

A Place to Flourish

Willson Hospice House
Albany, Georgia

**Hospice Care for Patient-
Family-Staff-Natural Environment
LEED New Construction
Certified Silver
Community Home Care Center
Audubon International Silver
Signature Sanctuary
Completion: June 2010**



Project Narrative

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Willson Hospice House serves terminally-ill patients in Albany, Georgia. The Administrative component houses 50 home care staff who travel each day to reach patients in the surrounding 11 counties, and contains public meeting space. The rest of the I-2 Institutional Healthcare facility is organized into three pods and associated support areas for 18 inpatients. The residential program areas are designed to host patients and their families who may stay round-the-clock; the facility has a window-seat bed in each patient room. Each pod is composed of 6 private rooms grouped around a family living room with space for dining, reading, and conversation. A variety of other conversation/ assembly areas is also provided: chapel, music room, playroom for active children, family kitchenette, and sunroom.

Because the project's objective is the provision of full healthcare services in an environment that is intentionally "un-institutional," its design is as approachable and familiar as possible. The wood-framed building uses extensive areas of glass to open views into the landscape, includes fieldstone accents like the lobby fireplace, and offers trellised and canopied sitting porches at patient rooms and exterior gathering spaces.

Access to the outdoors is an important part of the Willson Hospice's stress-relieving mission. Each pair of patient rooms shares a porch; double doors enable patient beds to roll directly outside where they look into tranquility gardens. The three gabled patient pods are ranged around a central courtyard; the special-use family areas all face into this greenspace focused on its specimen live oak. The chapel has its own garden, ringed with camellias. For its care in establishing sustainable resource management as part of its long-term stewardship of the property, Willson Hospice was designated an

Audubon International Silver Signature Sanctuary, the only healthcare facility ever to achieve this award.

Willson Hospice is also certified LEED Silver.

The fully sprinklered wood structure is a combination of IBC Construction Types VB and Type VA. Structural steel and glu-lam heavy timbers enable selected spaces to expose Southern pine structural roof planking at finished cathedral ceilings. Finishes include fieldstone, cementitious siding, stained Douglas fir trim, asphalt roof shingles, and exterior cedar columns and trellises. Direct-set low-e insulated glazing units fill window walls in primary activity spaces. Interior finishes include stained wood standing and running trim, MCT linoleum, bamboo, and cork, all materials with low vocs which are highly renewable.



Family living rooms at night



Chapel with family entry beyond



Patient pods extending into private wetland areas



Connecting to the environment:
family terrace and patient porch



Front of Administrative wing – the public face welcoming the community of Albany, Georgia

Front lobby / reception inviting families and the overall community to the Hospice



Family living room connecting staff/
families/ patients with natural surround-
ings while providing comfortable indoor
areas for relaxing activities



View from the chapel terrace into the central courtyard





Patient room with view into tranquility garden. French doors enable bed to roll outside onto porch. Window seat doubles as family sleep area.

