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TSOI/KOBUS & ASSOCIATES WINS

***CONTRACT* MAGAZINE “INSPIRATIONS AWARD”**

Pro-Bono Renovation of Group Home for Foster Teens Noted for “Boldness and Clarity”

CAMBRIDGE, MA [April 10, 2010] — Cambridge-based Tsoi/Kobus & Associates (www.tka-architects.com) is the winner of *Contract* magazine’s “Inspirations Award” for their pro-bono renovation of Putnam Place, a group home for foster teens in Dorchester, MA. The award was presented on April 9 and includes a \$5,000 grant to Cambridge Family & Children’s Services, which oversees the home.

In announcing the winning project, judges said: “Design collaborations can be challenging—adult/teen collaborations even more so—but this project pulled it off with boldness and clarity.”

The winning project originated in September 2008 when TK&A founders Rick Kobus and Ed Tsoi decided to mark their firm’s twenty-fifth anniversary by providing free design and renovation services to a local non-profit. With the help of the United Way of Massachusetts Bay, TK&A selected Putnam Place. The boys who live there are transitioning to life on their own in the adult world, and the house is meant to provide a supportive home environment. Unfortunately, its primary gathering space was a damp, dark, and cluttered basement. TK&A saw an opportunity to make a demonstrable difference in the boys’ quality of life.

The renovation process began with a series of meetings between the teens living at Putnam Place and TK&A’s architects and interior designers. A wish list of improvements was established, and with project partner Commodore Builders of Newton on board, the yearlong transformation of the basement into an attractive and welcoming lounge, study space, woodworking shop, laundry room, and state-of-the-art recording studio was underway.

“The boys at Putnam Place never had a place to call their own before,” says TK&A designer Keisy Marquez. “This new space gives them an alternative to the streets and provides them a safe place to gain new skills, pursue hobbies, and just hang out.”

The *Contract* Inspirations Award recognizes social responsibility in commercial interior architecture—using design and/or design skills to improve the quality of life for those in need. Judges for this year’s competition included Prataap Patrose, Director of Urban Design, Boston Redevelopment Authority; John Cary, Executive Director, Public Architecture; and Trisha Wilson, President and CEO, Wilson & Associates.

“Seeing the boys at Putnam Place enjoying this space has been tremendously rewarding for all of us,” says Rick Kobus. “And this recognition from *Contract* is wonderful validation that good works do matter.”

About Tsoi/Kobus & Associates

Tsoi/Kobus & Associates was founded in 1983 and has since grown to become one of the nation's leading architecture, planning, and interior design firms for healthcare, science and technology, college and university, and commercial real estate projects. The firm's award-winning designs are rooted in solutions that advance clients' strategic goals and missions, and that combine cutting-edge technology with compassion and creativity. TK&A has been recognized by *Architectural Record* magazine as one of the country's "Best Managed Firms," by *Engineering News-Record* as one of the top 500 design firms, and by *Architecture* magazine as one of the "Top 50 Global Giants."

About Commodore Builders

Commodore Builders provides its clients with a wide range of construction services, from project conception to pre-construction, execution, close-out and warranty service. Its Senior Management team has deep roots in the Boston market and strong ties to the building community. Its firm is well managed financially, and is proud of the enduring relationships with its clients, partners and top subcontractors in the marketplace. The firm was named by the Boston Globe as one of the Top 100 Places to Work in Massachusetts. For more information, please visit www.commodorebuilders.com.

For more information about Tsoi/Kobus & Associates, please call 617/475-4000 or visit www.tka-architects.com.

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