

Welcome to our latest eNews

Construction is often described as a leading economic indicator. It could just as easily be considered a peek into the future. That's certainly the feeling I have when I visit our project sites.

Take a look inside and you will see how Resurrection Health Care was first in Chicago with the latest breakthrough in radiation treatment for cancer, the remarkable TomoTherapy HI-ART System. It's not only "high art" but it's great technology.

Look further and you will find that Rush North Shore Medical Center is radically changing the hospital inpatient experience, contemporary and also very comforting.

Excellent outputs demand professional performance all-around. It seems Resurrection and Rush North Shore appreciated our efforts.

We also have to give credit to our clients and the designers for their good taste.

Sam W. Stowell
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Our Latest Projects

TomoTherapy

The right solution at the right time

So what was bothering John McGreevy, Resurrection Health Care's Director of Radiology, as he monitored Stowell's construction progress last November? A usually relaxed man, John seemed quite anxious about preparations for the installation of this state of the art TomoTherapy® HI-ART® (Highly Integrated Adaptive Radiation Therapy) system.

Was he concerned that the additional shielding provided the necessary protection and would pass inspection? Perhaps a little, but as he will tell you, he was very confident that the combined experience of Resurrection's resident nuclear physicist, the architect (David Selinger, AIA) and Frank H. Stowell & Sons was the next best thing to a guarantee.

Was it a lingering doubt that this revolutionary advance in treatment delivery was as good as its press? He might





- have been if the system had not been delivering on its potential and receiving plaudits around the world since its production debut a few years ago.
- “No, my biggest concern was that if I could not take delivery on time I would have to let another hospital have this system. With the tremendous demand, I would have to wait for at least another six months.” John explained. “Losing up to nine months of this great treatment system was a real possibility if there was any slippage.”
- Fortunately, John is able to describe this worry with a smile of relief. Not only was construction finished on the targeted day, all inspections were successful first time, equipment installation and training of the Radiation Therapists and Dosimetrists went without a hitch and barely three weeks later patients were reaping the therapeutic benefits.

That Resurrection could announce the first *TomoTherapy* installation in Chicago was a bonus but not an unusual scenario for Resurrection to find itself. It was the first hospital in the area to offer PET scans at a fixed site and the first to offer computer assisted diagnosis for Mammography and for breast MRI.

“Resurrection is not a research hospital per se. Our mission is to deliver the highest quality health care solutions and we achieve that by being an early adaptor of new technologies that meet the needs of an acute care community hospital. We have to be forward thinking but prudent. The *TomoTherapy Hi-Art* treatment system met all our criteria.” is how John describes their approach and how they came to be number one

Now, one month into operation, Resurrection shows no sign of buyer’s regret. Why should they? The *Hi-Art* system is the latest breakthrough in radiation treatment for cancer, delivering small beamlets of radiation from every point on a spiral thanks to the rotating platform. The result is exceptional accuracy. This accuracy has a dual benefit. The more angles that a radiation treatment beam can be delivered from, the better the focus on the tumor and the less effect on surrounding tissue.

What makes the *TomoTherapy Hi-Art* treatment system truly revolutionary, however, is the ability to create a computed tomography (CT), or CTrue™, image just prior to radiation treatment. With a full three-dimensional image of a patient’s anatomy, the radiation beam can be adjusted to size, shape and intensity at the precise location of the patient’s tumor.

TomoTherapy treatments, combined with surgery and chemotherapy, is helping to improve the odds of cancer recovery; odds that have been improving since 1993. Resurrection is pleased that its patients are already benefiting and that this treatment room is already a hive of activity and not an empty promise. ●





Great room service

It is unlikely that you are planning a stay at Rush North Shore Medical Center. Still, if you find yourself being wheeled into this very attractive 4 East floor, you might wonder if you are in a Marriott suite by mistake.

With warm hues that are not at all sterile it is easy to forget you are in a hospital. This is no accident. Martha Strong, Director of Interiors at OKW Architects in Chicago, was allowed a full palette of colors and materials for designing this medical floor. In keeping with the hospital policy of creating attractive and soothing spaces, she chose a fresh green color palette to complement her selection of stone, maple and cherry wood patterns for the vinyl flooring in the corridors.

Still, creating a relaxed atmosphere required plenty of energy, coordination and running hard against a tight schedule. The “vinyl wood plank flooring” turned out to present the same challenge as the real thing. The contractor had already started the installation when they realized that the colors and patterns varied from “plank” to “plank”. Replacing the flooring was not an option.



“Fortunately nobody panicked,” Martha recollected.

“It just meant that every piece had to be matched for the “grain” resulting in an end-product that looks much more natural. It’s great when you can resolve a problem with a material and finally see a successful installation. The construction team was great to work with.”