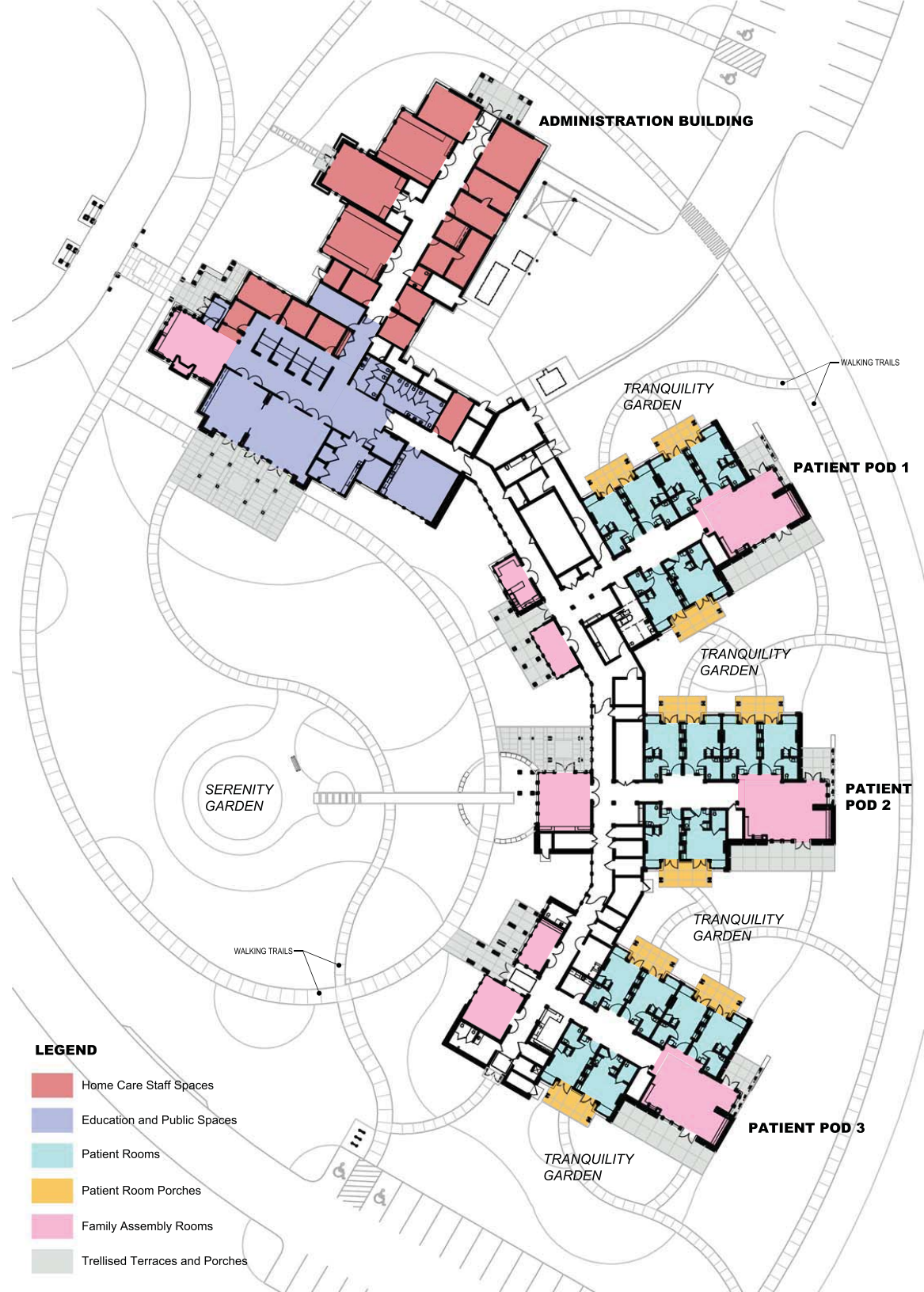
Headwall's recessed edges hide distracting medical equipment but keep it within ergonomic staff reach.



