



## A healing place with safe, efficient care

*"Hospital buildings can heal," according to the May 2008 report, "Evidence for Innovation – Transforming Children's Health through the Physical Environment" by National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions and The Center for Health Design*

### What is Evidence-based design?

Children's Hospital's new west tower utilizes principles of evidence-based health care design, which means creating environments that are therapeutic, supportive of family involvement, efficient for staff performance and restorative for workers under stress. The goal is to achieve the best possible results for patients, families and staff while improving utilization of resources. The physical environment represents a key component in providing family centered care in pediatric settings.

**Infection control:** Infection control always is a top priority. When addressing infection control in a hospital environment, indoor air quality is key. Bringing in clean air is important, but a more pressing challenge is keeping the air from becoming contaminated once it's inside the building. The west tower was designed with a unique vapor barrier that was tested to withstand extreme Wisconsin weather (enclosure quality management) in order to keep the air quality as pure as possible. In addition, one hundred percent of patient rooms will be private to meet national patient safety standards.

**Flow and security:** When designing the most secure environment, the planning team looked at flow strategies. Flow is the choreography of how people move throughout the campus. The team has carefully considered where people enter our buildings, how people move to their destinations, what help is in place to guide people and how we balance safety of the environment with efficient movement of people. Based upon these flow studies, **innovative new features in the west tower include secure units, on-stage areas for patient families and off-stage areas for staff as well as improved signage and wayfinding.**

**Room design:** One hundred percent private patient rooms will greatly reduce the number of patient transfers each day. Consider this: Currently, the hospital moves 30 to 40 patients each day to properly group them by age, gender and infection control status. The rooms themselves – organized into three zones – were designed for the best and safest patient and staff experience. **Take a virtual tour of Children's Hospital's new patient rooms at [thisismychildrens.org](http://thisismychildrens.org).**

**The staff zone**, located both inside and immediately outside the patient's room achieves the goal of maximizing time with the patient and family and minimizing time spent obtaining critical supplies and medications. A hand-washing sink at the room's entrance supports strict infection control guidelines.

**The patient care zone** in the critical care unit features a central ceiling mounted boom that houses all monitoring equipment, ventilator support and oxygen, and allows for 360 degree rotation of the patient. This allows for greater access to the patient while accommodating the patient's view preference. Each acute care room has a private, accessible bathroom with a shower and bathtub.

**The family zone** has a workstation/desk for homework and writing needs, built-in bench seating and a fold-out bed for one parent. Other amenities include wireless Internet access, a separate family television and reading light as well as shelves and storage for displaying well wishes, books and toys.

**Architectural Elements:** The stature of the new building at 12 stories offers visibility from highways I-94 and 45. The top floor of the hospital was designed with a lightbox effect and the recognizable "blue kids" logo for a high level of visibility on the skyline at night. Flexibility was one of the key design principles. By sandwiching the shell space into the middle of the building (floors 7 and 8) between the critical care and acute care areas, we can expand up or down and maintain adjacency. There are no walls built on these floors so they can be configured for whatever we need, when we need it.