

Bergmeyer Associates and MB Wellington Studio Create New Dimensions in Luminosity Using Lightblocks

Nashua, NH January 2006 ... While looking for a luminous material that carries and reflects light for new projects, Bergmeyer Associates, Inc. discovered Lightblocks®, a translucent plastic that is stronger than glass, resists scratching and provides a soothing, colorful glow when illuminated. Lightblocks is created by MB Wellington Studio, a studio that strives to turn each of its clients design visions into a reality through dedication, teamwork and creativity. “We love the Lightblocks material for its durability and luminosity, but it is the dedicated and well informed team at MB Wellington Studio that makes working with it an exceptional experience,” says Matt Hyatt, RA, Associate at Bergmeyer.

MB Wellington Studio’s ability to transform seemingly impossible design visions into tangible installations has resulted in luminous Lightblocks installations worldwide. “We understand what it is like to have a vision and to want that vision to be materialized, whatever the challenge is,” says MB Wellington Studio founder and President, sculptor Mary Boone Wellington. “Our strength lies in our responsiveness to the visions of our clients. We provide fast custom samples, accurate information about our polymers and are willing to invent solutions that are tailored to a specific project.”

To date Bergmeyer has incorporated Lightblocks into several national projects and used it for everything from signs, to tables to light fixtures. “We seem to choose it for different reasons each time,” says Hyatt.

Tasteful Design: Table 1280

Nowhere is Bergmeyer’s innovative use of Lightblocks more evident than at Table 1280, an elegant new 150 seat restaurant that is located in the Renzo Piano Building Workshop designed Woodruff Arts Center in Atlanta, GA. For the design of Table 1280, Bergmeyer wanted to relate to the building’s architectural context of floating planes and articulated gaps between components. “We considered our project as a collection of furnishings set within the large gallery spaces that Renzo Piano Building Workshop created and wanted these furnishings to be sympathetic to the design ideas found throughout the building itself,” says Hyatt. “At the same time we wanted to make our pieces out of something that would be unique to the restaurant.”

Table 1280’s ice colored host station and twenty-six foot long, four inch thick bar, both of which incorporate dramatically cantilevered slabs, are almost entirely fabricated of Lightblocks. “The host station and bar are great examples of how details develop when a designer and fabricator are really aligned around a design goal,” says Hyatt. “Working with full-scale mockups, we devised a way of concealing necessary fasteners, holding the opaque panels back from the edges and expressing the thickness of the backers as a series of open vertical joints.” The resulting fixtures appear as a collection of translucent planes floating past each other.

One of the most striking pieces in the restaurant is a massive, six-foot long custom rectangular shaped sink owing its origins to Wellington’s early work with acrylic layering in vases designed for the MOMA retail stores. Its single basin actually passes through the fully mirrored wall that divides the men’s side from the women’s side of the restroom – appearing to float in mid-air. “We asked MB Wellington Studio if they’d ever made a sink out of Lightblocks and their response was ‘not yet,’ says Hyatt.” New tools and

lamination techniques were developed by the fabrication team at MB Wellington Studio to make it possible.

Soaring Architecture: Logan International Airport

Looking ahead, the planned renovation of Terminal B at Logan International Airport provides an opportunity for Bergmeyer and MB Wellington Studio to collaborate again. This time the challenge is to create a dramatic luminous, ice colored ceiling that will bridge the rectilinear geometry of the ceiling with the curvilinear geometry of terrazzo flooring. “Although it is working out to be a relatively simple kit of parts, the effect is like a massive collection of custom light fixtures,” says Hyatt. A key factor that led to Bergmeyer’s selection of Lightblocks for the project is that the material is available in a Class A fire rated polycarbonate base.

Lightblocks Defined

Lightblocks can be custom designed for nearly any interior or exterior architectural use, including lighting fixtures, furniture, doors, ceilings, walls, flooring or sculptures. Custom color samples are shipped within days of request and the lead time of four to eight weeks for the final product is remarkably short for a custom material. It is made from strong, yet lightweight translucent acrylic or polycarbonate panels normally, but clear polymer may be used as a Lightblocks base depending on the application. The panels can be made in any transparency and any thickness. Beautiful hand pigmented hues can be customized to match paint chips or fabric swatches to produce an infinite number of color offerings via a patented technology. In addition, Lightblocks can be cut into any size or shape and is available in a Class A Fire Rated version in accordance with the ASTM E84 test method. Should a panel become scratched, the scratch is easily removed by rubbing it gently with a Scotch Brite pad. Lightblocks can be custom textured or carved with graphic lettering.

Because Lightblocks is custom made to order in any color, thickness, and any base polymer, acrylic polycarbonate, or PETG depending on the demands of the project, there is little waste. All excess materials are recycled at the highest possible level, reflecting a dedication to sustainability. “Used as a design element, plastics make a wonderful contribution to sustainable construction,” says Wellington. “They can replace less functional materials, provide more strength and durability and are 100% recyclable.” MB Wellington Studio will accept back and recycle any Lightblocks materials that are being removed for redesign, new tenants or change of theme.

About Bergmeyer:

Founded in 1973, Bergmeyer is an award-winning architecture and interior design firm specializing in commercial and residential buildings, institutional projects, corporate interiors, and retail and food service design. Bergmeyer has consistently been ranked as a “Design Giant” by *Interior Design* magazine and as one of the top Architecture and Interior Design firms in Boston by the *Boston Business Journal*. Their clients include Levi Strauss & Co., PUMA, Harvard University, Time Inc. and the Museum of Science.

About MB Wellington Studio:

MB Wellington Studio is headquartered in Nashua, NH. It was founded by Mary Boone Wellington, who began manufacturing and marketing Lightblocks in 1999. Lightblocks is a versatile plastic that is stronger than glass, nearly impossible to scratch and provides a soothing, colorful glow when backlit. Lightblocks is made from the polymer most appropriate to the application and colored via a patented technique. Lightblocks has been used in a variety of high profile projects including the Beverly Center, IBM eBusiness offices, Hartford Hilton, The National

Aquarium in Baltimore, Worcester State College, Atlantic City Medical Center and many more.
More information about MB Wellington Studio and LightBlocks can be obtained at
www.lightblocks.com or by calling 603-889-1115.

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