



nerej

Essex Builders to build addition at The First Church in Salem; design provided by Menders, Torrey & Spencer

August 18, 2011 - Construction Design & Engineering

Essex Builders Corp. has been selected by The First Church in Salem, Unitarian, as its construction manager for a new addition and interior renovation. Architect of record, Menders, Torrey & Spencer, Inc. prepared construction documents reflecting a mandate from the church's master planning committee. The main goals are to provide universal access, achieved by employing an elevator within the new addition with an at-grade entrance; and the installation of a new heating system, which reflects the church's commitment to conservation and sustainable energy values. Other elements of the design focus on improving areas ancillary to the Meetinghouse, for the benefit of community programs which include a pre-school.

"Being good stewards of our church and the earth are duties that we embrace with enthusiasm," the Rev. Jeff Barz-Snell said. "Our congregation is blessed with many conscientious volunteers who have worked tirelessly to bring this project into the construction phase, and in a manner that reflects our core values of community and sustainability. Our master plan & implementation committee should be commended for the manner in which it has managed this process."

"Our design firm specializes in historic restoration and addressing challenges presented by landmark legacies such as this beautiful building," said Lynne Spencer, principal at Menders, Torrey & Spencer. "Our final design reflects this church's historic pedigree and yet permits the congregation to better utilize the building in concert with current codes and ordinances, making it accessible to all while respecting the heritage of the Meetinghouse."

David O'Neil, president of Essex Bldrs. said, "Our company has established a reputation for placing the needs of its clients first and foremost. It truly is a privilege to be entrusted with completing this special assignment."

New England Real Estate Journal - 17 Accord Park Drive #207, Norwell MA 02061 - (781) 878-4540