

## Welcome to our latest eNews

What a great part of the country we live in. On top of everything else, we have an abundance of options when it comes to top-flight hospitals and we, at Stowell, get the inside look. You'll be glad to know we like what we see, dedicated staff focused on delivering great healthcare.

Central DuPage Hospital, as reflected by a number of national awards, is right up in the top echelon. If that was not enough, it has to be one of the most pleasant environments for temporary confinement. Nestled in tiny Winfield in the Southwest Suburbs, Central DuPage strikes an impressive pose from the outside while intriguing from the inside. Check out a couple of the interesting projects that we completed there. The pediatric clinic and the physicians lounge were challenging and rewarding projects in different ways.

Not too far from Winfield is the very active community of Elk Grove Village and we were pleased to be able to improve the functionality of their popular public library. The new Circulation Area and Wireless Café are welcome additions to this impressive facility.

Full credit has to go to the respective architects, designers and client representatives who made it possible for us to produce such good results.

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## Our Latest Projects

### Central DuPage Hospital Pediatric Clinic brings smiles

Looking more like a daycare center than a pediatric clinic, we were privileged to work with architect Lou Garapolo, director of facilities Larry Bell and project manager Guido DiDomenico to complete this heart-warming project for Central DuPage Hospital. The magic is in the detail. The circles are playful, suggesting balls and bubbles, and artfully designed to connect the soffit to the floor. The decorative pendant lights (yes, they are a ladybug and a bee) and warm colors are sure to soothe anxious young patients. Award winning RTKL Associates were the designers.

Practicality was not sacrificed in the process; that's durable and maintainable vinyl tile flooring. As for those perfect circles, there was no trickery, just an experienced tradesman with moxie, a great eye and professional pride.

We have no doubt that this pleasant atmosphere will help its young residents feel just a little bit more comfortable. ●





- **Physicians Lounge, where form matches function**

While completing the clinic was gratifying, creating this stirring space, a break lounge, for the hospital's energetic doctors was a challenge of major proportions. 20 feet high by 22 feet wide by 20 inches deep of an *art wall* was, even by our standards, pretty major, especially when the design called for it to be hung, like a painting. No, there's no giant hook supporting it, rather a substantial set of sturdy braces. How did we get it through the door? We didn't. We built it to specification out of light-weight foam encapsulated by fire-resistant drywall.





- Thanks go to RTKL for the dramatic design and the other intelligent features that are practical as well as aesthetic. That would include the polished Trend Stone™ countertop and the tempered glass wall etched (by sandblasting) to create a virtual and dust-free *blind* effect.

Lighting is another highlight. With plenty of natural light arriving through a dramatic two-story high atrium ceiling, the artificial light is used to accent the space's many inventive features. Suspended pendants, recessed indirect, wall mounted sconces, compact fluorescent and staggered strip are just some of the fourteen lighting options used to great effect. Whether spotlighting art pieces or backlighting ecoresin (recycled plastic) panels, the lighting simultaneously brings out and integrates the many details.

Not to be ignored are the numerous practical elements that are compactly slotted into a fairly limited footprint. Physicians on the run, or seeking a well earned respite, are already making the most of the kitchen, the meeting room, the break-room, the workstation area, the coat-storage room and the washrooms, and appreciating the care that went into creating it.

- We, at Stowell, were pleased to add another professional element to Central DuPage Hospital. ●





## Elk Grove Village Public Library gets a make-over and the beat goes on

Elk Grove Village Public Library can be very demanding as we found out working on their major remodeling project. We were informed politely, but firmly, that our construction activities could not interrupt their operations, not for a minute. This is not your usual public library. Perhaps it's the vibrant community or perhaps it's the great service, but this is one popular library. Twenty people waiting outside at 8:55 am on a snowy Saturday morning is not what you might expect. According to Lee Maternowski, the library's director, our superintendent, Kurt Kieffer, and his project team admirably met the challenge.

- What this meant was that every component of the job had to be scheduled in split phases, be it the entrance vestibule, the circulation desk, the washrooms or the main lobby. For each *half* we had to create a protective barrier that would keep noise and dust to a minimum as the public passed by, just feet away. As much as possible of this preparatory work was scheduled to be performed between 6:00 and 9:00 am. Once each half was complete, we could *unwrap* and repeat the process for the other half.
- What could have been a stressful situation turned out to be very harmonious. Much credit is owed to



- Gregg Hubbell, construction administrator, from BCA who liaised closely with the client authority, Paul Kaplan, and with Kurt Kieffer. Paying particular attention to the high traffic areas such as the circulation desk, the reading area and the wireless café, Gregg even made sure that the grain direction on the millwork, the elevation of the track lighting and the angle on the book drops were correct. The result is a space that works and works well.

This is the first renovation since the library opened in 1990 and puts the library right alongside Barnes and Noble and coffee-houses as a place to hang out, one that has far more to offer and

- at just the right price. ●