Schematic Site Layout

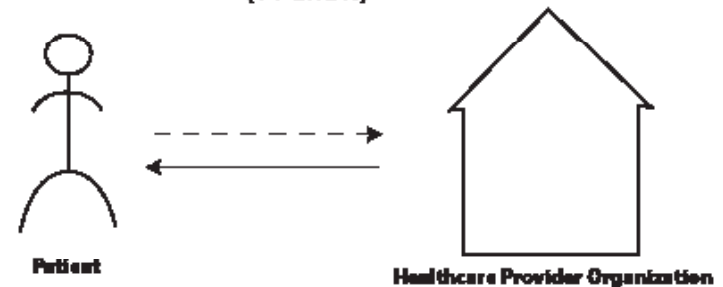


Schematic Project Layout

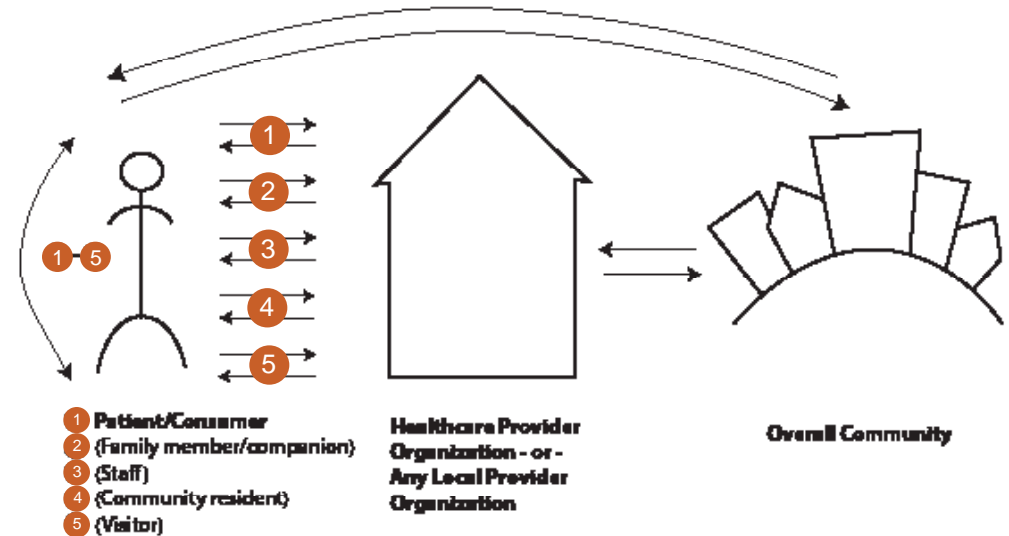


**Exercising 'Health Design Leadership' to
Cultivate a More 'Generative Space':**
Toward a Care-Centered Model of
Whole-Community Health, Healthcare, and Quality of Life

The Status Quo: Instrumental Transactions
(1+ arrow)



The New Paradigm: A Place to Flourish
(15+ arrows)



The CARITAS Project © 2010

THE CARITAS PROJECT

A New Paradigm

Reference: The Caritas Project.
The following pages detail the 15+
arrowed interactions of Willson
Hospice's holistic care-centered
model



PATIENT

A New Paradigm

Physical patient connection to outdoor spaces
Space supports patients, families, staff, and the community equally

Family living areas and kitchen areas

The challenge of hospice care is to help terminally ill patients live as fully as possible, and to encourage their families at their most difficult moments. Willson Hospice staff wanted to create a building to convey its extraordinary mission as well as its connectedness to the south Georgia communities it serves. The design did this by:

- Breaking down the overall building mass into small pods to make it more welcoming and approachable. The collection of forms feels like a friendly village, not a formidable treatment center.
- Using simple geometric shapes with sloping and gables roofs and large eaves reminiscent of agrarian buildings.

Because there are relatively few free-standing hospices, not many nearby examples were available for staff site visits; this made the full-size patient room mockup critical for hands-on evaluation. The General Contractor first erected simple dry-wall partitions inside a warehouse space. As design proceeded, the mockup was adjusted and refined with actual millwork, finishes, and fixtures, among them:

- A headwall panel created to conceal outlets, switches, and gases tucked into its sides;
- A reconfigured floor plan layout to provide additional maneuvering space on both sides of the patient bed;
- A custom double-locked nurse-server with drawer detailed to extend in two directions;
- Paired overhead examination lights carefully coordinated with the ceiling fan to prevent light strobing.
- A window bench that serves to artistically frame a view to nature and doubles as a sleep area for family members.

Patient

1



SPACE SUPPORTS
PATIENTS, FAMI-
LIES, STAFF, AND
THE COMMUNITY
EQUALLY

holistic care for patients

“Willson Hospice House is a very special facility which brings people together across all boundaries in our community. It was designed with attention to every detail in a life-affirming atmosphere for those least able to care for themselves. Especially in life-changing moments like birth and death, it is important to find a way to leave the stress of our fast-paced lives behind and remember the really important elements of our lives. Willson Hospice House is designed to care not only for the physical needs of patients in a state-of-the-art facility; it also provides patients and their families an opportunity to reconnect with the beauty and peace of the natural world and to remember that we all have a place in the universe.”

- **Suzanna MacIntosh** *Master Gardener and Community Member*



FAMILY

A New Paradigm

Comfortable Patient + Family spaces

Familiar shapes that echo the neighborhood

A visibly serene environment

Natural likable materials

Willson's design incorporates familiar materials like fieldstone, stained cedar, pine, Douglas fir, linoleum, and cork to impart texture and natural color. In the stainless steel/ terrazzo world of healthcare we wanted to be deliberately different, warmer and more inviting.

