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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
October 11, 2007

**CMSS Wins Three “IDEA” Interior Design Awards**  
*Suffolk Center for the Cultural Arts and U.S Embassy in Bulgaria*  
*Singled Out for Outstanding Interior Design*

**Virginia Beach, VA** - The American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) and the International Interior Design Association (IIDA) has honored CMSS Architects with three “IDEA” Awards for excellence for interior design. The U.S. Embassy in Sofia, Bulgaria won first place in the LEED Certified category, as did the Suffolk Center for the Cultural Arts for Historic Preservation. Suffolk Center was also given the Brightest Idea award, which recognizes the entry that most exemplify “what can be achieved through innovative design.”

In renovating the Suffolk Center for the Cultural Arts, the design team was charged with maintaining the historic architecture of this 1922 facility while changing the use from a high school to a community cultural arts center. Among its many distinguishing features is the grand ballroom, transformed from a gymnasium. The building was brought to life as a new venue with fresh purpose, while many of the elements of the historic high school were kept intact.

In designing the U.S. Embassy in Bulgaria, CMSS was charged with creating an environment that reflects the U.S. Diplomatic Mission and local culture while creating a welcoming atmosphere. In fulfilling this objective, designers used patterns throughout the building that were inspired by Bulgarian art. As part of the overall plan developed to achieve LEED certification, day lighting techniques were utilized to maximize the amount of natural light throughout the facility, and all wood and stone for the project came from local resources.

Judging criteria for the awards include:

- Success and creative response in meeting the client’s stated needs and objectives

- Scale and proportion
- Color Composition
- Effective use of lighting
- Relationship of materials, textures and patterns

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### **About CMSS**

Founded in 1982, CMSS Architects serves a growing roster of local, national and international clients. In collaboration with community officials and residents, CMSS offers urban planning and design services that help communities honor their heritage and strengthen their future. Over the past two decades, the firm has received more than 100 national, state and local design awards from organizations such as the American Institute of Architects, the American Society of Landscape Architects and the American Society of Interior Designers, cementing an international reputation as leaders in architectural design, urban planning, interior design and landscape architecture.

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