

# DISTRICT HEALTH NEWS

Marin Healthcare District. Creating a Healthier Marin Together.

WINTER/SPRING 2015

## MGH 2.0: Building a New Healing Place for Marin

When architect Jason Haim of Lee Burkhardt Liu, Inc. (LBL Architects) and his team took on the assignment of designing our new hospital, they had three overarching goals. Structurally, the building had to be flexible enough for future modifications, based on changing community needs and the evolution of healthcare delivery. Aesthetically, the design needed to reflect Marin values. And functionally, the entire hospital was to be built around a patient-centric model of care. Mr. Haim sums it up very simply: “We had to update Marin General Hospital to be what the community needs, wants, and deserves.”

LBL solved the structural challenge with a pod-based design, featuring a flexible interior layout that allows for changes as needed within the same “footprint.” Because the hospital site is relatively small and on an incline, the architects also planned for the future, blocking out areas for potential expansion in the decades to come.

From a visual standpoint, the new hospital needed to fit in with the existing hospital structure and the iconic Marin landscape. As Mr. Haim puts it, “The whole concept was to connect the indoors with the outdoors. The building had to be contemporary, but timeless and contextual with the buildings that will remain.” For the hospital’s interior, he envisioned a warm, patient-friendly environment with the welcoming atmosphere of a hospitality

*(Story continues inside)*

MGH 2.0



For Marin's  
Good Health



Combination Inside/Outside Areas

## Main Entrance to New Hospital





**Lobby Living Room**

*(MGH 2.0, continued)*

setting. According to Mr. Haim, who has designed buildings for some of the most renowned medical institutions in the nation, “Today’s hospitals are being built with the patient experience in mind. Creating a more positive patient experience has become a huge focus and measure of success.”

At first, the phrase “patient-focused healing” may seem redundant. After all, isn’t caring for patients the essential purpose of a hospital? The truth is, it’s not uncommon for hospitals to focus on treating a patient’s illness or injury with less emphasis on their comfort and emotional wellbeing. Patient-focused healing means treating the whole person. The new Marin General Hospital is designed in accordance with the following principles of patient-focused care:

**Bringing nature indoors.** Every patient room has a floor-to-ceiling glass wall with a view of greenery, whether it’s a panorama of Mt. Tam or a lush rooftop garden. Natural light is maximized through the use of skylights. Visitor waiting areas face indoor/outdoor solariums with access to the outdoors.

**Respecting dignity and privacy.** The new hospital will have single rooms only. Exterior sunshading will allow patients to enjoy the view from their window while protecting their privacy. Separate “offstage” and “onstage” hallways will allow for the discreet transport of patients while keeping the public hallways clear for visitors and patients who are well enough to walk around.

**Making patients and their loved ones feel at home.** Every room will have extra seating, a large TV with interactive services, and room for an additional bed if a family member wishes to stay the night.

**Creating an atmosphere of hospitality.** The interior will minimize the clinical aspects of a hospital environment. Wherever possible, medical equipment will be stored out of sight, especially in patient rooms. Overhead paging will be virtually eliminated to reduce sound distractions. Wood and other natural materials will absorb sound while adding warmth to patient rooms and public spaces.



**Loading/Storage**



**Patient Room**



**Solarium (Lounge) Interior**

## Construction Milestones

- **April 2015:** Excavation begins for the new parking garage
- **June 2015:** Preparation work begins to create the connection between the West Wing and the new building
- **January 2016:** Ground breaking ceremony for construction of the new hospital
- **Spring 2016:** New parking garage completed
- **Spring 2017:** “Topping Out” ceremony after the placement of the last piece of structural steel for the building frame
- **December 2019:** Construction completed
- **Spring or Summer 2020:** MGH 2.0 opens



## Access Enabled: Traffic Management During Construction

Pedestrian and street traffic are significant concerns on any major construction job, especially in the case of a hospital. The Marin General Hospital Operational Impact Team is working with the county and the construction management group, McCarthy Building Companies, to resolve these issues in advance. We have three challenges to address:

- Managing on-campus pedestrian access, safety, and security
- Providing parking for staff and visitors
- Minimizing any disruption to street and sidewalk traffic on Bon Air Road

During construction, hospital access will be readily available, although current routes may be changed. Ambulance access to the Emergency Department will not be impacted at any point during construction. Pedestrian orientation will be assured through directional signage and temporary walkways.

In order to retain as many visitor parking spaces as possible during construction, we will complete our new employee parking structure before major construction begins for the hospital. We will strive to create a replacement guest parking space for every space we take away during construction.



## Nurtured by Nature

Many of us enjoy taking care of a garden, but a garden also has a way of taking care of us. The healing power of nature is a guiding principal behind the landscaping for the new Marin General Hospital. As landscape architect Joe Runco, of the SWA Group in Sausalito, explains, "We tried to find many different ways for patients and visitors to experience nature. It's such an integral part of health and healing." The hospital site, which faces Mt. Tam and the Lagunitas Creek and Estuary, already offers large-scale, distance views of nature. Mr. Runco's design complements that with smaller scale, close-up views of intimate gardens, a green living roof, and indoor/outdoor terraces. Every patient room will look out onto the landscape. Staff and visitors seeking solitude or a breath of fresh air will have a variety of options, from open green spaces for an al fresco lunch to an intimate meditation garden tucked away behind the hospital.

The SWA Group's biggest design challenge is the topography of the hospital grounds. There is limited room for landscaping, and the sloping terrain will require sophisticated storm water treatment plans to keep runoff from polluting the creek. After construction, the wooded hillside behind the hospital will be restored to its natural state. Where possible, "heritage trees" will be saved and protected during construction. Two to three trees will be planted for every tree removed.

Besides Marin's natural surroundings, Mr. Runco's design draws inspiration from the curved lines of the new building. He will use a naturalized plant palette of mostly native, drought-tolerant plants, plus aromatics like jasmine or honeysuckle to perfume the air and attract butterflies.



Roof Garden



100B Drake's Landing Road, Suite 250  
Greenbrae, CA 94904

