

The Christ Hospital Joint and Spine Center

Cincinnati, Ohio



SQ FT
381,000 BGSF



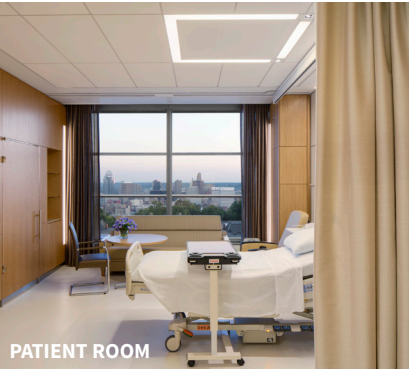
OWNER/AFFILIATION
The Christ Hospital



ARCHITECT(S)
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP



COMPLETION DATE
May 2015



ABOUT | DESIGN INTENTIONS

Growing out of an SOM master plan for the hospital's Cincinnati campus, the 381,000-square-foot, seven-story facility houses approximately 90 inpatient rooms and 12 surgical suites. **The building is filled with natural light and flexible semi-public spaces offer a place of respite for caregivers and families. Patient rooms feature floor-to-ceiling windows and are organized and furnished to provide a soothing environment to patients and their families. Decentralized nursing desks, located next to patient rooms, place caregivers closer to those they serve and keep the patient floor quiet by dispersing activity.**

The exterior—composed of red brick and limestone—references the vernacular architecture of the surrounding neighborhood and the massing incorporates a projected “lantern” that accents the main entrance, reinterpreting the campus’ historic cupola. A master plan for the site clarified circulation, and a new north-south alignment enabled future expansion of the campus to the south.



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Cincinnati, Ohio

“We worked closely with our architectural design team to develop an innovative way to incorporate the healing power of sunlight.”

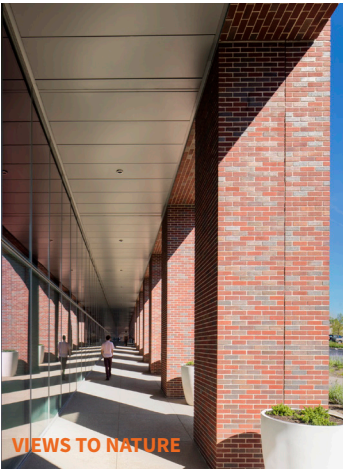
STRATEGIES

Respecting the historic campus architecture

Visually, the Joint and Spine Center’s exterior—composed of red brick and limestone—references the materials found in the vernacular architecture of the Mt. Auburn neighborhood. A projected “lantern” accents the main entrance, reinterpreting the campus’ historic cupola and figuratively linking The Christ Hospital’s history with its future.

Light & views prioritized

Direct access to natural light and views is prioritized in all interior spaces, starting at the double-height front entrance. This move underpins the design of the entire facility in order to create an inviting, calm, and visually warm environment that holistically supports patient, family, and staff integrated well-being.



Bringing nature indoors

Over 50% of the hospital’s open space is vegetated. From inside the building, corridors look out over a beautiful, landscaped courtyard and a podium deck that have been planted with native species. Hardscape elements, including benches and pergolas, make these areas inviting spaces for rest and patient rehabilitation. They also help **keep people connected to the outdoors** and natural light, combating the fatigue that can sometimes set in after working or staying on deep hospital corridors.



Rethinking the central nursing desk

Compact nursing stations placed outside each patient room replace the large central nursing desk that dominates most hospital patient floor designs. Built-in nurse servers stow away supplies. **Huddle rooms** allow medical staff to hold meetings and help keep the floor quiet by dispersing activity. These areas allow caregivers to play an active yet non-disruptive role in patient recovery.

