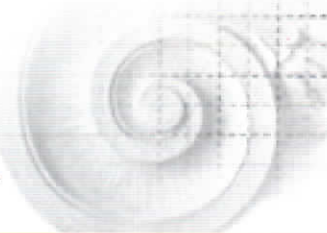


FIRST IMPRESSIONS

ST. JOHN MACOMB HOSPITAL CENTER



Photos by: Cris Burkhalter

First impressions are always important, but to show visitors and patients that a hospital provides quality care and service, there is no better place to start than in the lobby. It sets the tone for the entire hospital experience.

As the important initial phase of the Master Facility Plan for St. John Macomb Hospital Center, SSOE recently completed a new surgery suite addition and entrance canopy. Complementing the new construction, SSOE was awarded the design of their new main lobby. Hospital leadership felt the existing lobby was not comfortable or, most important, navigable.

One of the essential elements of the master plan was to simplify wayfinding and circulation patterns. The old lobby was maze-like and had no direct routes to reception, elevator banks or the rest of the hospital. The new design provides a reception area that is the central orientation point leading to major treatment and patient areas.

Over the years, very little had been done to change or update the lobby, which was very dark and had no windows. SSOE reinvented

the lobby into an open, welcoming entrance by removing a wall and adding large window walls that allow natural light in.

Through the generous use of curved forms, hardwood paneling, acoustical wall panels and indirect lighting, the lobby provides a warm and comfortable place to meet and relax. Newly appointed furnishings add a colorful contrast while carpet insets distinguish the seating areas from the walkways. Aesthetic wood capitals and mullions were detailed to match the free form, flowing lines and graceful curves of the new lobby.

Concurrent with the lobby, renovations were also made to the gift shop, coffee shop, chapel and public restrooms. SSOE designed these spaces to alleviate the anxiety and boredom that is an inevitable part of waiting. The new gift shop became a predominant feature with its inviting design. The strategic traffic pattern draws visitors into and through the store. Exciting new displays and a creative use of floor space maximize merchandising.

The nondenominational chapel was moved to the lobby area, offering better spiritual and emotional support to families and staff. The use of subdued lighting and rich wood veneers create a reverent environment that allows sensitive appreciation of multiple religious traditions and practices.

This project reaffirms the image of St. John Macomb Hospital Center as a modern health care facility that is both attractive to patients and an asset to the community. ■

Project Highlights

- 88,000 sq. ft. new construction
- New surgical department
- Central plant improvements
- Site development and improvements