Project: Palomar Medical Center
Location: Escondido, CA
Architect: CO Architects – Los Angeles, CA
Products: Acrovyn® 4000 Rigid Sheet, Crash Rails, Corner Guards & Handrails; Pedimat® & PediTred® LP Entrance Flooring; Storm Resistant Louvers & Thinline Louvers

About the Project

As one of the country's largest hospital construction projects and the first new North County hospital in 30 years, the 56-acre campus has already captured the attention of healthcare professionals worldwide for its use of nature, light and space — all designed to speed healing.

Design Goals

Palomar Medical Center, completed in August 2012, incorporates cutting-edge sustainable design to create a high-performance healing environment. Improving access to care and operational effectiveness through sustainable design were at the forefront of CO Architects' design goals. The 740,000-square-foot, 11-story nursing tower contains 288 beds and incorporates various innovative architectural facets, aspiring to be the quintessential "hospital of the future." The ecologically regenerative, 1.5-acre green roof and garden spaces featured on each level of the nursing tower are flush with drought-resistant vegetation, allowing for beautiful south-facing patient room views.

The architectural and medical planning design strove for and surpassed sustainable goals by including a full complement of water conservation, energy-saving measures and air quality improvements.

Results

Palomar Medical Center is one of just two hospitals in the United States that bring natural light into operating rooms. It was planned before the LEED® for Healthcare (LEED-HC) standard was approved and was designed to the Green Guide for Health Care standards, which has further developed into the now approved LEED-HC. The hospital was designed for simple adaptation of future space remodeling and technology needs over the next few decades.

Creating a high-performance healing environment meant selecting known healthy building products. Construction Specialties (C/S) products were chosen by CO Architects and integrated into the facility because of the products' high material health standards and ingredient transparency, which ensured designers and healthcare officials that selected products had eliminated chemicals of concern. C/S products included were entrance flooring, rigid sheet, crash rails, corner guards, handrails and architectural louvers.

At a Glance

- Wall protection in *Cradle to Cradle Certified*^{CM} Gold & Silver Acrovyn 4000 as well as Renaissance hardwoods and stainless steel
- *Cradle to Cradle Certified*^{CM} Silver C/S Pedimat® and PediTred® LP entrance grids
- C/S Storm Resistant Louvers, tested and certified by AMCA and tested to BSRIA standards, and C/S Thinline Louvers

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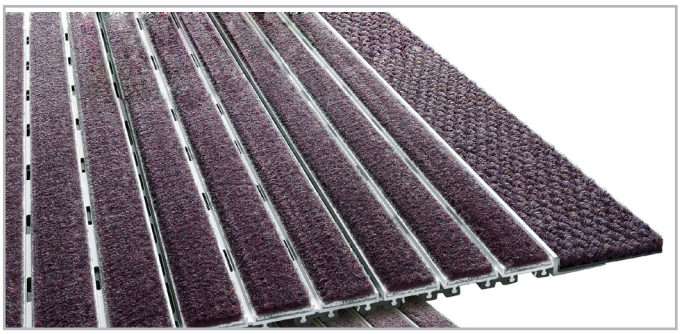
Acrovyn®

CO Architects sought healthy materials and, therefore, selected *Cradle to Cradle Certified*[CM] Gold or Silver Acrovyn® 4000 wall protection which is free of PVC (polyvinyl chloride), PBTs (persistent bioaccumulative toxins), BPA (bisphenol A) and all halogenated fire-retardants. Since medical facilities are subjected to daily abuse, the Acrovyn® 4000 line was deemed best suited for the project, providing not only a layer of protection to the facility, but also a variety of color and material combinations that offer design flexibility.

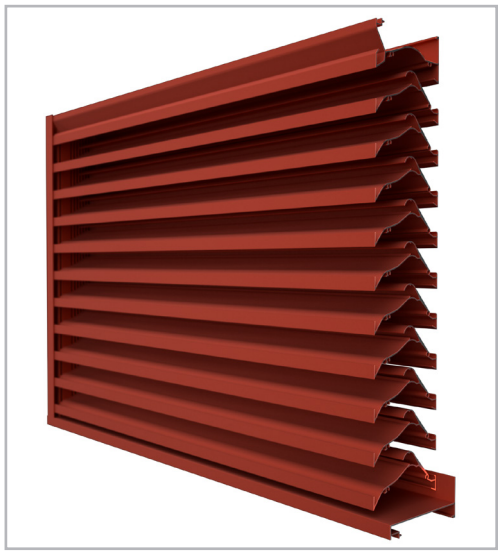


Entrance Flooring

Pedimat® and PediTred® LP were chosen based on their ability to make a stunning first impression on incoming visitors while also reducing slip/fall accidents. Both of these *Cradle to Cradle Certified*[CM] Silver flooring systems can improve indoor air quality by stopping 98.6% of dirt and water at the door and be retrofitted into existing carpet or tile. Furthermore, PediTred® LP has a smooth rolling surface and can withstand a 750 pound-per-wheel rolling load.

Louvers

CO Architects selected Storm Resistant Louvers, models RSH-5700 and RS-8400, to address the tight space considerations. While Storm Resistant Louvers are superior in protecting interiors from wind-driven rain, they are also helpful when use of a plenum is impractical because of cost or space limitations. These models are tested and certified by AMCA, as well as tested in accordance to BSRIA standards. Thinline Louver models 1302 and 2252 were chosen to offset the high free area and low-pressure drop requirements of the air conditioning units.



Conclusion

Engineering News-Record named the Palomar Medical Center project 2012's "Best of the Best" in the Health Care category as well as "Best Health Care Project" and "Best Overall Project" in California.

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