

## Svigals + Partners Brings Specification Writing In-House with BSD SpecLink

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**Robert Skolozdra**  
Associate  
Svigals + Partners, LLP



**Svigals + Partners, LLP, founded in 1983, is a full service architecture firm specializing in education, laboratory, master planning, corporate, and residential projects.**

Based in New Haven, Connecticut and licensed in New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Maryland, Svigals + Partners has served over 200 clients throughout New England. With a staff of 25, Svigals + Partners provides personalized service and attention to every project.

One of the cornerstones of their architectural practice is the effort to treat each project, regardless of its scope, with the same level of professionalism and critical attention to detail. They bring to this effort their experience, ranging from Master Planning and architectural design to furniture and handmade sculptural details.

The strength of their firm lies in the breadth of experience, from master planning through programming and design to the final construction project. In this master planning, they have an appreciation for the role each building can play, instead of simply adding another programmatic element to the list of facilities.

They see the challenge in each project as the need to find the unifying idea that brings a program to life. Their mission is to create an environment that serves their clients' organizational strategies, and expresses their goals and culture, from the Master Plan to the smallest detail, resulting in not only a design that is functional, but also a design that delights.



Building Systems Design, Inc.

3520 Piedmont Road, Suite 415  
Atlanta, GA 30305

888-BSD-SOFT  
(273-7638)  
Fax: 404-365-8912

[www.bsdssoftlink.com](http://www.bsdssoftlink.com)

# BSD CUSTOMER CASE STUDY

## SVIGALS + PARTNERS, LLP

**The Need:** Svigals' personalized attention to each project is a key component to their success. However, when they looked at their specification writing process, they saw that it consisted of master text provided by a local specification consultant, combined with basic word processing. They decided they needed to bring this entire process in-house, so that they would have better control and coordination of their documents. Using BSD's SpecLink would allow them to give the same level of attention to the specification process that they give to creating the design.

**The Solution:** Robert Skolozdra, Associate with Svigals, says, "We no longer hire consultants to write our specs. We also spend less time during construction reviewing shop drawings trying to figure out what the spec consultant was looking for. We can easily copy and modify similar project types." By creating a SpecLink Office Master, Svigals has been able to bring all their spec writing in-house and completely automate and simplify their process, while saving significant outsourcing costs per project.

They also found that with their "old" system, they were not updating their reference standards or manufacturers information. Once they deleted text, it was gone – instead of being preserved somewhere in a master file. "With SpecLink you always have the master data at your fingertips. You are always working with updated standards," says Skolozdra. This has significantly increased their productivity in all

areas. He continues, "SpecLink formats, links, and generates the table of contents so we can focus on building the technical sections."

Asked what he liked best about SpecLink, Skolozdra states, "Office and client master data can be added so that the document is seamless. Plus, SpecLink is very compatible with other word processing software. You can cut and paste, import and export as needed. Then SpecLink formats everything, including line space, line numbering, and paragraph formats automatically. It also generates page numbering and table of contents automatically. This creates a professional looking document every time you print it."

**The Outcome:** It took the associates at Svigals just a few days to understand the basics and begin using SpecLink. Skolozdra says that the assistance provided by BSD's technical customer service department has been great.

They have now used SpecLink on over 50 projects. One was for a computer technology classroom building at Norwalk Community College. Since it was a state Department of Public Works project, Svigals had to specify non-proprietary items. Because of the way SpecLink's database is set up, they are able to keep lists of both name-specific and non-proprietary items in their data file. This data handling ability is just one of the unique SpecLink features Svigals uses every day to create better specifications.



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Illustrations courtesy of Svigals + Partners, LLP.



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For more information on BSD SpecLink, contact Bryant Hendricks:  
bhendricks@bsdsoftlink.com

BSD SpecLink is a powerful specification writing, management and production system with built-in intelligence designed to dramatically speed up editing tasks and reduce specification production time while minimizing errors and omissions. Users' project files are each maintained in a single database, rather than in multiple word processing files. Several model projects are included that allow the user to start with a pre-edited set of complete specifications. Because the master data is always visible and never deleted, it is easy to review project choices or select alternatives. Users can also import their own custom sections and/or create model projects specific to company or project-related requirements.