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Walla Walla Medical Pavilion: Delivering Comprehensive Care to Women

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Opened in April 2008, the Walla Walla Medical Pavilion was designed to provide quality, personalized care in a peaceful and spa-like setting. Located on the campus of Walla Walla General Hospital (WWGH) at 1025 South 2nd Avenue, the Pavilion is home to a majority of women's services, including obstetrics and gynecology, infertility treatments, ultra-

sound and mammography, continence therapy and gynecological surgery. The unique design of the structure complements state-of-the-art diagnostic services and innovative procedures, appealing to patients and practitioners with its peaceful and serene setting.

Renata Presby, architect for Meier Enterprises, Inc., explains that the main goal of the project was to design a structure that would "step out of the box of the traditional medical facility." Using natural

light, water features, earth-tone colors and warm building materials, Presby says that the Pavilion engages all the human senses and was intended to combine aspects of the mind and body in a natural setting which will promote healing.

At 11,200 square feet, the Pavilion contains three separate operations: OB/GYN services, physicians' practice, and a digital mammography center. A single reception area services the entire building, mak-



Walla Walla Medical Pavilion at Walla Walla General Hospital

ing check-in efficient and simple for patients; parking is located near the front door. There is an additional children's waiting area and a variety of support services are available, including bilingual services, free pregnancy testing, massage therapy and an educational program for new mothers. Private changing areas and bathrooms, comfortable furniture and a bright garden also bring additional comfort to the women who seek medical support at the Pavilion.

According to Presby, interviews were conducted with the Health Center Staff to identify their needs; based on their requirements the structure was designed to deliver improved patient and staff traffic flow, arrange space according to privacy priorities, and provide a warm, healing environment for not only patients but also visiting family and friends. Jeanese LeFore, a local Walla Walla business owner concurs, adding "The new Medical Pavilion at Walla Walla General Hospital fills a need for a facility that provides care - for body, mind,

and soul – for women of all ages."

It's an entirely new way to experience health care in Walla Walla and continues the tradition of community service that Walla Walla General Hospital started in 1899. Over 100 physicians provide health care service at WWGH, which is part of Adventist Health – a 20-hospital, not-for-profit system sponsored by the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Valuing "human dignity and individuality, absolute integrity in all relationships and dealings, and delivering excellence in clinical and service quality" WWGH supports the overall mission of Adventist Health: "To Restore Peace, Hope and Health as Jesus Christ would do." The Medical Pavilion continues to expand this community support by offering all women an opportunity to avail themselves of quality, holistic care.

Meier Enterprises Inc., worked with the Department of Health to ensure all DOH requirements were satisfied and engineered the architectural, structural, mechanical and

electrical systems to maximize the welcoming features of the facility. Even the sprinkler system was integrated into the wood wrapped beam design in the main lobby so it wouldn't detract from the unique ceiling design. Exterior materials reflect the raw elements seen throughout the Walla Walla valley and the stone, glass and wood materials enhance the natural lighting that floods the building.

The Medical Pavilion was designed to reflect WWGH's commitment to the health, comfort and peace of mind of all its clients. As Lee Hughes, MD, a physician at the Pavilion explains, "Water, light, touch and beauty are all important factors in promoting a sense of physical and psychological well-being. The design of this building promotes the health of patients by tying into nature's healing environment."

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