



At-A-Glance

Large, curved doors help the nursing staff at UVA Hospital efficiently monitor patients.

CASE STORY

University of Virginia Hospital *Charlottesville, VA*

About the Project

When nursing staff in the patient tower at the University of Virginia Hospital needed to have a clear line of sight to patients at all times, curved doors in 84 rooms turned out to be the answer.

Nurses are responsible for multiple patients at any given moment, but they can't be in multiple rooms simultaneously. "Having that clear line of sight from

the nurses' station was a key issue at the beginning of the project that really drove the solution," said Matt Kidwell, Senior Project Manager at Skanska USA Building Inc.

The nursing staff was involved in the process early on and gave the idea of a curved door enthusiastic approval. "The concept of the curved door first came

about somewhere between schematic and design development—we did a series of mockups and showed the curved door to the nursing staff, and they loved it. From there, the real challenge became how to make it a reality," said Brian Sykes, Healthcare Practice Leader at Perkins & Will.



Design Goals

Providing visibility for the nursing staff was paramount when designing the door. “We wanted certain sight lines. We wanted certain amounts of privacy for the bathrooms, and it had to meet certain openings per building code,” explained Sykes.

In addition to having a unique shape, the door needed to be strong and durable to withstand the constant use it would receive in a healthcare environment. The team had to ensure that the door would stay rigid over time despite its curve.

Solution

A collaborative process between CS, the architects, the design firm, and the construction manager resulted in a behemoth of a door—wider than most standard doors and exhibiting Acrovyn’s tried and true durability. “The doors themselves are not regular doors; if you’re looking at doors, they’re like a Humvee of a door. They’re very, very durable,” said Will Boardman, APEM.

In addition to its sheer size, extra ribbing and support were added to this uniquely shaped door to ensure it remains tough

for the long haul. “The cherry on top, the icing on the cake, was the durable Acrovyn finish to make sure we had a good, durable clean surface,” said Kidwell. “One of the things that I am most proud of with this door that we worked on with CS is when you open it, it feels really grounded and like you are sheltered by that door,” said Sykes. We couldn’t agree more.