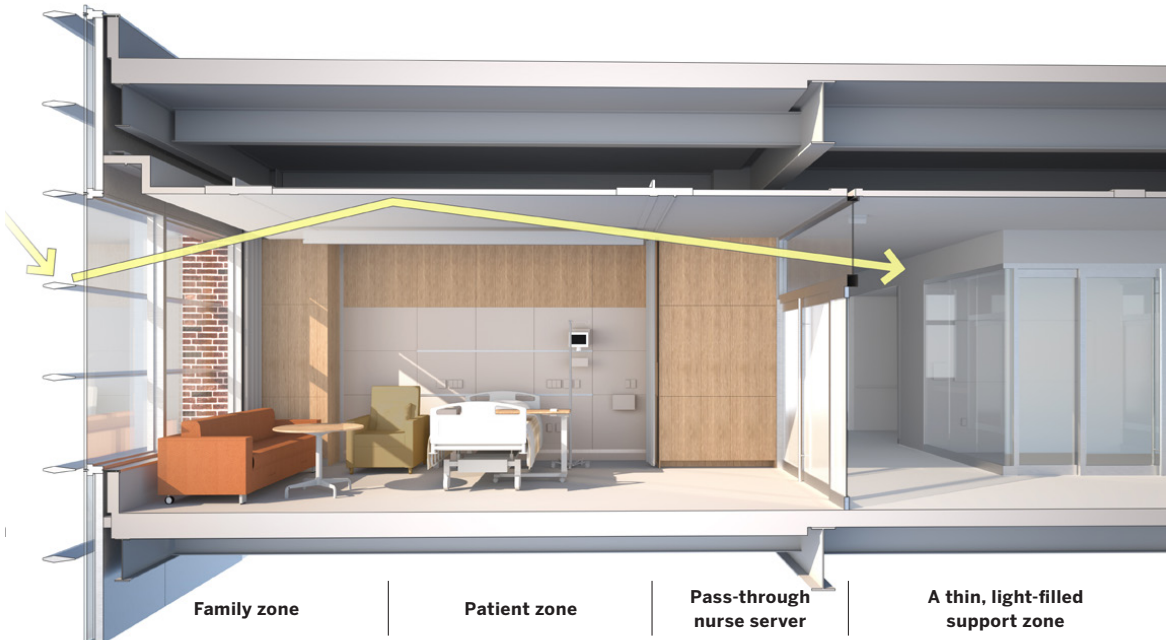


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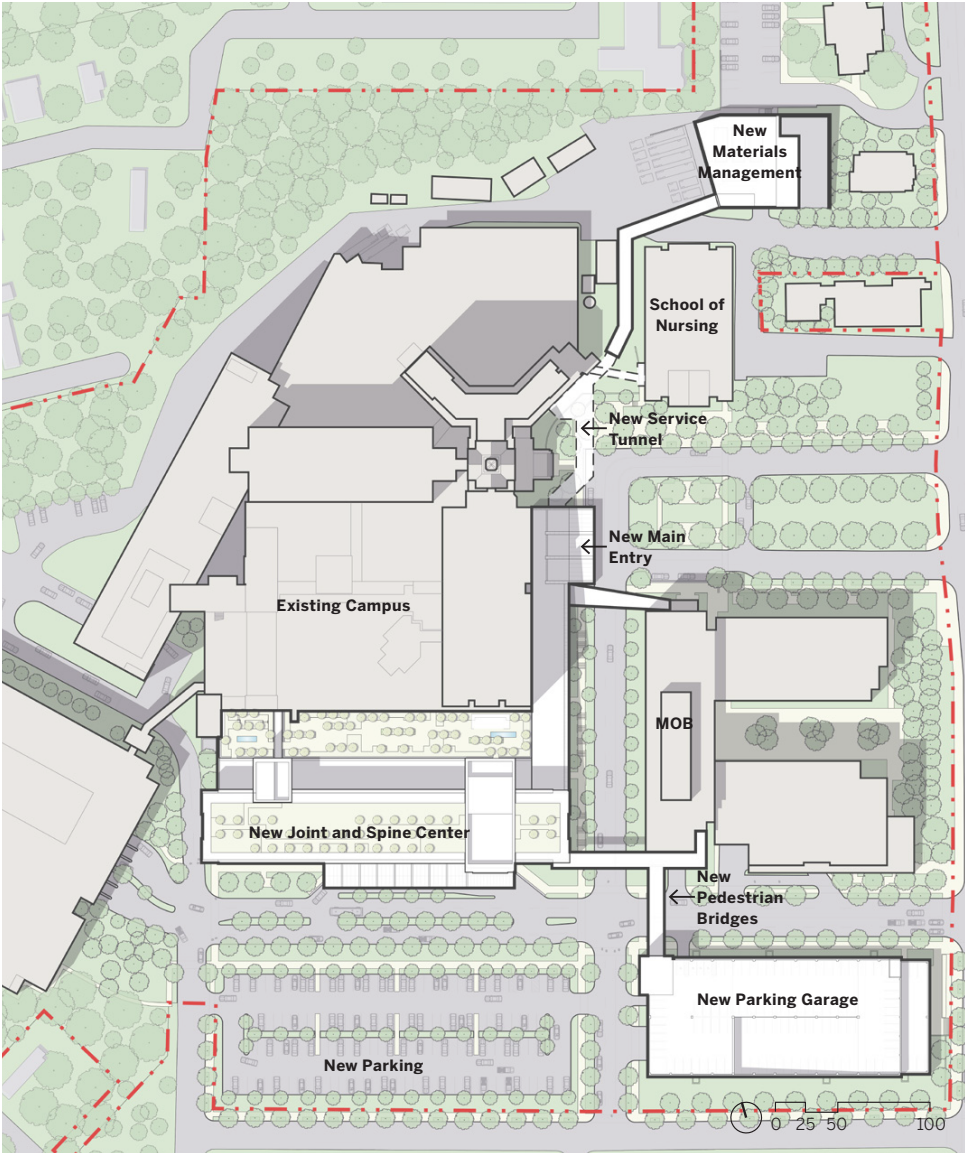
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Hospitable patient rooms
Patient rooms at the Joint & Spine Center are designed to feel more like hotel rooms than clinical settings. They follow a rectangular plan—a familiar layout—and are framed around wide views of downtown Cincinnati. Picture windows let in natural light that bounces into the hallway thanks to wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling interior glass windows and sliders. Electronic curtains can be pulled to provide privacy when needed. Furnishings in each room support family stays, and an easy-to-use entertainment system and natural finishes, including light woods, help infuse a sense of comfort. Ample built-in shelving and storage keeps everything well organized for hospital, patient, and family use.

