



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Facilities Services

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Mr. Jack Tribbia  
President  
Berglund Construction  
8410 South Chicago Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60617

Dear Jack,

I am writing this letter to express my gratitude for Berglund Construction's work on the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration Curtain Wall Rehabilitation project on which your company served as the Restoration Specialists.

During the 15-week project, the Ludwig Mies van der Rohe-designed building at 969 E. 60<sup>th</sup> St. was repainted, fitted with new glass and metal stops, and restored to its original luster. The renovation of the nearly 43-year-old building has enhanced the structure's original purpose, which reflects that of the school: To provide an open space where people from all walks of life gather. "The huge lobby of the building is a great operation and community space, one that allows us to be flexible with all kinds of events. It really has become a resource, not only for SSA, but for the University and the community," said Keith Madderom, Associate Dean for Administration, who helped oversee the restoration.

The replication of the floor-to-ceiling glass lites is a challenge all restorers of Mies buildings struggle with. Berglund worked diligently with subcontractors and suppliers to find replacement glass that honored the original aesthetics while maintaining the building's structural integrity. "The glass Mies used in 1965 was different than what you find now. Even one-eighth of an inch (difference in) thickness can create engineering dilemmas," Madderom explained.

The replication of the paint finish presented yet another challenge. The paint finish utilized by Mies can no longer be employed in part because of its high lead content. Berglund and the architectural team worked in partnership with Tnemec to create a three-coat system that closely and safely approximated Mies' vision.

Berglund has, without exception, completed this project with a high quality of workmanship, safely, on time and within the project budget. Berglund brings to our projects at the University a high degree of professionalism and a highly skilled staff of experienced construction specialists. The team leadership proved knowledgeable, helpful and provided good communicators throughout the process. The company's collaboration with the architect, Krueck & Sexton, and the University during both the bidding phase as well as during the construction period ensured a product of high quality. It is this professionalism that my colleagues and I have appreciated throughout our years working with Berglund.

Thus Berglund Construction has my highest recommendation for any Restoration and Renovation Project. I am happy to have the opportunity to recommend Berglund Construction for future University of Chicago projects.

Sincerely,  
Barry O'Quinn