

BEST OF
2007
AWARDS

Laura Rothenberg Bronchoscopy-Endoscopy Center

AWARD OF MERIT: Health Care/Hospital

Laura Rothenberg inspired millions by documenting her valiant fight with cystic fibrosis and subsequent double lung transplant in a best-selling book and radio diary.

After Rothenberg's death in 2003 at age 22, a group of donors sought to honor her extraordinary spirit by funding a new clinic—the Laura Rothenberg Bronchoscopy-Endoscopy Center—that would provide a comforting, self-affirming and creative experience for patients and their families.

At the outset of the project, however, the 5,000-sq-ft clinic's constrained location within New York-Presbyterian's Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital seemed far removed from its donors' vision.

"The clinic is bisected by major hospital circulation through-corridors, which made it difficult to fit the program and specific clinical requirements within the tight spaces," says project manager Delah DelPrado of design architect Dattner Architects of New York. "A lack of natural light also posed a challenge to creating a sense of lightness, color and transparency in the clinic—one of the project's most important goals."

Just as Rothenberg remained undaunted by her life-threatening illness, the project team turned the space's inherent obstacles into a friendly, engaging environment. Bright colors highlight the small play-wait area, which includes wood cabinets and cupboards for books and games, small vitrines with changing displays and interactive computers. Whiteboard wall laminate also allows children to express their creative side while awaiting their appointment.

Resilient sheet flooring turned one of the through-corridors into a curved "path of discovery" that leads to the center's



clinical spaces. Bordering the corridor are display cases featuring children's artwork. There also is a large photomural with images of exploration and discovery.

"The meandering pathway adds to the playfulness of the space and focuses one's attention to the photo-mural from differing perspectives," DelPrado says. "A single large photo at the end of the main cross-corridor continues the pathway, stimulating the imagination to possible paths each person may take."

Unlike the confining, institutional-style procedure rooms that can be intimidating to a child, the Rothenberg Center's exam rooms feature translucent glazing at the sidelights. The easily cleaned glazing provides yet another venue for patients to create their own artwork.

In the recovery area, new clerestory windows bring in natural light from an adjacent public circulation corridor facing the hospital's garden courtyard. Placed to infill between existing columns, infrastructure risers and adjacent ceilings, the

Key Players

Owner: New York Presbyterian Hospital

Design Architect: Dattner Architects, New York

Architect of Record: Gertler & Wente Architects, New York

MEP Engineering: Lizardos Engineering Associates PC, Mineola, N.Y.

General Contractor: SMC Construction Development Inc., Farmington, N.Y.

10- by 1.5-ft., .25-in.-thick clear-laminate windows are mounted on recessed aluminum channels.

A translucent panel is suspended above each recovery bed and is backlit with a unique natural image, selected to settle anxious children and take their imagination beyond the clinical environment. Translucent glazing, colored glass tiles and fiber-optic-laced flooring at the recovery room entrance provide an additional play of light and color. <<