In order to expose the structural Southern pine roof planking as the finished ceiling in featured rooms like the lobby, chapel, and three family living rooms, the Architects and Engineers designed a system which located insulation above the planking, then placed nailable decking on top, and used asphalt shingles as the finished upper roof surface. Structural and electrical coordination and careful placement of light fixtures hid conduit above the planking. Sprinkler lines had to be carefully positioned through work sessions with the General Contractor, Subcontractor, Plumbing Engineer, and Architect. Selected areas of ceilings in the chapel and family living room were dropped 6 inches, enough to conceal piping runs but not enough to interrupt the visual rhythm of glulam support rafters.

Family

2



COMFORTABLE
PATIENT + FAMILY
SPACES

surrounded by nature

“Families are also able to enjoy the building and surroundings. They are able to walk through the gardens and visit the outdoor chapel. They comment on how beautiful and quiet it is here. One daughter told us letting her mother go was easier here, surrounded by so many reminders of nature’s seasons and cycles.”

- **Patty Woodall** *Albany Community Hospice Executive Director*

Family

2



PROVIDING A
VISIBLY SERENE
ENVIRONMENT

family-focused spaces

“Patients have enjoyed the beautiful surroundings both inside and outside the building. The building is flooded with light during the day hours which lifts their spirits. Some enjoy going out onto the patio to sit.”

- **Patty Woodall** *Albany Community Hospice Executive Director*





STAFF

A New Paradigm

Creative solutions to embrace the community

Connection to Nature

Family areas that ease stress

Staff ergonomics

Convenient, easy patient support

We created a transparent building with views into the landscape wherever possible in order to entice families into the tranquility gardens outside patient rooms and to draw volunteers / donors into the western courtyard which acts as a central outdoor room. 92% of the regularly occupied spaces have access to outdoor views. This not only eases wayfinding through the building, but also keeps patients alert and oriented to time of day and season. Major gathering rooms are high-ceilinged beamed spaces with tall window walls. The lantern-like lobby, family living rooms, chapel, and sunroom glow at dawn/ dusk, inviting visitors to join the activity within. Windows are direct-set insulated argon-filled low-e glazing units, using 366 tempered/ annealed glass with a design pressure rating of DP 35.



CONNECTION TO NATURE

educational projects

Willson House has had four educational projects during its first year, all of them environment- and community-centered.

Bluebird House Installation Project

The first project was the installation of 16 bluebird houses around the property. The boxes were constructed by a local veterinarian, Dr. Chuck Lingle, who serves on the Hospice board.

The houses were built as a wedding gift for the daughter of a friend who, in turn, donated them to Willson House as thank-you gifts to special friends.

This chain of generosity turned out to be a wonderful opportunity for a young Boy Scout in the Albany area seeking a project to complete his Eagle Scout requirements.

Oscar Spruill, a 9th grade student in Albany, took on the installation of the houses, making the project an exemplary educational experience for the community.

As part of his Eagle Scout requirement, Oscar worked closely with the past president of our local Audubon Society group, Dr. Bill Bates, to determine the optimal placement of the boxes to attract nesting bluebirds.

Oscar also conducted in-depth research to ensure that every phase of the project was done correctly. He was assisted by his Scout troop who met at the Willson Hospice House, along with other members of the community, and on Saturday morning, November 13, 2010, gathered to install the boxes

Staff

3



STAFF ERGONOMICS
AND CONVENIENT, EASY
PATIENT SUPPORT

beautiful work environment

“The work they [the staff] do is hard, but it’s much easier when the surroundings are beautiful.”

- **Patty Woodall** *Albany Community Hospice Executive Director*



COMMUNITY

A New Paradigm

Collaborative planning with community stakeholders

Design for the patient by the client and staff

Site and habitat preservation measures by consulting ecologist

Walk-able safe outdoor space

Creative solutions to embrace the community

Early visioning sessions with hospital administration clarified sustainability, budget, schedule, design, and patient-care goals for the healthcare system. Programming work sessions with nursing staff, volunteers, medical directors, and patient family members developed the character of each building space. A hands-on working mock-up was built early and refined over time as members of the facilities staff, nurses and aides, fund-raisers, and administration tested it and contributed improvements. The General Contractor, Architect, and Program Manager used the mockup as a control standard for the final finish installation.

