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## Carle Foundation

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### QUICK FACTS

#### The Challenge:

- Reflect elements of nature in pediatric areas; create a hotel-like look in the women's areas.
- Choose flooring with the desired aesthetics and color palette to create intricate custom designs.
- Select flooring with the performance and maintenance needed in health care spaces.

#### The Armstrong Solution:

- Armstrong's portfolio of floor products meets the design needs for a range of health care spaces.
- Hundreds of products in a wide range of coordinating patterns and colors facilitate custom design..
- Sheet flooring that meets the performance and maintenance needs of healthcare facilities.

#### Product Specs:

- [TRANSLATIONS™](#) and [TIMBERLINE®](#): Heterogeneous construction; 6 ft. 7 in. wide, up to 72 ft. long; superior durability with a low-maintenance UV-cured finish.
  - [MEDINTECH®](#): Homogeneous construction; 6 ft. wide, up to 82.5 ft. long; superior durability with a low-maintenance UV-cured finish..
  - All three products are FloorScore™ certified and can contribute to LEED® credit EQ4.3.
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Normally, a healthcare facility would want to rid its interior of bugs, but the Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana, IL, actually invited creepy-crawlies ranging from fireflies to caterpillars into the pediatric spaces in the newly expanded North Tower. Not the real creatures, of course, but their creative characterizations in the form of precision-cut flooring insets. The nature theme, cleverly incorporated into the new Pediatrics and NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) spaces,

helps set a fun and whimsical tone for the children. By contrast, the interior theme for the Tower's new Women's Center is more akin to what you'd expect to see in a high-end hotel or boutique. The look of warm and rich wood flooring with custom-cut inlays and "area rugs" contributes to the comforting ambiance. The children's and women's spaces, although differing greatly in design, have something in common. Both use Armstrong™ resilient sheet flooring to create the flooring motif as well to provide superior health care performance.

The themes for Carle Foundation Hospital's new expansion project came out of a design retreat conducted by HDR Architecture Inc., ranked as the top healthcare design firm by Modern Healthcare's 2007 "Annual Construction & Design Survey of Healthcare Architects." HDR Omaha, NE, designer Gary Milligan says the theme for the pediatric spaces is based on things found in a prairie. "We wanted elements of nature reflected in the design. For infection control issues, we also needed to use hard surface flooring. We specified TRANSLATIONS™ vinyl sheet for its range of colors plus its durable performance." Eight colors of TRANSLATIONS—from cinnamon to mineral green—are used in the critter concepts and surrounding field areas. TRANSLATIONS in multiple colors is also used for hundreds of bubble-shaped flooring insets that snake their way through the hallways to guide patients and staff from one location to the next.

An entirely different design approach is evident in the Women's Center. Every patient room is equipped with comfortable, hotel-like amenities. Some have flat screen TVs, DVD players and beautiful woodwork. Milligan says, "Here, we wanted the look of fine wood flooring, but needed a resilient product for durability and maintenance." TIMBERLINE® provides the visual warmth of natural hardwood with the high performance and low maintenance benefits of resilient flooring. Three different wood species are used in the patient rooms and hallways. Milligan explains, "The different kinds of woods enhance the overall appearance and create design flexibility, so that in the future, if the hospital changes the furniture, they won't need to change the floor."

In the medical/surgical areas, six colors of MEDINTECH® flooring continue the idea of combining comforting design with function. The homogeneous vinyl flooring provides superior durability and low maintenance characteristics. Multiple, soothing colors of MEDINTECH are used as insets and borders within the field areas. Color-coordinated weld rods create seams that resist the penetration of dirt and moisture.

The amount and complexity of custom designs demanded top-notch installation. Tile Specialists, Inc., with two locations in Illinois, was selected to install the floors based on their history with the facility and their quality of workmanship. Karl Smith, president, says, "We specialize in health care and other commercial buildings. We have installed Armstrong products for years, but this project is the most unique and detailed we have ever worked on. Our in-house, professional installers did an excellent job." The custom insets were laser-cut prior to delivery to the job site. Skilled mechanics installed literally hundreds of pieces of flooring according to plan.

The recent \$45 million North Tower expansion project is "the most significant construction project at Carle Foundation Hospital in twenty years," says James C. Leonard, MD, The Carle Foundation president and CEO. He adds, "We created a more patient-friendly environment that further

enhances our ability to provide the latest treatments and therapies.” Milligan adds, “The hospital absolutely loves the look of the North Tower and has had several grand openings featuring the new spaces. The designs are so successful that they’re creating a demand for other, older areas of the hospital to be remodeled along the lines of these newer spaces.” Peers agree: this project won the Gold – IIDA Great Plains Chapter Design Award for health care design.

All the players on this project are no stranger to Carle Foundation Hospital and Carle Clinics. HDR began working with the hospital in the 1980’s; Tile Specialists have a history with the hospital that dates back to 1960; and Armstrong™ floors have been used throughout the buildings for decades.

\* FloorScore™ is a trademark of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute. LEED® is a registered trademark of the United States Green Building Council.