I believe even the environment in a hospital should heal.

Deirdre Imus

One of America’s first environmentally responsible and sustainable healthcare facilities: The Gabrellian Women’s and Children’s Pavilion at Hackensack University Medical Center.
A BOLD ENVIRONMENTAL VISION AND ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW.

Cleaner air.
A U.V. treatment/HVAC system reduces airborne pathogens and contributes to superior indoor air quality.

Millwork contains a wheat/strawboard core that utilizes readily renewable resources and eliminates formaldehyde commonly used in the production of wood products.

Doors to the future.
Doors contain a recycled core with low-VOC stain/finish. The core gives a second life to recycled materials, while the exteriors use rapidly renewable tree species and managed forestry contribute to the expanding sustainable wood industry.

Purer water.
A sediment filtration system in the food service kitchen purifies water used in cooking and food preparation.

Woodsman, spare that old tree!
Certified wood products throughout the building ensure that no old-growth wood was used. Rapidly renewable tree species and managed forestry contribute to the expanding sustainable wood industry.

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Other ways to get here.
Alternative transportation accommodations will enable patients and visitors to access the hospital via mass transit, which includes trains, buses, bicycles, and taxis. Shower facilities are provided for bicyclists, and power receptacles are available in the parking garage for alternative power vehicles.

Better drywall.
Gypsum drywall manufactured with recycled content keeps materials from the landfill and reduces the need for additional raw materials used in manufacturing.

Purer water.
A sediment filtration system in the food service kitchen purifies water used in cooking and food preparation.

Not your run-of-the-millwork.
Millwork contains a wheat/strawboard core that utilizes readily renewable resources and eliminates formaldehyde commonly used in the production of wood products.

Energy-efficient HVAC systems reduce power consumption.

Less waste, more recycling.
A construction waste management and recycling initiative was established to recycle as many materials as possible during the building phase, reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills.

Paint it healthy.
Low- or non-VOC emitting materials such as interior paints, finishes, adhesives, and sealants help maintain healthy indoor air and reduce allergy triggers.

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Greening the Cleaning®
Made from naturally derived ingredients, the products of The Deirdre Imus Environmental Center at Hackensack University Medical Center are environmentally responsible and less toxic than most traditional cleaning agents. Yet, from hand soap to basin, tub, and tile cleaner, they are as effective as what they replace – in some cases even more effective.
In the dark? Good!
Motion sensors reduce power usage by shutting the lights off when no occupants are in a room.

Jean therapy.
Cotton insulation made from preconsumer recycled denim jeans eliminates the asbestos and formaldehyde sometimes found in conventional insulation. It also reduces irritation to the skin, nose, throat, and lungs associated with traditional fiberglass insulation.

A blooming roof.
The establishment of a rooftop garden will generate energy savings through shading and insulation, reducing heat islands and cooling costs, and increasing habitat for local wildlife.

Safer toys.
Toys for pediatric patients and the waiting areas were chosen using environmentally responsible criteria, including formaldehyde-free wooden toys and plastic toys free of PVCs.

Every drip counts.
Conventional irrigation systems have been eliminated where possible. Drip irrigation systems are used to reduce water consumption.

No blinding light.
Exterior lighting fixture guards will reduce light pollution for the surrounding residential neighborhood.

The strong and sensible type.
The building’s steel structure is comprised of approximately 97 percent recycled steel.

“I believe even the environment in a hospital should heal.”

Deirdre Imus

In 2001, Hackensack University Medical Center opened The Deirdre Imus Environmental Center for Pediatric Oncology. As its founder and president, Deirdre Imus sets the center’s mission: “I see a future in which we identify, control, and ultimately prevent exposures to environmental factors that may cause adult and especially pediatric cancer, as well as other health problems with our children. To this end, the center educates the public about the carcinogens and other environmental factors that too commonly affect our lives – and helps shape policy decisions that impact our environment and our well-being.”

In one such effort, The Deirdre Imus Environmental Center developed, and Hackensack University Medical Center instituted, a hospital-wide “Greening the Cleaning®” initiative to replace potentially toxic cleaning products with more environmentally responsible products. For these efforts, The Deirdre Imus Environmental Center and Hackensack University Medical Center were awarded the Philip M. Scanlan Environmental Award from Quality New Jersey – and were recognized by the New Jersey Business & Industry Association with the Environmental Award for Excellence.

As a spokesperson for Hackensack University Medical Center and an unwavering ambassador for environmental responsibility, Deirdre Imus has taken an active lead in the planning and construction of The Gabrielle’s Women’s and Children’s Pavilion. The Deirdre Imus Center evaluated the materials and practices involved in every aspect of the development of the building. As a result, according to Green Guide for Healthcare, Hackensack University Medical Center is one of the first hospitals in the country to build a truly environmentally responsible, sustainable healthcare facility. The pavilion will serve as a resource and role model for hospitals and other large buildings throughout the nation, improving the environment in which more and more Americans work, learn, and are healed.

Says Deirdre Imus, “Someday, all hospitals will be built this way.”

Alternatives to PVC.
Wall protection systems constructed of non-PVC material eliminate the need for systems traditionally made with PVC.

Progress underfoot.
Rubber flooring made from renewable resources is free of PVC, heavy metals, halogens, plasticizers, formaldehyde, and asbestos. It is a long-wearing alternative to vinyl made from nonbiodegradable, nonrecyclable and nonrenewable petroleum resources.

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THE HOSPITAL THAT WILL CHANGE HOSPITAL ENVIRONMENTS FOREVER.