



text: *william bostwick*

over the river and through

the woods

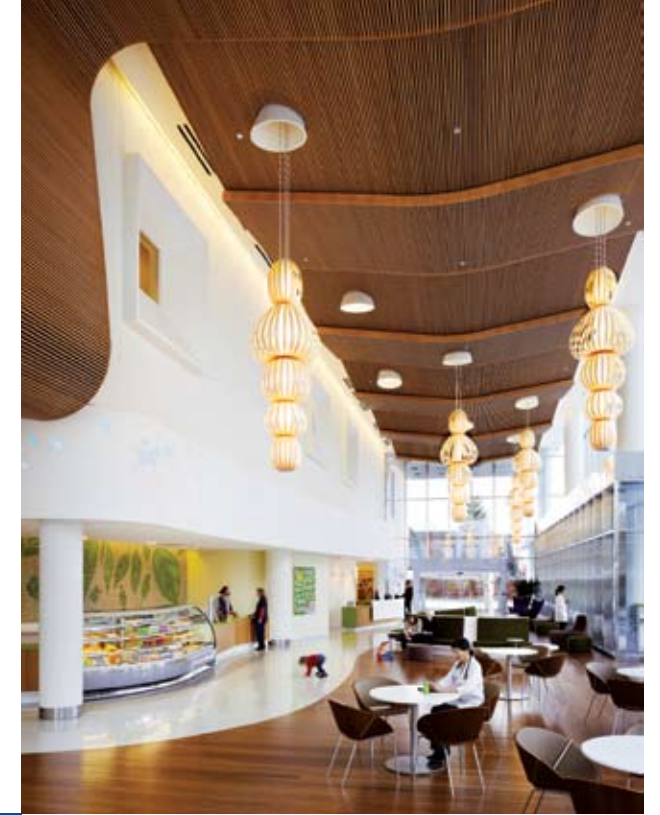
To Randall Children's Hospital we go—
that's a ZGF building in Portland, Oregon



Previous spread: Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects used pine logs to build tree forms that rise from the terrazzo floor to the basswood ceiling system in a gallery at Randall Children's Hospital at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center in Portland, Oregon. Photography: Nick Merrick/Hedrich Blessing.

Opposite top, from left: Above the check-in desk, color-changing LEDs shine through animal shapes cut out of a Corian frieze; photography: Nick Merrick/Hedrich Blessing. For the gallery, artist Larry Kirkland made Corian vitrines containing representations of letters of the alphabet; photography: Craig Collins. **Opposite bottom:** Reception for the emergency room features a puppy stool by Eero Aarnio and a trio of stools by Maya Lin. Photography: Nick Merrick/Hedrich Blessing.

Top: Birch lanterns hang in the lobby. Photography: Nick Merrick/Hedrich Blessing. **Bottom:** Glass wraps the three stacked double-height lounges for family members, while most of the facade is paneled in terra-cotta. Photography: Eckert & Eckert.



Of course, no one wants to go to the hospital—mostly for the obvious reasons. But the design has something to do with it. Those waiting-room chairs, those antiseptic floors aglow under fluorescent buzz. Yet, at the same time, the clinical aesthetic is oddly reassuring, as if to say, "There are more important things at stake here than color palettes."

The challenge of hospital design, then, is to balance competing reactions, to keep intact the message of serious treatment while softening the medical glare. Just because you're in professional hands doesn't mean you can't be comfortable. A good hospital should visually "reflect the quality of the care," Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects principal Sharron van der Meulen says. "It has to look respectable but welcoming, deinstitutionalized."

Van der Meulen, an interiors specialist, and partner Robert Frasca, overseeing architecture, accomplished just that with the new Randall Children's Hospital at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center in Portland, Oregon. The first thing you see from the Fremont Bridge crossing the Willamette River, the nine-story, 330,000-square-foot building had to strike the right note in softening the institutionality of Legacy Emanuel—as venerable as it gets, at a century old. "Optimistic" is how Frasca describes the Randall's tone. Reminders of the natural world are a major factor, starting with the garden outside the lobby.

Since patients come from every part of Oregon, Van der Meulen cast her net wide, gathering inspiration from all corners of the state: the Pacific coast, the Cascade Range, the eastern high desert. Each hospital zone is themed to a region: soothing ocean blue or cheerful sun yellow in the neonatal intensive-care unit, lush mountain green in outpatient areas, desert orange in day surgery. And each level gets a native animal for a mascot, its silhouette serving as a way-finder.

