



A B O U T N A C H R I



Building Places for Children

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As architects, our goal in designing health care facilities is to make patients healthy and happy. Since it opened its doors several years ago, the award-winning success of **Hasbro Children's Hospital at Rhode Island Hospital** in Providence is nationally recognized as a benchmark in innovative health care design. This was confirmed by the post-occupancy evaluation conducted by Children's Environments Research Group.

In creating healing environments for children and their families, three important issues emerged: creating a sense of place and belonging; giving the patient and family a sense of control over a new environment; and providing distraction and diversion from the anxiety of an often stressful situation.



Sense of place, both personal and universally shared, is recognized on first approach to a building. To achieve this, the exterior of a building must evoke a positive, immediate impression using forms, shapes and color. In this case, Hasbro has a scale of

construction and images of building blocks and castle-like towers that are familiar to children. Inviting entrances are an important introduction to the health care experience and are bright, light and cheerful, using glass entrances, canopies, and skylights. The keyhole shape of the two Hasbro entrances clearly tells children that this is a special place for them.

The accommodation of the family starts with the bedrooms, which are primarily singles with private bathrooms. Each has enough living space for a parent to participate in the care giving



around the clock and offers homelike touches with the use of natural wood and colorful wallpaper borders. Families and children can further personalize the rooms with bulletin boards and lockable storage spaces.

Enhancing the sense of a home-away-from-home, three groups of eight to 10 beds are gathered around decentralized nurses stations, creating intimate neighborhoods on each floor. This keeps the patients near the staff and gives them a feeling of security and accessibility and also involves the family in the care giving team. The family lounge gives parents a degree of privacy, and yet its proximity to the nurses station makes it easier for them to get away.



Design elements in the more public areas that foster patient-family comfort and healing include The Learning Resource Center and a delightful multi-story "backyard" playhouse-an immediate hit with the children.

The main lobby is more than an entrance. This dynamic space features an interactive fountain, gift shop and stage with diversions for concerned parents, sick children and anxious siblings. It also provides a central and memorable focal point from which all wayfinding in the hospital originates, giving families a sense of control in an unfamiliar environment.



A children's hospital should speak to those who use it, creating a comfortable, healing environment that contributes to the health of children and their families. Children's hospitals have led the patient- and family-centered health care effort. Why shouldn't an adult care facility also put a smile on your face?

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