular light-filled gathering place that provides year-round enjoyment of the outdoors and serves as a venue for special events. To ensure that the acoustics of such a large and reverberant space would be suitable for events and presentations, the project team utilized a powerful tool called Auralization, which utilizes computer modeling software to simulate the propagation of sound within an enclosed space. This tool helped the project team identify potential acoustical problems, such as echoes, poor speech intelligibility, and sound transmission between adjacent spaces by actually hearing a simulation of how the space would sound.

Broad Institute

Cambridge, MA

The expansion of the Broad Institute into 80,000 square feet of lab and office space at 301 Binney Street supports both the research objectives and business needs of the Institute. The design's flexibility allows the Institute to respond quickly and with minimal cost to changes in research programs over time. "Scientific Living Rooms", located along main pedestrian arteries, are integral to Broad's culture, as they provide opportunities for collaboration and encourage holistic-problem solving. The actual delivery of the project also succeeded in meeting the business needs of the

organization: through collaborative activities designed to fast-track the project such as Design-Assist and innovating programming, the project was delivered under budget and ahead of the break-neck , 22-week construction schedule.

EMD Serono, Inc.
Rockland, MA

The new state-of-the-art, 140,000 square foot facility for EMD Serono is not only rated LEED Gold, but is also designed to suit the unique needs of researchers and foster enhanced collaboration between the therapeutic areas. The design reveals an organization of labs, offices, and interactive spaces that promote interdisciplinary collaboration and support EMD Serono's research mission. In addition to the satisfaction with the space expressed by the building's occupants, the success of the project is based on the accomplishment of three main goals established at the project's onset: complete the project on schedule to minimize disruption to ongoing research; ensure the highest level of safety standards throughout construction; and build a sustainable facility that would have minimal environmental impact.

Palomar Medical Technologies
Burlington, MA

Palomar Medical Technologies' new manufacturing and office facility supports and enhances Palomar's goals for its business operations and company culture in addition to meeting the project requirements for budget and schedule. With flexibility at the core of the design, the result is a cohesive, highly adjustable environment that allows for lab sizes to easily change. The new "all in one" facility allows Palomar employees to collaborate across the board to meet the needs of their healthcare clients and to continue to rise to the challenge of designing the most advanced laser and IPL technology solutions. The building is a reflection of Palomar's dedication to service, commitment to production quality and overall technical ingenuity.

Best Practice: Small Project (

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