Whether etched into glass partitions or housed in birdhouse-shape vitrines, the deer, foxes, bears, mustangs, salmon, and hummingbirds are friendly and



Opposite: PearsonLloyd swivel chairs surround a WilliamsSorel table in a family lounge. Photography: Nick Merrick/Hedrich Blessing.

Top: Toshiyuki Kita designed the sofa and ottoman in an elevator lobby. Photography: Nick Merrick/Hedrich Blessing. **Center:** Each patient room contains a custom sofa-bed. Photography: Nick Merrick/Hedrich Blessing. **Bottom:** Deer and foxes appear etched into the glass fronting a nursing-unit entry desk. Photography: Eckert & Eckert.

bright. The motifs are a refreshing spin on what, in most children's hospitals, would surely devolve into cartoonishness. "We serve patients up to 21 years old. Are kids of even 12, 13, or 14 going to identify with SpongeBob?" Legacy Emanuel vice president of hospital operations Bryce Helgerson asks.

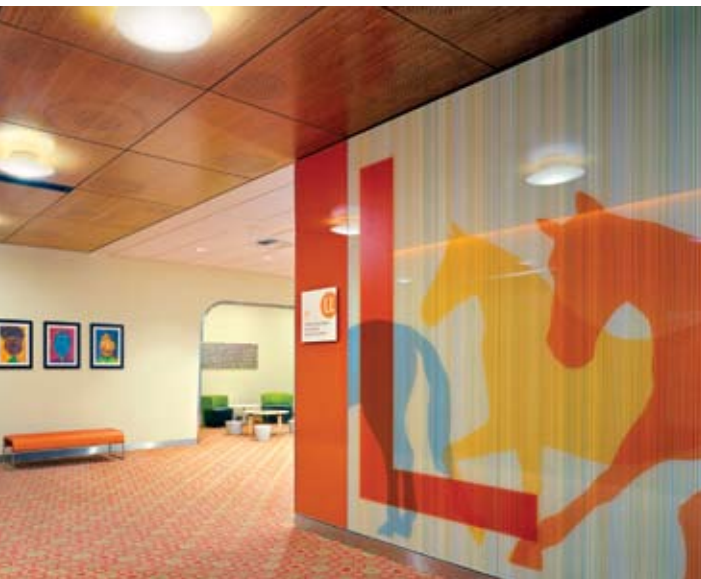
Then there's the age range of the visitors. "It's family-centric care. We don't have signs saying Visitor Hours 10:00 to 4:00," Helgerson says. That means parents and extended families have to feel welcome as well. Take the check-in and reception desks. At a child's height, animal shapes light up. "You and I won't notice that," he continues. "We'll see a beautiful piece of art on the wall behind."

In the patient rooms, some things can't change. Easy-to-clean vinyl floors are here to stay. But the Randall gave Van der Meulen freedom to alter some elements that are off-limits in most hospitals. The standard bedside table, a nuisance to nurses and unused by families, morphed into a mobile multitasker for meals or computer work. Head-walls, which store an arsenal of medical gadgetry, are often package items, ordered from a catalog. But ZGF built a handsome version out of bamboo-veneered panels, then used them for an enveloping canopy. "Is bamboo indigenous to Oregon? No," she admits. "But it is rapidly renewable and ties together with the lobby, lounges, and nurses' stations."

While focused on the comfort of patients, the rooms also take the full family experience into account. The sleeper sofa, for example, is roomy enough for two parents or a parent with a second child. In fact, there's hotel-quality furniture throughout. "We blur the line between hospitality and health care," Van der Meulen notes. Another overlooked facet of hospital design is designated areas for family members. "Often, lounges are the left-over space," she says. Here, they get prime real estate. Stacked at a glass-wrapped corner with an epic view of the Cascades, these double-height rooms are each outfitted with a kitchenette, an entertainment center, and upholstered furniture for work or simply relaxing together. Also stunning are the staff lounges, overlooking the gardens. The third story's quiet winter garden, which opens onto a terrace, offers a respite and retreat for both families and staff. ➤



- 1 GALLERY
- 2 PATIENT ROOMS
- 3 NURSE-DOCTOR STATIONS
- 4 FAMILY LOUNGE



Left, from top: Nylon carpet flows through the day-surgery waiting area. Set into the ceiling of this CAT-scan room are faux skylights with acrylic panels. **Right:** A playroom for day surgery offers a built-in Corian pod for a banquette. Photography: Eckert & Eckert.

