

CHARLES/MGH MBTA STATION

Boston, Massachusetts

Client: Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority



AWARDS

ACCESSIBLE DESIGN AWARD FOR
PUBLIC ARCHITECTURE
BOSTON SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS /
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHITECTURAL
ACCESS BOARD, 2009

PRESERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
BOSTON PRESERVATION ALLIANCE,
2009

The MBTA's historic Charles Street station is an important gateway to Boston, introducing riders to the Charles River, the Esplanade, and Beacon Hill, and serving world-renowned Massachusetts General Hospital. However, prior to the redesign, the elevated platform of the station was virtually impossible to reach except by daunting pedestrian bridges and stairways.

A complex private/public partnership between MassGeneral, the MBTA, and the City of Boston oversaw the process of developing the station's redesign. Three public meetings invited input from all stakeholders. After listening intently, Elkus Manfredi Architects, with joint venture partner HDR, produced a stunning design solution focused on the pedestrian experience.

The entrance to the station was moved to Cambridge Street, providing a dignified ground-level entrance for patrons who could not climb the punishing stairways of the past. Crosswalks traverse the station and offer passengers refuge from traffic and the elements. Gone are the forbidding pedestrian bridges. The historic elevated copper platform — which connects to the Longfellow Bridge — has been restored. Access to the platform is now fully accessible by elevators and escalators housed in transparent sculptural glass curves that offer views to the river and complement both the old and new surrounding architecture.



