



DESIGNING THE 21ST CENTURY HOSPITAL: HEALING FROM THE INSIDE OUT
Environmental Leadership for Healthier Patients, Facilities, and Communities

Contact: Jane Rohde, FIIDA, AIA, ACHA, AAHID
Phone: 410-461-7763
Email: jane@jsrassociates.net

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Website: www.jsrassociates.net

On behalf of the International Interior Design Association (IIDA), Jane Rohde, FIIDA, Principal of JSR Associates, Inc., Ellicott City, Maryland attended *DESIGNING THE 21ST CENTURY HOSPITAL: Environmental Leadership for Healthier Patients, Facilities, and Communities*, held in Hackensack, New Jersey this past September.

The Center for Health Design, in conjunction with Health Care Without Harm convened 40 influential health care leaders, for an invitation only symposium on *Designing the 21st Century Hospital: Environmental Leadership for Healthier Patients, Facilities and Communities*.. This event, supported by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation challenged participants to advance strategies for encouraging the production and use of more cost-effective, environmentally sustainable design approaches and products. Participants also proposed ideas on how to expand the green design movement among health and health care facilities.

The highlights of the two day event began with a keynote presentation by the green building icon, Ray Anderson from Interface. In regard to design and materials, Mark Rossi, PhD, Health Care Without Harm, requests a continued dialogue to take place regarding green building and materials.

In response to this request, Judene Bartley, MS, MPH, CIC, Vice President Epidemiology Consulting Services, Inc. (Premier, Inc.), encouraged a much needed dialogue between infection control leaders and sustainability leaders to better understand and address infection control, cleaning processes, cleaning agents, and greening of the built environment.

Ray Anderson proposed the necessity to review all waste streams as potential feedstocks (product ingredients) for new product to avoid waste material being incinerated or landfilled. Basically, this would apply to PVC and other plastics, as well as wood, concrete, steel, and other building materials.

Amy Muse, Sustainable Design Consultant from Rocky Mountain Institute, encouraged Healthcare Without Harm and others involved in sustainability to use life cycle analysis as the basis for evidence in selecting materials. Life cycle analysis continues to develop as a science that includes human exposure factors as well as the manufacturer useful life, and disposal of materials. This process is apparent in the

USGBC Draft Report on PVC, which can be found on the www.usgbc.org website by searching for keywords, TSAC and PVC. Life cycle analysis also provides an opportunity for a broader dialogue between industry and organizations supporting sustainable building practices.

The two day symposium included a tour of Hackensack University Medical Center (HUMC), Sarkis Gabrellian Women's and Children's Pavilion, an evidence based facility that includes green building principles and cleaning practices. The HUMC in-house design expertise included the work of Suzen Healey. In 2001, Deirdre Imus, wife of famed broadcaster Don Imus, approached HUMC's CEO John Ferguson regarding its use of toxic cleaning agents. The Women's & Children's Pavilion is a leader in the utilization of safe cleaning solutions. According to Imus, "We approach everything from an environmental perspective because by identifying, controlling, and ultimately preventing all these environmental exposures..[w]e can protect our children, the environment, and ourselves." (*Values Drive Design & Construction*, 31)

In 2004, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) commissioned The Center for Health Design (CHD) to explore the evidence on how hospital design affects patient care. The result was *The Role of the Physical Environment in the Hospital of the 21st Century: A Once in -a-Lifetime Opportunity*, and analysis of more than 600 research studies linking patient health and quality of care with the way a hospital is designed. The analysis found that the hospital environment has substantial effects on patient health, safety, and outcomes, care efficiency, and staff effectiveness and morale.

The presentations made at *Designing the 21st Century Hospital: Environmental Leadership for Healthier Patients, Facilities and Communities* were based upon a series of six white papers, also funded by RWJF and completed in partnership by The Center for Health Design and Health Care Without Harm to further investigate the relationship between the built environment and the patient by exploring the environmental impact hospitals have on their patients, staff, and communities. The six papers provide a status report on the current state of hospitals and the environment, where the hospital green building movement is headed, and why hospitals become environmental stewards along the way. A broad range of topics were include in the discussion; not only the built environment, but redefining healthy food and evaluating organic food sources, reduction of waste, and healthy cleaning of the built environment. A web cast of the symposium and the link to download free copies of the white papers can be found at <http://www.healthdesign.org/research/reports/>.

JSR Associates, Inc. is a senior living and health care consulting firm focusing on the development of care models and integration of operations into built environments that support and positively impact the lives of residents, patients, families, staff, administration, and the community at-large. Through facilitated workshops and planning sessions, an integrated team approach is recommended to address green building initiatives, innovative planning, and care model development. Jane Rohde, FIIDA, AIA, ACHA, AAHID, principal of JSR Associates, Inc. is a LEED Accredited Professional and NCIDQ and NCARB certified.