

Monthly Newsletter

John W. Baumgarten Architect, P.C.

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John Baumgarten
R.A., AIA, NCARB, LEED

Do You Know That...?

- Our office is currently working on several Assisted Living Projects located within or adjacent to Skilled Nursing Facilities.

These 30 bed ALP Units complete a vital link in the continuum of care.

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The Finished Product

When designing today's cutting edge facilities, health care architects play a supporting role in the care giving process by creating comforting and healing environments. Some of the key ingredients to such successful collaborations include the use of residential style furnishings and finishes.

Historically, health care architects, designers and facilities managers favored materials that had high durability and low maintenance. Aesthetics, although viewed as important, did not always top the list of specification criteria.

In today's competitive environment, many facilities are vying for the same consumer who is now being looked upon as a customer with choices, rather than as a patient. In order to attract those customers, health care providers are upgrading their physical plants and are paying close attention to their style, ambiance and the variety of amenities available for customers and their families.

In response to this trend of more homelike and comfortable environments, material manufacturers have introduced new product lines and modified others.

For example, carpeting has always been viewed as inappropriate for health care environments due to problems with staining and bacteria growth. Today, whole lines of health care carpet are being manufactured with moisture barriers to prevent fluids from reaching the backing and sophisticated processes to limit or eliminate staining, microbial growth and static electricity.

Although increased sprinkler protection has led to a more frequent use of woods, some natural materials do not always have the needed impact resistance and durability. Synthetic alternatives are now available which have the look of wood but are much more durable. For example, vinyl plank flooring has the "look" of tongue and groove wood strip flooring and rigid vinyl mimics solid core wood veneer doors. "First cost" and maintenance concerns are still critical criteria in the selection of finishes. Although vinyl plank flooring has a higher installed price tag than conventional vinyl tile, facilities are tending to view such higher first costs as a smart investment which is helping to attract consumers.

New materials require new maintenance protocols and it's critical that housekeeping staffs receive the necessary training to keep finishes looking their best and to insure that they reach their full useful life.

John W Baumgarten Architect, P.C.: Innovative & Experienced

- *Specialists in the planning of complex, phased health care projects.*
- *Over 40 years of combined health care design excellence.*
- *We feature principal and associate level management.*
- *The majority of our clients utilize our services on a continuing basis.*
- *We have earned a solid reputation with State and Local Health Agencies.*
- *A full service team with a personal approach.*
- *We understand how your business works and will serve as a strategic planning partner.*
- *A reputation for bringing in projects on-time and on-budget.*
- *An integrated multidisciplinary design approach focusing on the total project.*
- *We offer project management as a value added service -- coordinating the efforts of a professional consulting team.*
- *LEED Certified Professional Services.*