To best protect the site and its wetlands, the team began by walking the property with a nationally-known local ecologist who collaborated on building placement. The site and building design were also coordinated with the neighboring junior college, and presented to major donors.

The Owner, design team, and Contractor faced challenges satisfying conservative local fire marshals. Although the code allowed discretion for fully-sprinklered buildings, the local authority having jurisdiction required a fire access loop road encircling the entire project. In order to maintain natural views into landscaped areas and minimize paving, the Owner decided to create the loop by improving a pedestrian sidewalk to bear heavy-duty traffic, and edging it with a swath of stabilized soil to provide the required width. The stabilized soil supports plant growth identical to the adjacent lawn; its edge is discreetly marked with a series of cedar posts.



COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS WITH THE COMMUNITY

community involvement

“What I like most is that you have access to the outdoors everywhere. [In the spring] the dogwoods are in bloom, the azaleas have buds, and there are walking paths all around. Once folks see the place, they become interested and want to be part of it, too – so in addition to visits by the Audubon Society, the Boy Scouts often do Eagle Scout-based projects here, and civic clubs, church clubs, Rotary clubs, and medical groups have made the facility useful for community activities, too. This place is a miracle worker.”

- **Dr. Lane Mathis Price** *Albany Community Hospice Medical Director*

Public Relations/Community Involvement

A second Eagle Scout project at Willson Hospice was conceived and carried out by Andrew Bode. One of the many family areas is a childrens' room for friends or relatives of patients. This area makes a more pleasant experience for visitors who bring young ones with them, and provides a way to keep younger children occupied while their parents spend time with a patient.

Andrew realized that although the children's room was a friendly space, it had only a few toys. He researched the types of items that would be suitable for a range of ages and conducted a toy drive at several area churches. The drive solicited gently-used toys, books, and games. By carefully selecting and recycling items, Andrew pursued the goal of environmental responsibility that is Willson Hospice House's theme.

The toys were cleaned, sorted and placed in the childrens' room at Willson Hospice House; the room was fully stocked, and extra toys were stored for later use as replacements. The Scouts who participated received a tour of the facility and a brief talk about the grounds, hiking trails, and wildlife here. They learned about the Audubon International certification and its significance. The Scouts also enthusiastically welcomed tips for becoming more environmentally responsible in their own lives.



SITE AND HABITAT PRESERVATION MEASURES BY CONSULTING ECOLOGIST

bird census 2010

In September of 2010, the local Audubon Society visited Willson Hospice to to conduct its first bird census. The following list describes the process and catalogs the birds found on the property at that time.

Observation type: Traveling Count

Observation date: 9/11/10

Distance covered: 1.0 miles

Start time: 7:45 AM

Duration: 1 hours, 55 minutes

Number of people in party: 7

Comments:

This was the first Albany Audubon Field Trip on the grounds of the only health-care facility in the world to achieve Audubon International Silver Signature Sanctuary Certification. The Albany Audubon Society is represented by a member on Willson's Advisory Committee which helps oversee property stewardship. Albany Audubon will maintain a list of birds species and counts at least 3 times a year to assist in implementing the site maintenance plan. The site was birded by Bill Bates, Bruce Horn, Myra Hundley, Julia Moye, Roy Brown, and Melvin Dees.

Species Tracked

6 Great Egrets -- found roosting in a wetland area. When they saw us, they flew off.

9 Wood Storks --One Wood Stork was a flyover; the others were roosting in the top of two trees to the west of us in the distance.

- 1 Red-shouldered Hawk
- 1 Mourning Dove
- 2 Red-bellied Woodpeckers
- 3 Downy Woodpeckers
- 1 Pileated Woodpecker
- 1 White-eyed Vireo
- 1 Yellow-throated Vireo
- 3 Blue Jays
- 7 American Crows
- 3 Swallows.
- 4 Carolina Chickadees
- 1 Tufted Titmouse
- 5 Carolina Wrens
- 1 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
- 1 Gray Catbird

1 Northern Parula

2 Pine Warblers

3 Northern Cardinals

Total species reported: 19

Since this census was completed, the following birds have been spotted by Dr. Jim Perruquet, a member of the local Audubon Society and an avid birder and community resident. He birds on the Willson House property frequently:

- Yellow eyed vireo
- Blue headed vireo
- Summer tanager
- Scarlet tanager

As of last week, two wild turkeys were also spotted by Ray Gutierrez, of Willson's maintenance staff.



