

Background

The architectural planning and design of the replacement Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center is a story of renewal.

The design of the 500,000 sf replacement hospital and the 150,000 sf of renovations of this landmark site is about celebrating the rich history of the institution in providing free and accessible healthcare to the city's most needy constituents while implementing state-of-the-art healthcare facilities to serve the city for the next 50 years.

It is a story of celebrating a San Francisco landmark – respecting its original architectural vision and recognizing its social significance in the community thereby integrating its design into the cultural fabric of the surrounding neighborhoods.

It is a story of creating a place of dignity for its residents that provides choice and privacy - an environment that communicates care and a place that offers the resources and support to help residents rebuild and rehabilitate their body and spirit.

Community Integration + Communication

In the planning and pre-design phase of this project, community-wide visioning sessions were held in a public forum to garner support and afford the opportunity to voice concerns. As a result, the design team retained the front façade of the Main Building and the 85 year old Tower in response to neighbors who felt it was a symbol of the history and culture of San Francisco.

Exterior Design – Bridging Old and New

The design concept was to balance tradition, warmth, and history, with invention, technology, and the future. To respect the historical significance of the 150 year old campus as a landmark in San Francisco, the new resident buildings incorporate several traits that are similarly expressed to those of the campus's original 1920s-era Spanish Revival buildings, including protected courtyards between the wings, simple punched openings in plaster walls, and animated terminations in living rooms. To create a well-functioning and cohesive medical campus the design connects the resident buildings with the new Pavilion Building. The Pavilion is the literal and figurative bridge between past, present and future and as such introduces a contrasting composition and material palette that emphasizes its horizontal and linear nature to evoke the role on its campus connectivity.

A New Model of Long Term Care

The new buildings create a community within the city of San Francisco where residents can live and socialize with each other as their capabilities allow. Two Residential Towers (one seven-story on the North hill and one six-story on the South hill) are literally linked by the four-story Pavilion bridging the valley between the hill top towers. The new front door is on the valley floor of the Pavilion where rehabilitative services greet new residents and visitors alike, sending the message that restoration and healing are the focus for this community of care. The floor directly above rehabilitative services are the bedrooms,

dining rooms, and courtyards for residents who receive intensive physical therapy in one of two treatment pools or the gymnasium below. Most socialization will take place on the third level of the Pavilion, which from the first days of design has been known as 'The Esplanade' where residents, families, staff, and visitors can enjoy a meal indoors or outside at the Cafe, read a book in the Library next to the fireplace, or attend a play in the 100+ person Theater.

When the design for this project was awarded over 10 years ago to the Anshen+Allen/Stantec Architecture team led by Derek Parker, FAIA, Director Emeritus at Anshen+Allen, the architects were asked to design a campus for the largest skilled nursing facility in the country. From Day One, the planning and design team wanted Laguna Honda to not be about beds but about places. That distinction of creating a place to live as opposed to an institution for housing has held true. The 'place to live' was achieved by breaking the scale down to households for 15 residents; each household has its own dining and living room with residential-style bathrooms shared by one, two, or three residents in private bedroom suites or semi-private, dorm-style bedrooms. Four households on each floor create a neighborhood of 60 residents who can choose to dine alone, join a neighbor in the 'great room', or visit outdoors on the balcony. The community is completed as residents from other neighborhoods can meet each other either on another floor, on the Esplanade, or outside in one of the many gardens. Each resident room has its own operable window for natural ventilation. Ninety percent of regularly occupied interior spaces have windows and views to the outdoors. From the beginning Parker insisted that each resident have his or her own operable window.

Leading Sustainability in California

Named one of *The Green Guide's* Top 10 Green Hospitals, LHHRC is setting the standard for sustainable building practices. It is registered to be the first hospital in California to attain LEED Silver certification. This is, in part, due to the projected 75% diversion rate of construction waste to the landfill and its reuse of existing concrete and asphalt in the new structure.