

GREEN Rx

Until not too long ago, the phrase “green hospital” was a contradiction in terms, and for good reason: health-care facilities are large, complex, 24/7 institutions, burdened with heavy energy loads and severe code restrictions. However, this is (slowly) changing. The U.S. Green Building Council is currently developing a version of LEED for health care, and there are an encouraging number of projects in development that are explicitly green. But what does that mean exactly? For the past two years, the architecture firm Anshen+Allen has been exploring this territory with its Green Patient Lab (GPL), a full-scale mock-up of a hospital room that demonstrates innovative approaches to sustainable health care. “It’s a combination of best practices and conceptual thinking,” says Suzanne Drake, an interior designer at Anshen+Allen.

Created jointly with the International Facilities Management Association’s Health Care Council and more than 30 manufacturers, the GPL travels across North America to health-care and design trade shows. Each year, the concept evolves as new products and approaches are introduced. The 2009 GPL incorporates more technology and moves away from the 20-by-20-foot layout of previous versions. But the goal remains the same. “The challenge in creating a green space is about overcoming misconceptions,” Drake says. “There is always the impression that green costs more. We know from this project that the materials are available now, and they’re competitively priced. There was a little bit of a premium three years ago, maybe five years ago, for sure. Now the cost is negligible.”

Family zone

Providing a work space for family members in the patient room can involve them in the care process, minimize stress, and encourage longer and more frequent visits.

The best practices in sustainable patient care come together in Anshen+Allen’s innovative “laboratory.”

by **Martin C. Pedersen**

Patient zone

Studies indicate that chair beds promote quicker recovery and assist patients in regaining mobility and strength.

1. SKYDOME OVERHEAD LIGHT: FOCAL POINT
Ambient, energy-efficient fluorescent illumination

2. DOWNLIGHTS: COOPER LIGHTING
Energy-efficient, dimmable CFLs

3. OPUS OVERBED TABLE: NURTURE BY STEELCASE
PVC-free finish; formaldehyde-free, 100 percent pre-consumer recycled wood-fiber substrate

4. SKY STOOL: SITTRIS
Antimicrobial silicone upholstery



Icons by Taylor Stapleton



1. KIRKOS CHAIR: DAVIS FURNITURE
PVC-free; FSC-certified wood and polyurethane

2. OPUS STORAGE BENCH: NURTURE BY STEELCASE
Easily reconfigurable modular case goods; recycled polyester upholstery

3. MARMOLEUM LINOLEUM FLOORING: FORBO
Renewable materials; low VOCs

DOOR, FRAME, AND HARDWARE: ASSA ABLOY
FSC-certified veneer and agri-fiber core; at least 53 percent recycled content in hardware

Staff zone

Organized to improve efficiency and reduce errors, this area includes a sink and work counter. The modular prefabricated case goods can be easily adjusted to accommodate layout changes and staff preferences.

OPUS WORK-AREA CASE GOODS: NURTURE BY STEELCASE
Modular casegoods; LED lights

1. REGAL SERIES RECESSED MODULAR HEAD WALL: AMICO
Energy efficient; limits equipment hanging above patient

2. THUNDER ELECTRONIC MARKER BOARD: POLYVISION
Helps reduce mistakes and eliminates paper use

3. WAYGLO LED NIGHT LIGHT: ALKCO
Energy and cost efficient; low maintenance



Head wall

Placing the patient-care control center to the side creates a less institutional feel while still giving nurses the technology they need to improve care and reduce errors.

Infrastructure

Energy- and water-efficient features are a critical part of the patient room but must be integrated with building-wide systems. For instance, instead of pumping air at a constant rate based on the maximum load, a variable-air-volume system reduces energy consumption.



Metropolis 09.2009

Outdoor zone

Terraces create a physical connection to the outdoors. During a disaster, they can also support building operations by providing natural ventilation and daylight, lessening the load on backup generators.

LOW-WALL DISPLACEMENT VENTILATION
An innovative HVAC system places the air supply low so that it can be pumped into the room at a slower speed, saving money on energy and fans.

ALUMINUM DISPLAY SHELF: PETER PEPPER
20 percent pre-consumer and 20 percent post-consumer recycled content

INTOUCH PATIENT BED: STRYKER
Allows full range of motion, from horizontal to sitting position

AMBIA WALL LIGHT: MANNING LIGHTING
Greenguard-certified non-toxic PET-glycol plastic

LIGHT-AND-TECHNOLOGY CONTROLS: LUTRON ELECTRONICS
Patients have control of the window shades and electronic glass, the lighting, and the room temperature.

1. NOVO MIRROR AND LIGHTING: ELECTRIC MIRROR
Low-mercury fluorescent lamp

2. TOUCHLESS ELECTRONIC FAUCET: KOHLER
Helps control infection and conserve water

3. SOLID-SURFACE COUNTERTOP: AVONITE SURFACES
40 percent post-industrial recycled content

4. ECOCYCLE FLOORING: CROSSVILLE
40 percent post-industrial recycled ceramic content

5. GRAB RAILS: HÄFELE AMERICA
ADA compliant; stainless steel with hygienic satin surface

6. TOILET, SHOWER, AND LAMINAR FAUCET: ECOTECH
One gallon per flush, 0.33 gallons per minute, and 0.08 gallons per minute, respectively