CREATIVE SOLUTIONS
TO EMBRACE THE
COMMUNITY

walking trails

Trail Upkeep and Maintenance

Local Boy Scouts volunteered to clear and clean the pathways of the nature walk as part of their home school activities.

The Scouts spent the morning touring the property at Willson Hospice House, learning about the Audubon International program, and hiking the trail. They learned about environmental stewardship and discussed ways to make their own homes more environmentally friendly by recycling and lowering water and energy usage.

Scouts brought gloves, shovels, trash bags, and other items needed to clear trash and debris from the one-mile woodland trail that surrounds the Willson Hospice House. They completed their project by making suggestions of ways to improve the hiking trail to make it a more enjoyable experience for members of the community, staff, and residents of the hospice.

Community

4



CREATIVE SOLUTIONS
TO EMBRACE THE
COMMUNITY

**ALBANY COMMUNITY HOSPICE
PHOEBE PUTNEY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**
Boy Scout wilderness trail plan

Scale: 1" = 200' 0"
28 May 2008

LEGEND:

- Proposed Trail
- Secondary Connection Path
- Wetland Boundary
- Landmark
- Conditioned Plots
- Stationary Rest Stop
- Signage
- Handicapped Connection Path

PROPOSED STATIONS MAP INCLUDE:

- 1) Informational Plant Identification
- 2) Historic Medical Plant Information
- 3) Historic Botanical Conditions
- 4) Historical Site Information (Shell)
- 5) Informational Wetland Signage
- 6) Motivational Visual Information

**ALBANY COMMUNITY HOSPICE
PHOEBE PUTNEY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**
Boy Scout wilderness trail plan

28 February 2008

Description:

The proposed Boy Scout interpretive trail will provide an opportunity for citizens and staff to engage with the natural environment. The trail will feature a variety of experiences through "Station points" where visitors can take a moment to learn more about the area to explore, such as areas of the landscape. The trail will be composed of several trails in the higher areas and outcrop with views along more open areas. In the lower elevations, benches will be placed with informational signage. Multiple trails will allow visitors options in length and experience.

Materials:

- Boardwalk
- Signage
- Signage
- Wooden Posts

SITE PHOTOS

PROPOSED

Boy Scout Trail

Willson Hospice
Albany, Georgia

Albany Community Hospice

Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital
5/28/08



Boy Scout Trail



Community

4



Master Gardener Suzanna MacIntosh addresses members of the community and the Audubon Society at Willson House Hospice.

CREATIVE SOLUTIONS
TO EMBRACE THE
COMMUNITY

master gardeners educate

Master Gardener Lecture on Native Plants

The local Audubon Society visited the Willson Hospice House for a lecture on the use of native garden plant species and their potential as habitat for indigenous birds. Master Gardener Suzanna MacIntosh presented a program on the different plants found in southwest Georgia and their importance to the bird world. She focused on the gardens and plantings at the Willson Hospice House, the birds found in this plant habitat, and the benefits of native plants compared to non-indigenous species.

American Chestnut Tree Planting and Lecture

When Dr. William Buntin, a local anesthesiologist and hospice volunteer, received a gift of six rare American Chestnut trees, he donated three of them to Willson Hospice, where they have been planted on the property.

Because the American chestnut has been decimated by a blight covering most of the country (particularly the Northeast), Willson Hospice is very fortunate to have received this exceptional gift.



