



Case Study

UCHealth Poudre Valley Hospital

Crafted with Purpose®

Mannington
COMMERCIAL



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The Challenge: UCHealth Poudre Valley Hospital NICU

Denver-based Gallun Snow has specialized in designing spaces for healthcare, learning, civic/community, and church/worship spaces since 1988 which made them a perfect choice for the UCHealth Poudre Valley Hospital project in Fort Collins, Colorado.

The UCHealth facility offers a wide range of primary and specialized health services, from birthing and neonatal intensive care to hyperbaric oxygen and wound care with a team of more than 2,000 healthcare professionals.

But the part of the project closest to the hearts of the Gallun Snow team was the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) that cares for critically ill infants and those born between 28 and 42 weeks.

Creating a specialized healthcare environment takes a mix of skill, creativity and empathy. Based on the owner's vision and the interior designers at Gallun Snow, two specific goals were established. The first one was about being hopeful and upbeat, and having a space that reflected the highly advanced level of medical care being provided.

Location:
Fort Collins, CO, USA

Facility Type:
Hospital

Size:
22,400 sq ft

Products:
BioSpec® MD Collection
Realities® II Collection

The Design Process

In 2016, Sara Parsons, principal, and Melyssa Feiler, associate, at Gallun Snow worked together with the project architects at Stanley Beaman & Sears from Atlanta, (which is now a portion of EYP Architecture) to craft an upbeat, contemporary and clean space.

“We worked with very talented ladies on this. They drove from the Denver airport up to Fort Collins and absolutely fell in love with the mountain range. I will say some of us who see it all the time take it for granted. They did this really cool thing where they angled the walls of the patient entries. When you walk down the hallway, it’s not straight on both sides. It’s straight on one side and then the other side is angled back and forth, so it looks like a very subtle mountain range” said Sara Parsons.

Sara and Melyssa were able to play off the mountain concept with the floor pattern in the individual NICU rooms. “Contemporary and clean. On the flip side, we had some important opinions about being child-like and playful. This is what’s tricky in a NICU. Heartbreakingly, not all babies get to go home from the NICU. For some babies, this is the only place they ever live. With this in mind, it was important to design an environment to support not only the babies, but the family members that will spend time there” says Sara Parsons.





During the design process Sara and Melyssa interviewed nurses and NICU parents and even graduate parents who'd had a baby in the NICU and were still involved with the hospital and connected enough that they made time to come in and give us their feedback.

"There are some parents there who've lost a baby. Some had multiples and maybe only one survived. Over the years, I have learned from NICU nurses to be careful not to design a NICU like a happy well-baby nursery with all the cartoons on the walls, and the baby colors and all that kind of stuff. But, I think it's important to keep it very hopeful and upbeat. So Melyssa and I worked hard to make sure we got the upbeat feel, without it looking like a well-baby nursery" said Sara Parsons.

The design team at Gallun Snow looked at various aspects of the design in order to ensure the space would meet the needs of the hospital staff and family of the patients.

"The colors and the design was Melyssa's and my focus, but we had RMH Group translating the latest evidence around lighting. SBS worked with us to plan for acoustics. One of the biggest changes was transitioning from an open bay concept which meant no privacy for the family but instant access to the healthcare professional for a fragile little one. The nurses were worried that they would lose some of that availability in the new unit so SBS made all the doors glass and Melyssa designed a custom window film for parent privacy," says Parsons.

"It was kind of like working with paint because we could be so flexible and creative with it."

Sara Parsons

Principal, Gallun Snow

The Solution

The Gallun Snow team wanted to incorporate color while using a product that HCHealth could easily maintain.

“While we were designing this project, we were also working on the new ED expansion, where we also were using BioSpec MD. UCHHealth is a fan of this material. But for the NICU, we really wanted to bring in color. BioSpec MD has so many colors available and it’s also durable. We wanted to make sure we weren’t introducing a new material into the space that they don’t know how to use,” says Melyssa Feiler.

While Gallun Snow could have chosen a myriad of other products, they chose BioSpec MD because they have a great track record with it and because they felt as if there was enough range in the colors to give a lot of flexibility in creating a hopeful and fun scheme for the space.

According to Sara, “It was kind of like working with paint because we could be so flexible and creative with it.”





Performance Is Key

With 26 years and 11 years of design experience respectively, Sara and Melyssa have worked on a broad range of healthcare projects. Beyond their professional expertise, they enlisted personal empathy to create a space in the NICU that's supportive of the entire family during an exceptionally stressful time. They considered the optimum performance product for the space and found a way to use it to design an area that offers solace for families and function for the hospital staff. BioSpec MD's performance around cleanability and durability spoke volumes to them, making the choice easy.

According to Melyssa, "And with performance, Mannington is responsive every time we have an issue. It's always, "Let's go onsite, let's meet with all these people. Let's get it resolved. Let's make them happy." That's huge. It's just as important to me as the aesthetics of the product."

"I think BioSpec is timeless. It's everywhere in every health system, and it's so durable that you never hear complaints about it."

Melyssa Feiler

Associate, Gallun Snow

Mannington Commercial Resilient Flooring with Quantum Guard Elite® Technologies

- Highest abrasion resistance in the industry
- Excellent slip resistance for enhanced safety
- Engineered to trap less dirt, delivering ease of cleaning and reduced maintenance costs
- Industry-leading stain resistance outperforms competing products
- Advanced light resistance keeps colors beautiful



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