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Texas medical clinic was built quickly and distinctively, thanks in part to pre-insulated wall panels.

Fast-Track Clinic Benefits from Structural System

Standing-seam roof and pre-insulated wall panel systems get a clinic up and running in 18 months.

By almost any definition, Grace Clinic, Lubbock, TX, presents a model example of meticulous preplanning, well-conceived design, and advanced construction methods, using materials that have become increasingly popular for medical and dental clinics. The 110,000-sq.-ft., two-story facility, developed on a high-visibility 10-acre site, was designed specifically to improve the delivery of healthcare services and to control costs

A standing-seam metal roof also fast-tracked the clinic's construction.



through optimized efficiencies. The same philosophy applies to the building program.

The clinic was a fast-track project that applied a team approach consisting of the physician/developer, construction manager, and architect who met weekly to examine any changes and maintain the timeframe for scheduled completion. Anesthesiologist Randall S. Hickie, MD, Grace Clinic's developer and president, as well as the CEO of Lubbock-based Scott Laboratories, also drew upon the expertise of an "owner representative" who consulted on and recommended the mix of advanced building systems manufactured by Butler Mfg. Co., Kansas City, MO.

The custom-engineered Butler structural system provided large, unobstructed interior areas that instilled flexibility in defining the interior areas. In addition to the well-insulated (R-30) MR-24 standing-seam metal roof system, the project benefited from a pre-insulated

panelized wall panel system from Butler sister company Koreteck, Staunton, VA.

The non-cavity, and therefore mold-immune, wall panels are manufactured with a 20-gauge ribbed steel sheet as a rigid core with an R-25 EPS insulation barrier thermally bonded to each side of the underlying steel. Once erected, the wall panel system features surfaces on each side ready to accept synthetic stucco as exterior finish, and the customary sheetrock across the interior face of the panels.


On the fast track

Systems-type construction can be erected quickly with fewer fabrication errors because of factory quality control exercised during manufacture of the integrated component mix. In this case, the project was completed in 18 months.

Hickie foresees the clinic project as a prototype to test and refine systems and practice

environmental support by a variety of medical processes and proprietary technologies applicable to future clinics. In addition to improving the total patient care experience, the building demonstrates a type of construction that has become increasingly popular for low-rise, commercial construction projects. The architectural design, with its sloped atrium glazing and balcony on the second floor, has the feel of an upscale hotel. Once inside and assigned to an exam room, a patient travels through the glass-lined north corridor.

The clinic is subdivided into 70 exam rooms with integral patient waiting, vital intake, and nurse and physician work areas. Physician movement is segregated from lobby traffic and patient exam room access. This virtual one-stop healthcare facility includes a laboratory and imaging suites, a Surgi-Center with six operating rooms, 17-bed pre-op holding area, five GI-endoscope rooms, and a 17-bed recovery area. A pharmacy, rotating art gallery for local artists, and Starbucks Café are other elements that clearly set it apart from most medical clinic facilities.

As a systems-engineered project, Grace Clinic broke down the complex system of healthcare through re-organization and optimization to deliver patients top-quality care in a time efficient manner and at a lower cost. Grace Clinic embodies that service mission in an architecturally distinctive building. 

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