

# ARCHITECTURAL SHOWCASE

## PATIENT TOWER

**GBJ Architecture** PORTLAND, OR, AND **Clark/Kjos Architects** PORTLAND, OR  
**MultiCare Good Samaritan Hospital Patient Care Tower** PUYALLUP, WA



Following an affiliation with MultiCare Health System, Good Samaritan Hospital in Puyallup, Washington, is transitioning from a community hospital to a regional medical center. The client's directive was to: give the hospital a position of prominence in its community; create a hospital expansion that would put patients and families "in the center" of the care process; and provide the highest level of medical care using the latest technology and care delivery concepts.

The exterior form pushes the hospital's new square footage into a slender tower that is located on a hill, which provides prominence in the community and saves green space. The tower is oriented to maximize healing views of the surrounding mountain ranges. Five different colors of glass create a quilt effect across the façade of the tower.

The artfully designed interiors minimize patient and family stress, while adding to well-being and conveying high-quality care. The new tower is flooded with daylight from expansive use of windows, filled with the warmth of natural wood, and punctuated with colorful light fixtures, tiles, and artwork to lift the human spirit.

Upon leaving the site's public street, patients and visitors enter an easy-to-navigate, nurturing atmosphere. Rather than a maze of institutional corridors, the hospital is designed to be transparent, featuring visual connections and strong wayfinding elements.

The new entrance and central light-filled hub connects old and new hospital buildings seamlessly, and expresses the philosophy of a patient-centered experience. The hub features greeters, information displays, registration, meditation space, food and retail. It is an inspiring, reassuring, and orienting place.

Patient-centered treatment begins at the central hub, with an innovative "Express Services" concept. This new



concept places high-volume outpatient services (imaging, testing, pre-surgical clinic, ambulatory treatment) adjacent to the main lobby, creating a welcoming, noninstitutional atmosphere. Benefits include: easier access as outpatients bypass elevators and hospital corridors; more efficient organization of departments and technology; and direct connection to the main circulation spine for movement of staff and patients. Surgery waiting is connected via an open stair and atrium to a grander lobby and coffee bar, allowing family members to ambulate to different low-stress settings while maintaining connections.

Key features for patient-centered care include: separate circulation routes for public and staff to honor patient experience and minimize staff travel distances; dedicated patient room zones for family members that have abundant natural light and garden/mountain views; and decentralized, technology-supported staff stations to keep caregivers close to patients in inpatient and diagnostic areas.

**Project category:** Addition (completed February 2011)

**Chief administrator:** John Long, President, (253) 459-8194

**Firms:** GBJ Architecture, (503) 223-0992; Clark/Kjos Architects, (503) 224-4848

**Design team:** Architecture (GBJ Architecture and Clark/Kjos Architects); Mechanical Engineering (CDI Engineers); Electrical Engineering (Sparling); Landscape Architecture (Walker Macy); Structural & Civil Engineering (ABKJ)

**Photography:** © Michael Mathers

**Total building area (sq. ft.):** 350,000

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

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

