



EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

**GBJ Architecture** PORTLAND, OR

**Milgard Pavilion Emergency and Express Care Expansion,  
MultiCare Health System** TACOMA, WA



Emergency and express care facilities now occupy the second and third floors of the new Milgard Pavilion on MultiCare Health System's main Tacoma, Washington campus. The design team's goal was to greatly expand and completely remodel the existing Emergency Department.

On a site tightly constrained by topography, existing campus buildings and infrastructure, the project connects disparate parts into a revitalized whole, clustering new outpatient and emergency entrances around a plaza, with architectural elements that combine to create a recognizable identity for the hospital.

With 85 exam and treatment rooms, the Emergency Department expansion was designed to maximize staffing and census flexibility, and



was sized to accommodate the community's needs through the next decade. The project's pediatric and adult facilities are arranged in parallel on both floors, maintaining appropriate separation of the two populations for waiting, exam and treatment, while sharing triage and support spaces in a central spine.

The design incorporates principals of patient-centered care, employs the latest in therapeutic and communications technology, and provides spacious facilities with soothing interior environments that incorporate regional imagery and photography.

Custom-patterned glass walls visually separate adult and pediatric waiting areas, while retaining spatial openness. Bronze flooring inlays feature Pacific Northwest marine life and reinforce wayfinding. Durable, sustainable finishes of wood, tile, and terrazzo add warmth and detail, extending seamlessly into the ecumenical chapel in a design that honors the United Methodist Church, which was relocated by the expansion project. Indirect lighting and controls combine with effective acoustic strategies to create an environment of calm, reducing anxiety and improving staff and patient satisfaction.

**Project category:** New construction & Remodel/Renovation (completed April 2010)

**Chief administrator:** Diane Cecchetti, CEO, (253) 403-1190

**Firm:** GBJ Architecture, (503) 223-0992

**Design Team:** Architecture (GBJ Architecture); Structural Engineering (PCS Structural Solutions); Mechanical Engineering (CDI Engineers); Electrical Engineering (Sparting); Civil Engineering (kpf Consulting Engineers); Landscape Architecture (Site Workshop LLC)

**Photography:** ©2010 Eckert & Eckert  
**Total building area (sq. ft.):** 72,180 (new); 15,080 (renovation)

**Construction cost/sq. ft.:** Not available

**Total construction cost (excluding land):** Not available

