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Finegold Alexander Architects receives two 2024 Preservation Massachusetts Paul & Niki Tsongas Awards

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Lower Basin Barracks - Boston, MA

Boston, MA According to Finegold Alexander Architects, the Lower Basin Barracks and The First Church of Christ, Scientist projects have received 2024 Preservation Massachusetts Paul & Niki Tsongas Awards. The annual awards program honors projects that display the highest level of commitment to historic preservation in the state.

The Lower Basin Barracks, a 15,000 s/f renovation and addition project, revitalized an undersized

1908 facility in significant disrepair to support the State Police with current and future mission requirements. Preserving the historic fabric of the building, Finegold Alexander modernized the existing structure and created additional space for the consolidation of the state police troops and closure of the Upper Basin Barracks. Recognized on the National Register of Historic Places, this landmark underwent a renovation, showcasing the firm's dedication to historical authenticity. Finegold Alexander restored the exterior masonry and preserved the original elements despite the complex programmatic needs of a police station. The Charles River Basin transom grilles, roof profile, and detailed wood window frames, were all preserved. The iconic tower, a Charles River landmark, with its copper bays, was retained and restored.

The First Church of Christ, Scientist - The Mother Church

The First Church of Christ, Scientist - The Mother Church sits at the center of the Christian Science Center Plaza, the largest privately owned, publicly accessible open space in the city. This iconic building is comprised of two structures constructed at different times: the Romanesque Revival The Mother Church Original (TMCO) designed by Franklin Welch and completed in 1894; and the larger Neoclassical domed edifice, The Mother Church Extension (TMCX) designed by Charles Brigham & Charles Covery and Solon Beman of Chicago, completed in 1906.

The 192,000 s/f limestone, granite, and terra cotta structure required both exterior and interior restoration, including the ornate dome that sits 200 ft. above grade and the build of the original Guastavino semi-domes. The semi-dome required a custom stainless steel cable system supporting a terra cotta rain screen. The multi-phased project spanned over eight years and added 100+ years to the building's life.

Simpson Gumpertz & Heger (SGH) was the building envelope and structural engineer for the restoration of the building exterior, while Finegold Alexander Architects served as the architect for the interior restoration work. Shawmut Design and Construction served as the construction manager, tasked with implementing the preservation work to restore the building to its original vision while leaving behind no trace of the extensive work that was completed.

"Our firm is passionate about our historic preservation work, and it has been an honor to work with The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and our collaborative team of experts to restore and preserve one of Boston's most iconic historic structures," said Finegold Alexander Principal Regan Shields Ives.

As experts in historic preservation, this recognition stands as a tribute to Finegold Alexander's remarkable ability to preserve and celebrate historic architecture to best serve local communities.