Opposite top: Tinted-resin wall panels enliven a patient corridor in day surgery. Photography: Nick Merrick/Hedrich Blessing. **Opposite bottom:** Paola Navone's chairs and table share a terrace with laminated-glass sculptures by Nanda D'Agostino. Photography: Eckert & Eckert.



Opposite top, from left: Painted aluminum frames the doors between the terrace and the winter garden; photography: Nick Merrick/Hedrich Blessing. In a corridor, a black bear appears on zebra wood veneer sandwiched between acrylic resin; photography: Eckert & Eckert. **Opposite bottom:** The clinical areas are divided into "neighborhoods," which have their own central stations for nurses and doctors. Photography: Nick Merrick/Hedrich Blessing. **Top:** Artificial turf animates the garden outside the lobby. Photography: Eckert & Eckert. **Bottom:** Wool lines seating niches in the winter garden. Photography: Nick Merrick/Hedrich Blessing.

Go to interiordesign.net/zgf12 for more images of the hospital.



Escape is woven into the hospital's fabric. As the sun sets over the Pacific, and Portland's lights come up, constellations of LEDs glow in the lobby. Hallways are quiet. You might just forget you're in a hospital at all. Which is exactly the point. 🍷

PROJECT TEAM

ROBERT PACKARD (PARTNER IN CHARGE); KIP STOREY; JULIE JENSON; FRANCO ROSETE; KATE LONGENECKER; KENTON MCSWEEN; HALLIDAY MEISBURGER; ADAM CHRISTIE; JUSTIN BROOKS; RANDY MCGEE; SCOTT TARRANT; NICK MICHEELS; JENNIFER MOUNTAIN; SOLVEI NEIGER; SUE ANN BARTON; KATHERINE WALKER; KIM ISAACSON; ROBERT WOOD; SARA SCHMIDT; ZIMMER GUNSUL FRASCA ARCHITECTS. CANDELA: LIGHTING CONSULTANT. MEDICAL EQUIPMENT PLANNING: MEDICAL EQUIPMENT CONSULTANT. ALTERMATT ASSOCIATES: ACOUSTICAL CONSULTANT. CATENA CONSULTING ENGINEERS: STRUCTURAL ENGINEER. CDI ENGINEERS: MECHANICAL ENGINEER. SPARLING: ELECTRICAL ENGINEER. HAPER HOUF PETERSON RIGHELLIS: CIVIL ENGINEER. ARTEK GROUP: WOODWORK. SKYLINE DESIGN: GLASSWORK. RD WING CO.: SOLID-SURFACING WORKSHOP. HOFFMAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY: GENERAL CONTRACTOR.

PRODUCT SOURCES

FROM FRONT ISLAND STONE INTERNATIONAL: FLOOR TILE (GALLERY). MOROSO: TABLES (GALLERY), SOFAS (GALLERY, ELEVATOR LOBBIES), OTTOMANS (ELEVATOR LOBBIES). RULON INTERNATIONAL: CEILING SYSTEM (GALLERY, EMERGENCY ROOM, LOBBY). COALESSE: CHAIRS (GALLERY), SWIVEL CHAIRS, SQUARE TABLES (LOUNGE), CHAIRS, TABLE (TERRACE), TABLE (WINTER GARDEN). MODULAR ARTS: PANELING (CHECK-IN). KNOLL: LOW STOOLS (EMERGENCY ROOM, LOUNGE). GRESSCO: ROUND TABLES. MAGIS: PUPPY, DUCK STOOLS (EMERGENCY ROOM, LOUNGE, CAT-SCAN ROOM, PLAYROOM). KNOLLTEXTILES: BANQUETTE UPHOLSTERY (EMERGENCY ROOM), CHAIR UPHOLSTERY, FOOTREST UPHOLSTERY (PATIENT ROOM), BANQUETTE SEAT UPHOLSTERY (PLAYROOM). ALLERMUIR: OTTOMANS (EMERGENCY ROOM, PLAYROOM). OSCARTIELLE: SERVE-OVER DISPLAY (LOBBY). CHARLES LODMIS: LANTERNS (LOBBY, LOUNGE). DAVIS FURNITURE: CHAIRS, TABLES (LOBBY), BAR STOOLS (LOUNGE), CHAIRS (WINTER GARDEN). TELLING ARCHITECTURAL: PANELING (EXTERIOR). BERNHARDT FURNITURE COMPANY: SOFA, LOUNGE CHAIRS (LOUNGE). FLOS: PENDANT FIXTURE. LEUCOS: LAMP. MOHAWK CARPET: CARPET. ARMSTRONG WORLD INDUSTRIES: CEILING SYSTEM (LOUNGE, ELEVATOR LOBBY, PATIENT ROOM, WAITING AREA, PLAYROOM, HALLS). NEMSCHOFF: CUSTOM SOFA (PATIENT ROOM). DESIGNTEX: SOFA FABRIC. CABOT WRENN: CHAIR, FOOTREST. ARTEMIDE: LAMP. LONSEAL: FLOORING (PATIENT ROOM, PLAYROOM, HALL). NEINKÄMPER: BENCH (WAITING AREA). ATLAS CARPET MILLS: CARPET (WAITING AREA, HALL). NORA SYSTEMS: FLOORING (CAT-SCAN ROOM). SKY FACTORY: CUSTOM SKYLIGHTS. MAHARAM: BANQUETTE BACK FABRIC (PLAYROOM), NICHE FABRIC, SOLID CHAIR FABRIC (WINTER GARDEN). 3FORM: RESIN PANELING (HALL). HANOVER ARCHITECTURAL PRODUCTS: PAVERS (TERRACE). KAWNEER: CUSTOM DOORS (WINTER GARDEN). KOROSEAL: VENEER PANELING (HALL). ASTROTURF: TURF (EXTERIOR). CARNEGIE: FLORAL CHAIR FABRIC (WINTER GARDEN). BLOOMSBURG CARPET INDUSTRIES: CUSTOM RUG. THROUGHOUT BENSON INDUSTRIES: CURTAIN WALL SYSTEM. TARGETTI POULSEN: CEILING FIXTURES. BAMBOO REVOLUTION: PANELING. DUPONT: SOLID-SURFACING. MILLER PAINT: PAINT.





