

High-Profile: Facilities Development News

Mike Glier's, *Town Green* Murals, in Cambridge City Hall Annex

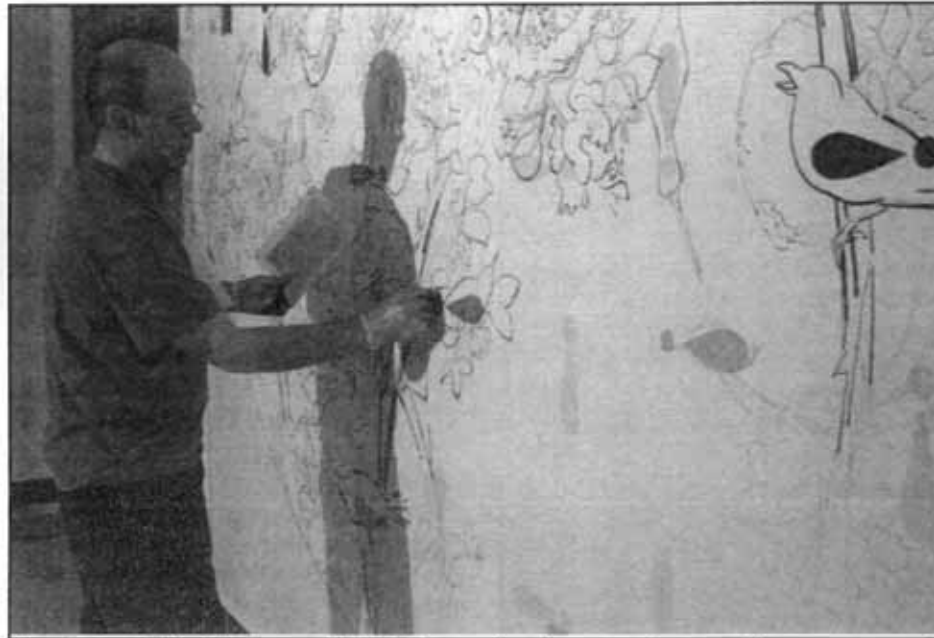
City of Cambridge, Arts Council, and MTC team with Consigli Construction, HKT Architects

Cambridge, MA - According to Lillian Hsu of the Cambridge Arts Council Council "Mike Glier's permanent public art for the Cambridge City Hall Annex is conceptually tied to the function and mission of the building. His evocative paintings are derived from the mission statements of the City departments that will occupy the building - Community Development; Traffic, Parking and Transportation; Arts Council; Animal Commission; and the Conservation Commission. He structured his paintings around four themes: Transparency, Flow, Growth, and Pleasure.

The images depict urban views: birds and roses; porch vines climbing the walls; a girl lying in the grass, reading; a view from above of office workers on a coffee break. These murals cover four large walls in the building's two-story atrium and transform the space into an indoor 'garden.'"

According to Glier, "I enjoy looking closely at things that are very near and celebrating them. Sometimes I think this simple act of looking carefully at the surrounding world is the most profound thing an artist can do."

Glier has had solo exhibitions in New York's Museum of Modern Art, the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Drawing Center in New York. His work has been in numerous group exhibitions at such institutions as the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; and the Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art.



The Annex will be his first work in the Boston area.

Hsu's comment that "Mike's murals - known collectively as *Town Green* - fill the space with a visualization of the word "Green" as it is used in the phrase 'Green building'" is a direct reference to the Annex's rebirth as a valuable public showcase of renewable energy technologies, much of which is funded by the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC), the state's development agency for renewable energy and the innovation economy.

MTC manages the Renewable Energy Trust, which is an essential part of the state's strategy to reduce dependence on foreign energy sources by encourag-

ing the use of renewable resources such as wind and solar power.

Rounding out the restoration/renovation team with the City of Cambridge, the Arts Council and MTC are HKT Architects and Consigli Construction.

HKT, a Somerville based architectural firm, is most well known for its mission-driven green design for municipalities and institutions.

Consigli, an almost 100 year old New England construction firm based in Milford, received accolades for its leadership in environmental practices in the construction industry, specifically for its construction waste recycling program.

Rich Rossi, Cambridge deputy city

manager, said, "The City of Cambridge has long been a leader in municipal innovations, including best practices in environmental planning, urban design and public art. Such innovations enhance the city's longstanding tradition of providing the highest quality of services to its residents."

The Cambridge City Hall Annex was built in 1871 as the Harvard School. It suffered a fire in 1899 followed by a heralded renovation. School use was discontinued in 1939 when it was converted into a municipal office building. In 1999, the building was evacuated due to mold contamination forcing the temporary relocation of the occupants.

The need for remediation presented an opportunity for the City of Cambridge to demonstrate that a municipality could take a leadership position by completely redesigning the building with historic preserva-



tion, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and environmental sustainability established as primary goals.

The building will be open to the public in early 2004. The murals were commissioned by the City of Cambridge through the Cambridge Arts Council's Public Art Program.