The facility’s distinctive exterior is highly visible from a nearby interstate.
Enclosed admitting and registration booths in the lobby ensure patient privacy. A centralized diagnostic services area puts such common outpatient services as electrocardiogram testing and the laboratory in one location. A family resource center provides office, kitchen and laundry facilities for those whose family members are hospitalized for long periods.

The lobby includes a special waiting area for children. Here, an enclosed interactive media system allows projected images to be manipulated digitally as if by magic. Burn Sears, AIA, principal-in-charge for Stanley Beaman & Sears (SBS), Atlanta, associated architect for pediatric design, notes the system’s projectors are mounted in the ceiling, rather than on the wall, to provide patients in wheelchairs the opportunity to interact with the images—for instance, to roll through and scatter a pile of leaves projected on the floor.

Child-height design features take advantage of children’s unique perspective on the world. Young children can peer through the circular elements in the decorative glass pattern of the terrazzo flooring. “It’s a very deliberate sequence that tries to take away some of the anxiety of not knowing where you’re going,” Guillon says.

Something for everyone

The lobby features a glass sculpture based on St. Francis of Assisi’s Canticle of the Sun, which is used as a theme throughout the hospital design (see sidebar on page 17).

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Woven into interior design

Every major health care facility needs an organizing principle to assist with wayfinding and unify the design. At Children’s Hospital of Illinois and OSF Saint Francis Medical Center, Peoria, the Canticle of the Sun, written by St. Francis of Assisi, seems heaven-sent for this purpose.

The medical center is a large, Catholic institution that serves children and adults. “We wanted that Catholic identity to be woven into the building,” says Sue Wozniak, RACHE, who recently retired as the hospital’s chief operating officer. The Canticle of the Sun has particular meaning to the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, the religious order that owns and operates OSF HealthCare, of which the new medical center is a part. In the canticle, the hospital’s patron saint sings praise for various aspects of creation, such as “Brother Sun,” “Sister Moon” and “Mother Earth.” A major art piece in the lobby introduces the canticle; each floor of the new building is assigned to one of the natural elements the canticle celebrates. These elements are represented in icons used to identify floors on hospital signage and in artwork displayed on each floor.

Use of the canticle throughout the building infuses the organization’s religious mission into the facility in a way that connects with nature and has universal appeal. The theme is engaging to children and provides an educational component, but is also meaningful to adult patients, visitors and staff.

“In health care design, bringing in elements of nature is considered to be a good strategy to employ,” says Jocelyn Stroupe, IDA, AIAHD, EDAC, interior designer, Cannon Design. “But this, we felt, really had such a deeper significance. It just fit the overall building so well. It was a unique opportunity to weave something like that into a project.”

In addition to consolidating services, the expansion project enabled the hospital to improve access and wayfinding, implement new technology and care models, and increase the capacity, safety and flexibility of the Level 1 trauma center and tertiary care medical center.

Building blocks

The new facility establishes a clear entry sequence that begins as people approach the medical center from Interstate 74, which runs along the west side of the campus. From this perspective, the facility can be seen as an abstract composition of colored children’s blocks. The modern design fits with existing campus structures, but provides subtle cues that this building is something different, says Randy Guillot, AIA, LEED AP, design principal, from the Chicago office of Cannon Design.

The new addition is attached to a parking garage by an enclosed pedestrian bridge that links to the existing hospital. A secondary reception point at the entrance to the pedestrian bridge helps direct people to their correct destination. The pattern of the terrazzo flooring also is designed to lead patients and visitors down a daylight corridor to the new lobby. Bold splashes of color provide wayfinding landmarks throughout the building. “It’s a very deliberate sequence that tries to take away some of the anxiety of not knowing where you’re going,” Guillon says.

PROFILE

The cardiac intensive care family waiting area with artwork celebrating the sun element from the Canticle of the Sun.
WAVY WALKWAY
Curving elements in the ceiling and floor provide visual interest in the adult cardiac intensive care corridor.

provide the best environment for different procedures. The temperature of the pediatric operating rooms can be raised to 84 degrees in 10 minutes; in the heart surgery suites, it can be dropped to 60 degrees in 15 minutes. Many such safety features, including patient lifts and separate adult and pediatric pharmacies, are included in the new facility.