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MICHAEL S. SMITH

"Stupendous in Stature," page 134

PRINCIPAL: Michael S. Smith.

COMPLETED PROJECTS: Residences in Los Angeles, Chicago, New York, and Nassau, Bahamas; State Road restaurant in West Tisbury, Massachusetts.

CURRENT PROJECTS: A hotel in L.A. Houses in Kailua, Hawaii; East Hampton, New York; and London.

WHITE: Smith serves on the White House preservation committee.

BRIGHT: His office has it all—openness, a high ceiling, and exposed beams.

1646 19th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404; 310-315-3018; michaelsmithinc.com.

CARL FREDRIK SVENSTEDT ARCHITECTE

"The Other Provence," page 182

PRINCIPAL: Carl Fredrik Svenstedt.

COMPLETED PROJECTS: Swedish Chamber of Commerce and apartments in Paris; Université de Technologie de Compiègne dorms in France.

CURRENT PROJECTS: A house addition in Versailles, France; an office building in Vitry-sur-Seine, France; Domaines Ott winery in Draguignan, France.



FISHING: Svenstedt once held the International Game Fish Association's record for catching the largest Siberian salmon.

SWIMMING: He can go for 325 feet underwater.

26 Rue du Buisson Saint-Louis, 75010 Paris, France; 33-1-48-04-36-90; carlfredriksvenstedt.com.

ZIMMER GUNSUL FRASCA ARCHITECTS

"Over the River and Through the Woods," page 172

PARTNER: Robert Frasca, FAIA.

COMPLETED PROJECTS: Children's Hospital Colorado in Aurora; Brooklyn Infusion Center in New York; Yawkey Center for Cancer Care in Boston.

CURRENT PROJECTS: Research Center for Innovative Science in Pittsburgh; Emory University health-sciences research building in Atlanta; Max Planck Florida Institute in Jupiter.

HONORS: AIA Northwest and Pacific Region Medals of Honor; Building Stone Institute Bybee Prize; Architecture Foundation of Oregon Honored Citizen Award; University of Michigan Distinguished Alumnus Award.

PRINCIPAL: Sharron van der Meulen, IIDA, AIA.

COMPLETED PROJECTS: Twelve West condominium tower in Portland, Oregon; Children's Hospital Colorado; Brooklyn Infusion Center.

CURRENT PROJECTS: Kirton McConkie and Perkins Coie Trust Company in Portland; Surrey Centre Hotel in Vancouver, British Columbia.

HONORS: IIDA Oregon Honor Awards; AIA COTE Top 10 Green Projects.

TRANSPLANT: Frasca moved to Portland after receiving a master's in city planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

LOCAL: Van der Meulen is a University of Oregon School of Architecture and Allied Arts alum.

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