

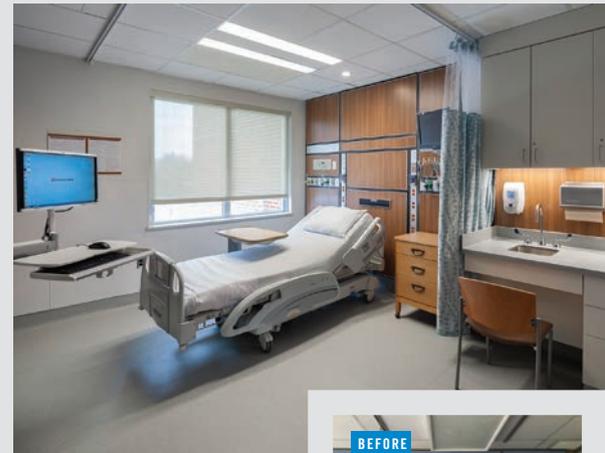
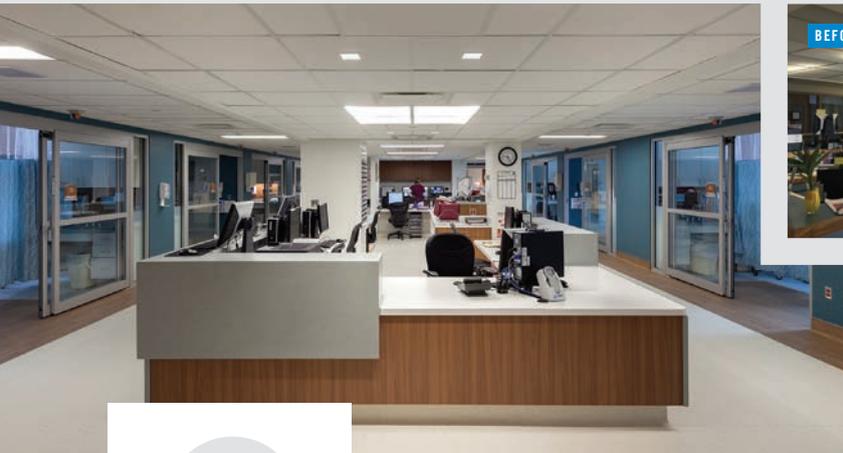


BUDGET-FRIENDLY—SILVER WINNER

Saint Clare's Health System Critical Care Unit

Denville, N.J

SUBMITTED BY: POSEN ARCHITECTS, LLC • WEST ORANGE, N.J.



DESIGN TEAM:

Chris McIvor, regional director plant operations/client (Saint Clare's Health System); Kathryn Langer, facilities construction manager (Saint Clare's Denville Hospital) Fernando Amesti Jr., director of construction/general contractor (Barrier Free Construction and Maintenance); Lori Klein, CID, design principal; Dennis A. Posen, AIA, principal in charge; William S. Hamilton, AIA, LEED AP, project architect (Posen Architects, LLC)

COST PER SQUARE FOOT:
\$175

PHOTOS (AFTER):
Jay Rosenblatt
Photography, LLC

FIRM CONTACT:
(973) 325-3250
www.posen.com

SAINT CLARE'S Denville Hospital CCU was an outdated care unit with pastel headwalls and tired finishes. To modernize the suite, changes needed to be minimal to maintain current licensed status, with the goal of creating a better patient, family and staff experience. In planning a major "cosmetic upgrade," the new design would transform the 12-bed unit with new glass wall fronts with sliding doors, new flooring and millwork, and healthcare ceiling tiles with multifunctional lighting for better acoustics and control. Based on evidence that views of nature, natural materials, and daylight would improve patient outcomes, an interior scheme and revamped staff layout was developed. Reconfiguration of the central nursing station allowed for better sight lines and access, and an added nurse station to the rear of the Meds Room now provides direct care for rooms located at the end of the unit. As a bonus, natural light flows into staff work areas.

With budget challenges and a requirement to limit wall and plumbing changes, phasing became the next obstacle to overcome. And the hospital still had to go through local approval process for Rehab Sub-code and NFPA 101 review, which meant existing functional program elements had to remain. Creative thinking led

JURY COMMENTS:

- Great job of refreshing and opening up the space while working within the constraints of an existing footprint. The unit is fresh, bright, and comforting.
- Much improved central core work areas and nice visibility with newer ICU sliding doors. Nice refresh to headwalls keeping much of the existing utilities.
- Beautiful transformation from a very blue and dated unit to clean, contemporary interior. Incorporating natural wood-look elements, on vertical and horizontal surfaces and improving the lighting design was exactly what this unit needed. Minor modifications, such as removing the blue color highlighting the soffit at the nurses' station, instantly made this support space feel more open and approachable to family and visitors.

to a solution to gain the necessary approvals to utilize an underserved patient unit in the hospital for "swing space" so that time and money were saved to do the project in one shot. Still, there was careful adherence to ICRA and planning for shut-down and overtime contingencies.

SCHS staffs were interviewed; during the design investigation, storage, filing, and areas for documentation and collaboration were reviewed for consolidation to preserve the team gathering area. Inboard equipment docking keeps the corridor uncluttered and allows staff space to chart outside patient rooms with mobile carts.

Staff, patient and family zones within the rooms are now defined. To recognize family as part of the caregiving team for improved patient outcomes, options for new furnishings were suggested without interfering with patient and equipment access. The lavender and baby blue headwalls are replaced with wood-look laminate inserts, and new window treatment helps provide glare and thermal control for everyone's comfort. Wood-look flooring and white finishes create a comforting and bright space. Overall, the updated appearance now reflects the level of care and skill provided by the dedicated staff.