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TGB Architects: Building Solutions for Health and Healing

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Successfully utilizing their team approach in building design and delivery, Taylor Gregory Butterfield Architects (TGBA) joined developer Benchmark Development Company of Bellevue and contractor Aldridge and Associates of Bothell to celebrate the opening of the Covington Medical Office Building at 27005 168th Place SE in Covington, Washington.

TGBA specializes in serving healthcare and ecclesiastic clients, understanding both the complexities of healthcare operations and procedures as well as jurisdictional demands and building technologies. Established in 1993, TGBA serves clients in the Puget Sound area as well as in the greater Northwest, including Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana.

Planned to provide health services as a satellite facility for Valley Orthopedic & Valley Medical Cen-

ter, the Covington Medical Office Building is located in a highly developed urban area yet offers clients and practitioners alike a warm and inviting environment in which to visit and work.

That's one of the current trends in designing medical facilities, according to Kent Gregory, AIA and founding principal of TGBA. "It's all about the quality of patient care," he explains. "We seek to deinstitutionalize the look of healthcare facilities and are taking



Covington Medical Office Building, Covington, WA

our cues from the ‘hospitality designs’ of great hotels.”

Practicing a “Lean approach” to project execution, TGBA used small, accountable teams to manage and execute all tasks associated with the Medical Office Building. Starting from project inception, TGBA teams worked closely with city of Covington to design a building that would meet the needs of a densely populated, urban area. This “Lean” approach allowed TGBA to “set project goals and schedules, identify and address challenges, make adjustments to tasks as necessary and to respond directly to client needs.”

These client needs and the resulting attractive perspectives are designed into every aspect of the Covington Medical Office Building. A three-story building, the almost 19,000 square foot facility is comprised of covered parking on

the first floor and two upper floors that house outpatient clinics, physicians offices, and specialty imaging centers. “One of the challenges facing health care delivery is the increased facilities costs. As land in the middle of population cores becomes more expensive, lease rates are driven up. Health care reimbursements however are fixed by insurance tables and Medicare guidelines,” Gregory explains. “This makes it more difficult to locate healthcare services in urban settings where they can be conveniently accessed. This building is carefully designed to find the highest and best use of the site and provide the best facilities value.”

Clients arriving at Covington Medical Office Building enter a large, central, first-floor lobby that opens into the parking structure which is the base of the building. Citing minimal space and rising land prices,

Gregory says it makes sense to build structured parking facilities whenever feasible. The Covington facility gives the impression it’s a three-story building – not a two-story structure perched up on stilts – which is much more visually pleasing. “The city asked us to design a pedestrian friendly building and the front entrance is very expressive of that desire” Gregory says. “We designed an extroverted building that encourages clients to enter and allows them to see what’s going on all around them.”

Once clients enter the facility, natural materials, soft textures and warm colors add to the gentle ambience of the interior, giving them a sense of entering a contemplative area with rooms that encourage them to be “at rest.” TGBA uses an interior design team which provides quality service and attention to detail, resulting in a more

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holistic feel to the facility. A cross-referring facility, the design also makes it easy and comfortable for patients to seek additional treatments in the same building. “We design our medical buildings to handle the constant coming and going of patients, physicians and care-givers,” Gregory says. “It’s all about the flow – of people, information, and technologies.”

In the Covington Medical Office Building, waiting rooms look out into the lobby and clients are presented with a more “gracious” way to reach their care-takers. Long,

narrow hallways and closed doors have been replaced with open spaces and suites that feature natural light and large windows. Special imaging suites with MRI, CT and Fluoroscopy capabilities are located within an easy walk to the upper floors. “We encourage the healthcare providers to work together, just by the design of the building,” he adds.

TGBA states their mission is to empathize with clients needs, imagine the most innovative solutions to challenging problems, cultivate an attitude of under-

standing with clients and team members, embody a spirit that assists their clients to meet their operational objectives, and to enjoy the people they work with and the people they serve.

The Covington Medical Office Building fulfills that mission and is another successful integration of dream, design, and development.

To learn more about TGB Architects, visit their web site at www.tgbarchitects.com, send an email to Info@TGBArchitects.com or call 425-778-1530.

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