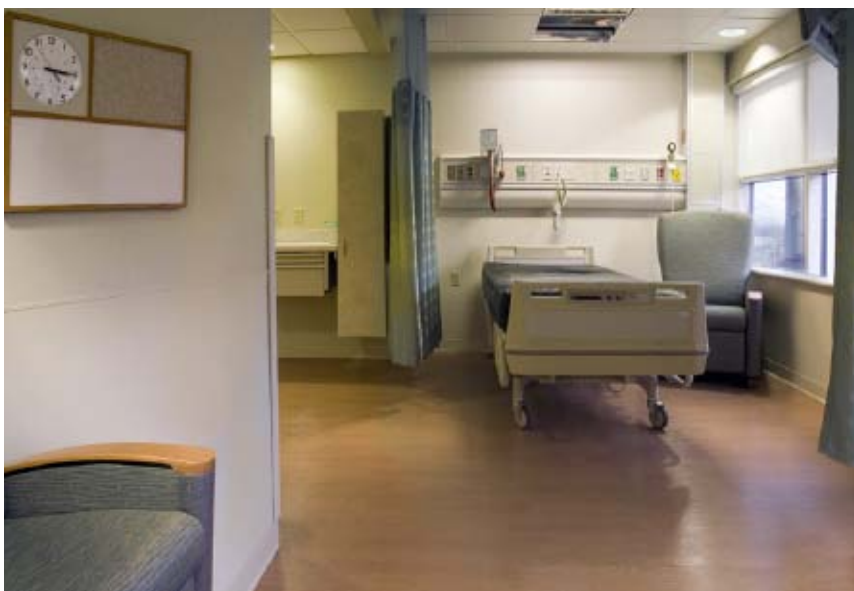
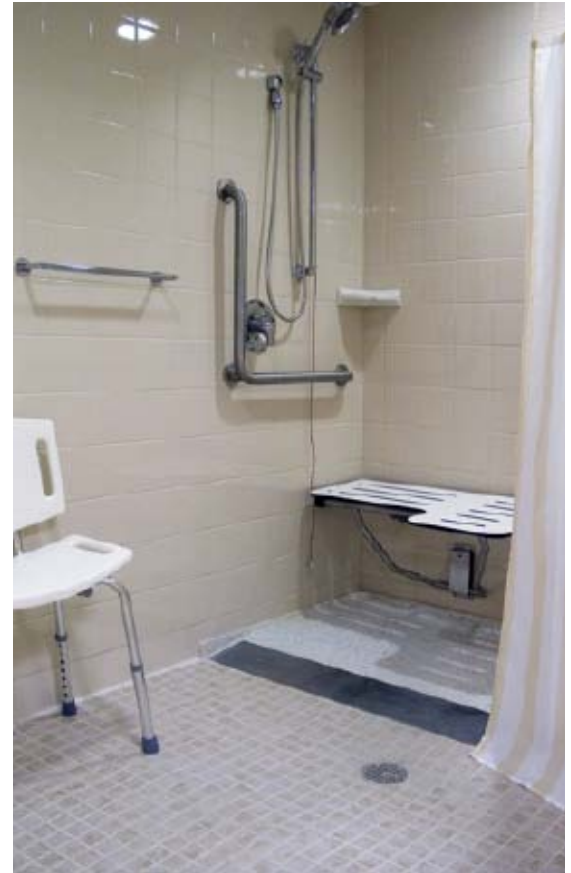
With Rush North Shore as concerned with operating costs as with meeting the schedule, 2’ x 2’ fluorescent direct/indirect recessed fixtures were chosen for the primary lighting. As well as being energy efficient, the lights have the effect of illuminating ceilings as well as the area below. Throw in rich green tones that are brought to life by strategically located incandescent downlights and the corridors and public spaces radiate vibrancy.

“The programming requirements somewhat restricted our material options for the patient rooms,” Martha noted in explaining OKW’s finish selections.

Still, despite those constraints, as you see they are no less attractively furnished and finished. Lighting is practical and flexible meeting the staff’s professional needs and the patient’s comfort considerations.

With space and colors so intelligently utilized, relaxation is almost guaranteed. In fact, patients could be tempted to extend their stay! We’ll see. ●

(Thanks to Megen Briars of OKW Architects for her significant contribution to this article)





● Living dangerously

No, construction work is not the most dangerous job. That dubious honor belongs to the fishing industry where more than one in a thousand workers dies each year. Still, it is more dangerous than police-work and fire-fighting with one in four thousand annual fatalities.

You'll be glad to know that we count the incidents we have in a year on one hand and our worst cases are twisted knees and back sprains. It helps that we do most of our work inside (no roofs to fall off) perform highly skilled work and employ experienced union tradesmen who have families to support.

This is good news for us and for our projects. While we give each job 100%, we measure in sweat not in blood and tears. For Stowell, a job well-done with nobody getting hurt is the perfect combination. ●