Hotel bathrooms that meet hospital standards
The bathroom in each patient room is actually a **pre-fabricated pod**, and exceptional care was given to the pod's design. Features found in hotel bathrooms—softer lighting, high-end materials, wide mirrors and countertops, walk-in showers, and finishing touches like artwork—make the bathroom feel luxurious. At the same time, the layout facilitates movement, medical supplies are stowed away but readily accessible, and all hooks and grab bars meet hospital and ADA criteria.



Masterplan
The new Joint & Spine Center is one component of a larger master plan reconfiguration which clarifies pedestrian and vehicular circulation through street realignment, the building's placement, and a concourse connection to the existing hospital. An outdated parking garage was torn down in order to unlock the site. The new building reaches out to the street and the surrounding context, helping to strengthen its connection to the campus and Mt. Auburn community.



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Cincinnati, Ohio

KEY:

- Patient room
- Nurse work zone

KEY SPACES:

- Patient room (400 sf)
- Nurse work station(19 sf)

DEPARTMENTAL SQUARE FOOT TAKE-OFFS

| | Net | Gross |
|-----------------|----------|----------|
| Patient room | 14829 SF | 16416 SF |
| Nurse work area | 2921 SF | 6096 SF |

AIA/AAH DESIGN AWARD WINNER

Category: Built, more than \$25 million in construction cost

JURY COMMENT:

- This is a graceful project that is thoughtfully composed and placed in its context.
- The framed living room on patient floors mark the entrance and provide a distinct identity to the building. The high glass transoms on the patient unit corridor walls allow light to penetrate deep into the core of the building.
- The jury was impressed with the well thought-out roof top garden that provides a place of respite for its occupants.

TYPICAL PATIENT FLOOR PLAN



TRAVEL DISTANCE ANALYSIS



TRAVEL DISTANCE ANALYSIS:

+From elevator to patient room: 56-333 ft

KEY:

- Circulation Path

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Project: The Christ Hospital Joint and Spine Center
Project location: Cincinnati, Ohio
Owner/Client: The Christ Hospital
Architect: Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP

Design architect, interior design, structural + civil engineering, environmental graphics, sustainability strategy: Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP
Local architect: Champlin Architecture
Landscape architect: The Office of James Burnett
Local consulting engineer: Fosdick & Hilmer
Local structural engineer: THP Limited Inc.
Local civil engineer: The Kleingers Group
Construction contractor: Messer Construction Co.
Photographs/Illustrations: Tom Rossiter; floor plan by SOM
Construction cost: confidential
Building area GSF: 381,000 SF
Construction start date: October 2011
Substantial completion date: May 2015