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/ Products and services /

FIELD REPORT

A BETTER VIEW / Florida hospital uses windows with style

In 2006, The Villages (Fla.) Regional Hospital was only 4 years old, but it had already reached capacity in its 60-bed facility. “We needed to respond to the tremendous population growth in the community, which had nearly doubled in size since the hospital was constructed in 2002,” says Tim Menton, senior vice president administrator of the facility, which is located in one of central Florida’s retirement communities.

The Villages’ expansion needed not only to increase capacity, but also to maintain the hospital’s stylish design. Additionally, the new design needed to meet the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration’s requirements for hurricane resistance.

Originally constructed by Earl Swensson and Associates (www.esarch.com) of Nashville, Tenn., the facility is designed to eventually accommodate up to 400 beds within five stories. The hospital is being expanded in phases; the most recently completed phase involved a \$75 million, three-story patient tower expansion that increased capacity by 198 patient rooms.

“It’s important that the hospital look seamless,” Menton emphasizes. The original facility and nearby wellness center have a distinct, Mediterranean style. As the project’s glazing contractor, Lake Glass and Mirror, Leesburg, Fla., relied on Wausau (Wis.) Window and Wall Systems’ windows to withstand the extreme high wind loads and impact resistance required in Florida.

“The Villages is a community with very specific architectural demands,” explains Bert Boliek, Lake Glass and Mirror’s vice president. Each opening consists of a complex, multipane design with an arched header. Ranging from three-, six- and nine-pane openings, the project included in excess of several

hundred panes of glass. “To match the existing building ... we matched the color of both the red frames and the green glass inserts,” he adds.

Large windows at the end of each patient hallway allow natural light to flood the wings. Additionally, large windows in each of the patient rooms are furnished



Wausau window systems used at The Villages (Fla.) Regional Hospital.

with integral between-glass venetian blinds, allowing patients to control the sunlight in their rooms.

And all this sunlight can make patients more comfortable. The Center for Health Design, Concord, Calif., has reported that patients in brightly lit rooms have a shorter length of stay.

“Since the expansion, the patient and family response has been phenomenal,” says Menton. “While our job is to get them healthy and send them home, they often tell us they’d like to stay another day.”

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FACILITY NAME / The Villages Regional Hospital LOCATION / The Villages, Fla. PRODUCT / Window systems

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