Successful healthcare construction projects depend on understanding the demographics, needs and goals of a healthcare organization. Will construction coincide with changes in healthcare services provided?

Do your homework up front
Conduct interviews to gain practical insights from the people who will use the facility every day: Doctors, nurses, support staff and security teams. They'll know more than anyone how to make staff, patient and visitor flow as smooth as possible.

Interview key stakeholders
Consider interviews in great practical insights from people with whom the organization interacts most often. Make sure you turn your attention to patients, visitors and staff members, as well as key decision-makers.

Adopt strategic phasing
More and more healthcare is provided in outpatient settings. Patient perception is important: “I’m not sick. I’m not in a hospital, I’m an outpatient.” Outpatient sites should look and feel more like medical malls and less like the hospitals of a bygone era.

Think forward, think flexibly
Healthcare is changing quickly. Successful facilities are built flexibly to handle communities’ rapidly changing needs. And healthcare leaders who get a head start on planning their next healthcare expansion have a leg up.

Evidence-based design
Studies show patient outcomes improve when healthcare facility floor plans maximize patient exposure to sunlight and scenes of nature. Calming color schemes, water features and gardens also improve patient and visitor experiences.

Enhanced security
Modern healthcare facilities are made more secure by incorporating floor plans that allow security teams and law enforcement to unify and simplify their response to emergencies. Complicated pathways and blind spots should be avoided.

BY THE NUMBERS

$8.7 trillion

$3.3 trillion

$10,348

1,270
At the end of 2015, 1,270 healthcare construction projects were underway or under consideration, valued at $97.1 billion. Of those, 75% were expansions. Source: Building Design & Construction survey. Revista, 2016.

14%
14% of respondents stated construction of urgent care centers were either underway or under consideration to alleviate strain on hospital emergency rooms. Source: 2018 Hospital Construction Survey. Health Facilities Management, 2018.

17%
17% of respondents reported a medical office building project was underway in their organization; 9% stated they were planning to build ambulatory centers in the next three years. Source: 2018 Hospital Construction Survey. Health Facilities Management, 2018.

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