

Beacon of hope

Penn State Hershey
Cancer Institute wins
1st generative space award



WITH SPACES THAT FOSTER NOT ONLY healing, but a collaborative environment to embrace the future of medicine, the Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute has been named the first recipient of the Generative Space Health Improvement Award by the CARITAS Project.

The award seeks to honor healthcare settings from around the world that focus on improving human health through improving the design of the environment, and as a result, individuals, organizations and communities flourish. This annual international award recognizes projects that utilize the whole environment as a tool to improve healthcare.

Designed by Payette, the cancer institute is the first phase of a large-scale construction project at the Penn State

Hershey Medical Center, which also includes the adjacent children's hospital, a renovated and expanded emergency department and a new parking garage. These components create a critical mass that shifts the center of gravity of the entire hospital complex through the redefinition of identity, access and the vehicular and pedestrian circulation systems. The Arc, a spatial gesture that unifies all the elements in the master plan, is the cornerstone that defines the new clinical quadrangle.

The cancer institute provides patients and their families with a welcoming, peaceful environment while they receive the latest in advanced medical treatments. In addition, it is an experiment in full translational medicine, where research and clinical functions are strategically mixed to encourage

The Penn State University Cancer Institute at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center is a unique experiment in translational medicine. It is a traditional bench science research facility with comprehensive outpatient treatment clinics in one building. Designed by Payette, the cancer institute is the first phase of a large-scale construction project at the Penn State Hershey Medical Center.

PHOTOS: WARREN JAGGER



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collaboration between the two. Clinical functions are located on the lower three floors, and research labs are located on the top two levels. Researchers and clinical doctors share offices on the top two floors, with ancillary support spaces located to encourage spontaneous encounters across groups.

The Beehive, a five-level atrium, links the clinical and research func-



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tions together in a light-filled space that connects all the main circulation spaces vertically and creates horizontal and vertical relationships between functions. It is the social heart of the facility and is expressive of the mission of the cancer institute — translational medicine. Faculty offices, informal conference rooms, lounges, and lunch areas are located

around the Beehive in an expression of the possibilities for collaboration and cross-pollination.

In their landscapes and exterior materials, the new buildings of the clinical quadrangle express an identity that is open, energetic and forward-looking while remaining respectful of the building elements on site. A new public gateway serves as an icon of state-of-the-art patient care, research, education and innovation through the reorganization of the public entry sequence and growth around a new campus green. The front façade of the cancer institute reveals the volume of the labs floating above the clinic spaces, which are framed by a canopy and serve to break the massing down into a more human scale.

An organically shaped skylight is located above the reception and waiting area in the main hospital lobby. Throughout the day, a changing array of light and shadow transforms its surfaces; a gentle blue artificial light replaces the daylight at night.

Access to natural light and nature are essential to the welcoming and



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MAIN LOBBY: WARREN JAGGER; INSTITUTE LOBBY, SKYLIGHT: PAYETTE/RACHELLENN SCHOEN



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Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute

PROJECT TEAM:

Architect: Payette

Associate Architect:

Array Healthcare Facilities Solutions

Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing:

Bard, Rao + Athanas Consulting Engineers

Structural, Civil and Traffic Engineers:

Gannett Fleming

Landscape: Hargreaves Associates

Parking: Walker Parking Consultants

Construction Manager:

Gilbane Building Company

1. Main hospital lobby. A linked series of lobbies, public spaces and green spaces give a more human scale to the face of the institution, while conveying a sense of transparency and warmth.

2. The Beehive, a 5-level atrium, links clinical and research functions together at the Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute. It is the social heart of the facility and is expressive of the

translational medicine mission of the cancer institute.

3. Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute lobby.

4. A dramatic organically shaped skylight is located above the reception and waiting area in the main hospital lobby. Throughout the day, a changing array of light and shadow transforms its surfaces; a gentle blue artificial light replaces the daylight at night.



peaceful environment of the cancer institute. The clinical floors include a 40-bed infusion therapy unit and outpatient clinics with family lounges oriented toward a healing garden. Transparent vertical surfaces allow for natural light to permeate each infusion suite. Sliding glass partitions and cubicle curtains between infusion suites allow for communication



between patients or views of the healing garden. Closed curtains offer privacy, dependent upon how a patient feels on a given day.

The LEED-registered project features a series of healing gardens, linking buildings and open spaces. The gardens take the form of green roofs located over underground expansion space for the radiology and service departments. Each landscape responds to its occupants — a healing

garden for cancer patients, a courtyard for the general public and a children's activity garden to be built in the future when the children's hospital is complete.

Juried by a panel of experts in health-care design and operations, projects being considered for the Generative Space Health Improvement Award were judged on their efficacy and performance in delivering systemic and sustainable improvements to the healing environment. The judges noted the new Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute "...provides innovation and documentation of how they have succeeded with the design of the building to promote collaboration and communication, recognizing the variety of needs for privacy and community of cancer patients."

"The translational approach to healthcare offers promising new ways to study and treat diseases. Penn State and the Hershey Medical Center campus are worthy recipients of this important award," said Kevin Sullivan, AIA, principal at Payette. "The new cancer institute integrates research and clinical functions to establish a new kind of healing environment."

Representatives from Payette and the Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute will be on hand Sept. 14 at the 2010 Healthcare Facilities Symposium and Expo in Chicago, Ill. to accept the award. ■

5. The initial campus-scale gesture is broken down and propagated through the design as a series of courtyards ranging from large, public, active gathering spaces to private healing gardens and roof terraces.

6. Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute provides patients and their families with a welcoming, peaceful environment while they receive the latest in advanced medical treatments.

7. Sliding glass partitions and cubicle curtains between infusion suites allow for communication between patients and views of the healing garden.