On the patient units, the rooms are designed for any acuity level. The hospital currently draws critical care patients to most of its services, but “health care is in flux. We don’t know if that will change over time,” Wozniak says.

Every new patient room — including adult and neonatal intensive care — is private, has its own bathroom and contains overnight accommodations for family members. Private sleep suites on the neonatal intensive care unit give parents a break, says Bessie Stephenson, program manager, SBS.

Conscious decisions
According to Guillot, the medical center is acutely conscious of how every design decision would affect the lives of people who use the building. With a project of this scope, says Wozniak, “you’d better be making positive change.”

The project was somewhat of a personal milestone for Wozniak, who retired as COO shortly after the new building opened. She says it was a great way to end her career as a health care executive, and no question serving patients was the highlight of the project.

Amy Eagle is a freelance writer based in Homewood, Ill., who specializes in health care-related topics. She is a regular contributor to Health Facilities Management.

PROFILE

PRINCIPAL DESIGN MATERIALS

Acoustical wall panels: Decorwall with Carnegie fabric; Acrylic panel: Starm and Knoll Inc.

Ceiling: Interface LDF, J&J/Invision and Mohawk Carpet; Glass: Glass Casework; Architectural Wall Systems and Sota Glazing Inc.; Door hardware: Dorma, Ingesellschaft Security Technologies, Kaba, National Guard Products; and Rockwood Manufacturing Co.


Window treatments: MecShade Systems Inc. Wood doors: Massfield DoorSystems Inc.; Wood panels: Design Veneers Inc. and Intrinsic Inc.; PRINCETON FURNITURES; Casework and woodwork: Stevens Industries Inc.


MAJOR MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Exam lights: Operating room booms: Berchelll Headwalls; Modular Services Co.; Imaging equipment: GE Healthcare, Philips Healthcare and Siemens Healthcare; Operating room integration: Striker; Patient lifts: Like INFRASTRUCTURE; Building management system: Johnson Controls Inc.; Electrical equipment: Grajber Services Inc. and Parsons Electric; Elevators: Rome Corp.; Fire safety: Smoke-Smell; HVAC (mech.); Johnson Contracting Company Inc. and York by Johnson Controls.

PHOTO BY CRAIG DUGAN PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTO BY DAVE KUFFNER DESIGN.

ED DESIGN ACCENTUATES disaster-ready flexibility

The new emergency department (ED) at Children’s Hospital of Illinois and OSF Saint Francis Medical Center, Peoria, is designed to provide optimal patient care in both ordinary and extraordinary circumstances. Waiting areas and clinical work areas are completely separate in the ED, for a quieter, more organized environment. Each treatment bay has two doors, one leading to a ring of subwaiting areas for people who are accompanying patients, and one on the opposite wall leading to centrally located clinical work stations. A keypad lock system provides extra security for the treatment bays.

Pediatric and adult patients are treated along different tracks, in a design that allows these areas to expand or contract according to the patient census. A third track for trauma patients includes treatment rooms that are nearly 500 square feet and fit two headwalls each, so they can be used to treat multiple patients. Imaging and computed tomography equipment is nearby.

Because the medical center is the Level I trauma center for Region 2 of the state of Illinois, the capacity of the ED — which is currently 57 patients during normal conditions — is designed to surge to almost 100 patients in response to a disaster. Headwalls are hidden behind artwork in the subwaiting areas to allow the hospital to use these spaces for patient care, if needed. The staff work areas also can be used to stage blunt trauma patients.

To handle biohazards or infectious diseases, one section of the department can be locked down and segregated onto a bypass mechanical system that creates negative air pressure.

The adjacent, former ED can also be pressed into service for patients, if necessary, and the hospital’s helicopter site includes room for multiple air and ground emergency transport vehicles.

In one space, “we really designed two emergency departments, for two completely different uses,” says David Kuffner, AIA, senior planner, Cannon Design.