

Planning Holistically

OWP/P designed Illinois' first LEED gold health facility. **BY GENEVIEVE DIESING**

Company Profile

OWP/P Cannon Design – Advocate Lutheran General Hospital

www.owpp.com

- **Location:** Park Ridge, Ill.
- **Employees on project:** 18 architects and designers
- **Total budget:** \$201 million
- **Deb Sheehan, market leader of healthcare:** "A strategy like this is far more than just building placement on-site."

OWP/P Cannon Design Healthcare can add a new feather to its already well-decorated cap – the design of the Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, Ill., the first LEED gold certified healthcare facility in Illinois. The award-winning Chicago office designed the 383,800-square-foot, \$201 million facility with the utmost concern for patient well-being, and put its LEED-accredited team to work to save 21 percent of the building's projected mechanical and electrical energy costs.

These savings are achieved through a rainwater collection and filter system; a water-retain-

ing and insulated roof; a glass curtainwall system to maximize daylight; and low-flow water and plumbing fixtures. The facility, which opened in August, is the result of years of planning, Deb Sheehan says.

"It was really a manifestation of years of planning that started with campus master planning six years ago," Sheehan notes. "Before pen was even put to paper, we spent a lot of time educating Advocate leadership on what the opportunities were for the project, and what the cost benefit analysis could be."

OWP/P Cannon Design teamed with a construction manager through the 13-month design phase, which was followed by two years of building. Throughout the entire process, OWP/P Cannon Design took a holistic approach to the project, balancing operational impact with design decisions Sheehan stresses.

"A strategy like this is far more than just building placement on-site; it's really about activating sustainable, healing space holistically on campuses," she says. "And the dynamic of the hospital – both the adult patient care and the children's hospital – really played to our expertise in medical planning."

OWP/P Cannon Design has a long history working with Advocate – it has completed

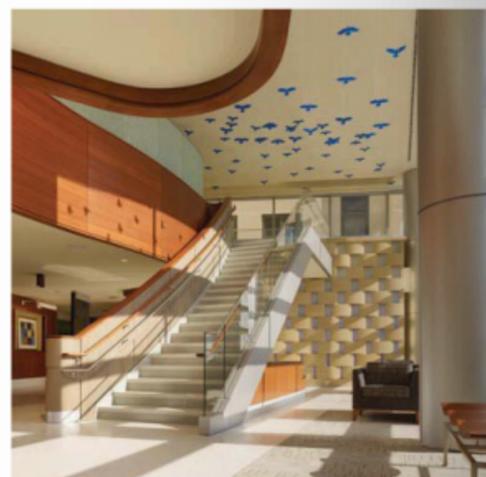


PHOTO: JAMES STENKAMP

PHOTO: CRAIG DUGAN



OWP/P Cannon Design designed Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, Ill., which is Illinois' first LEED gold certified healthcare facility.

numerous projects for the client since their first partnership in the 1990s. OWP/P Cannon Design found its enthusiasm for successful, sustainable projects matched by Advocate's mission, which has helped foster its successful relationship, Sheehan says.

LEADING THE COMMUNITY

OWP/P Cannon Design has been a leader in the healthcare design community for nearly 40 years, with a portfolio encompassing architecture, interior design, engineering, planning and consulting. More than 45 percent of its staff is LEED-accredited, Sheehan says. This has made the firm a national leader in sustainable design, she says. The healthcare landscape has endured several evolutions since Sheehan's entry into the marketplace in the late '80s, she says, but OWP/P Cannon Design has adapted with it. "We have stayed connected to the business objectives of our clients," she notes.

Lately, those objectives have come more in the form of refurbishing existing facilities

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instead of building new ones, as the recession has made it difficult for healthcare providers to get the lending necessary to start up new projects. This has resulted in a "reuse approach" to building, Sheehan says, which has complimented its strength in program consolidation and highest and best use renovations.

"There remains a lot of planning work ongoing," Sheehan says. "We currently have four large projects we're finishing up construction on. We're also seeing quite a bit of interest in evaluating campus assets, with a focus engaged in finding operating efficiencies and in commissioning buildings for their highest and best use."

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