

At-A-Glance

A pediatric hospital focuses on sustainable building product choices as part of its comprehensive healing strategy.

CASE STORY

Dell Children's Medical *Austin, TX*



About the Project

The W.H. and Elaine McCarty South Tower of Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas (DCMCCT) in Austin, Texas opened its doors to the public in May 2013 after just 15 months of construction. The $48 million project includes a three-story tower totaling 83,610 square feet with 72 beds. This is the region's first acute care pediatric rehabilitation unit, featuring dedicated inpatient care, a toddler rehab and a therapy gym. It also includes a state-of-the-art epilepsy monitoring unit and numerous family-centric features.

Children benefit from continuing their education and social interaction that the community rooms provide. Designers also incorporated a family business center to allow parents to work on site.

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Challenge

Creating an environmentally responsible facility was at the core of Polkinghorn Group Architects' design goals for the tower; sustainable facilities benefit not only the environment's health but also the health of all visitors. Seton Healthcare Family's commitment to making Dell Children's Medical Center one of the most sustainable hospitals in the world brought top designers and responsible manufacturers together to create an atmosphere where human health can flourish.

Product design and durability are critical to ensure long life and to support a more sterile environment. Selecting products that contain safe and healthy materials is equally important. DCMCCT's commitment to build a healthy environment made Construction Specialties (CS) a natural choice to provide suitable building products for the new tower.

Solution

In 2008, the DCMCCT became the world's first Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum-certified hospital and, in another "first," achieved LEED for Healthcare Platinum designation. CS proudly contributed Acrovyn® interior wall protection, PediTred® G3 entrance flooring, Acrovyn Doors, and expansion joint cover systems. Additionally, the wall protection and entrance flooring products carry product transparency labels that disclose material ingredients and indicate whether chemicals on the Living Building Challenge Red List are included.

In addition to receiving LEED-HC Platinum certification, the W.H. and Elaine McCarty South Tower was also recognized with multiple honors:

- Awarded Austin Energy Green Building's 5-Star rating, its highest distinction
- Received 2013 Environmental Excellence's Partner Recognition Award from Practice Greenhealth, a national association dedicated to environmentally responsible healthcare
- Featured as one of 55 noteworthy global sustainable healthcare projects in Robin Guenther and Gail Vittori's Sustainable Healthcare Architecture, Second Edition
- Included by green building experts Jerry Yudelson and Ulf Meyer as one of the 56 best global, sustainable design practices for high-performance non-residential buildings in their book, The World's Greenest Buildings: Promise vs. Performance in Sustainable Design

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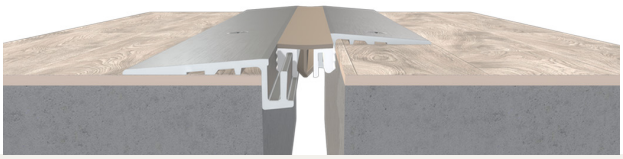
Products used in this project:



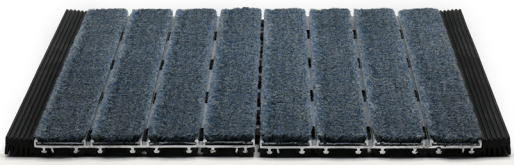
*The architect chose high-impact **Acrovyn®** interior wall protection to defend against damage, reduce maintenance costs, and create a dramatic, stunning look. Acrovyn was the industry's first complete PVC-free wall protection line, and more recently, a reformulation has enabled us to include post-consumer single-use plastics that would otherwise end up in landfills.*



***Acrovyn® Doors** were selected to address previous damage to wood veneer and plastic laminate doors, as Acrovyn is known for its ability to withstand the kind of heavy daily use found in hospitals. Both fire-rated and non-rated, Acrovyn Doors are available in a variety of styles, plus the same colors and patterns as Acrovyn interior wall protection to easily coordinate.*



***Expansion Joint Solutions** were incorporated throughout the bed tower's floors, walls, and ceilings to accommodate movement resulting from wind sway, building settlement, and thermal expansion and contraction. The systems help protect surrounding finishes from damage associated with building movement while providing durable transitions designed for the demands of a busy healthcare environment.*



***PediTred® G3** doesn't require a deep recess, so it is ideal for applications where installation depth is limited. Its ability to capture up to 98.6% of dirt and water at entrances helps maintain cleaner, safer interiors. The smooth rolling surface accommodates up to 750 lbs. per wheel, making it ideal for the heavy wheeled traffic in healthcare facilities. High-performing entrance flooring supports improved indoor air quality while reducing the time and cost associated with floor maintenance.*

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