VISITOR

A New Paradigm

A building that nurtures the environment

Eco-friendly exterior that invites visitors

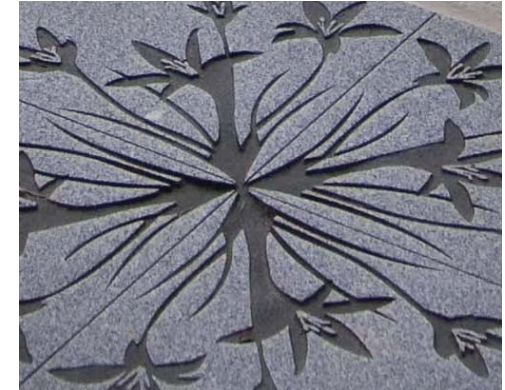
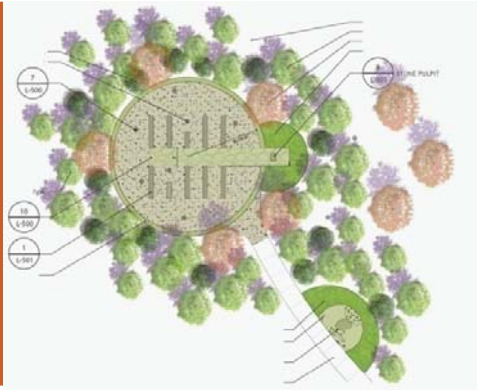
Nature walks open to the community

Willson Hospice was honored as DESIGN 2011's Best-in-Show, as a project which "encourages the therapeutic uses of the physical environments to enhance life-long residency and promote wellness, independence and self care for residents, and to build communal bonds between all who live, work and visit these environments."

From its inception, Willson Hospice intended not only to serve patients, but also to be an ecological oasis for its local community; it is the only healthcare facility in the world recognized as a Certified Silver Audubon International Signature Sanctuary. Visitors along with patients have access to a one-mile walking trail that loops the 210-acre site, connecting the front courtyard, family gardens, and outdoor chapel with boardwalks and a viewing platform at the bird sanctuary formed by a natural pond. The trail is signed with educational placards describing indigenous flora and fauna (native atamasco lilies, Spanish moss, dogwoods, pines, oaks, etc.) for bird-watchers and school children. Donors, board members, students of the adjacent community college, patients, families, and staff are all appreciative visitors to the extraordinary, stress-relieving site.

Visitor

5



ECO-FRIENDLY EXTERIOR THAT INVITES VISITORS

outdoor chapel available for visitors

Property management at Willson Hospice House has remained stable throughout the year that the facility has been open. The building sits on 210 acres of woodland property in northwest Albany, only 15 of which have been designated for development, leaving approximately 93% of the total acreage in its natural state. The remaining acreage is undeveloped and will remain so, with the exception of a few acres designated for future expansion of another pod to the facility. The developed property around the facility is populated by gardens donated by various benefactors from the community and provides quiet areas for family members and patients.

visitor terraces surrounded by nature

Plant species are native; approximately 95% of all plantings are indigenous to the southwest Georgia area.

The most recent addition to the property is a small area in the front of the building that was recently converted from grass to a garden area.

This area, adjacent to the outdoor chapel, has been designated as a Veterans' Garden and has been repopulated with native grasses, trees and other plantings. It also includes a sitting area and flagpole.

The donation for the conversion of this area from lawn to garden was a gift by a veteran.

Plantings include: native atamasco lilies, Spanish moss, dogwoods, pines, and oaks.

nature-inspired craftsmanship

Atamasco lilies which are indigenous to the Willson House property were used as an embossing pattern in the exterior paving stones located at significant entrances to terraces outside community rooms. These small gestures of craft serve as a reminder to patients and families of the seasonal rebirth that we all witness through our connection to nature.

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Effect on Patients

- **Reaching Previously Unserved Populations** As a typical home care program, Albany Community Hospice began its work serving terminally ill patients in their own homes, travelling through southwest Georgia to reach them. The staff soon recognized they were unable to serve a whole range of patients who needed a dedicated building to house them. The new Willson Hospice House now cares specifically for
 - Patients without a family member able to provide care at home;
 - Patients with family caregivers who are exhausted, in need of a restorative respite;
 - Patients in need of intense care required for medication adjustment or pain alleviation.
- **More Appropriate, Cost-Effective Care** Terminally-ill patients who were formerly admitted to or retained in standard acute care medical settings are now offered comprehensive palliative care tailored to their needs in Willson Hospice. More than a dozen patients each month are admitted to Willson directly from the local hospital, freeing the more expensive acute care beds for their intended use and effectively expanding the parent hospital's capacity.
- **Longer Stays on Service.** Because homecare staff now have an inpatient option, they are able to extend the length of the care ACH provides patients and families. Actual stays in Willson Hospice vary widely from a single day up to several weeks; family bereavement services continue for a full year. The additional time enables staff to work with families in an expanded range of counseling and reconciliation social services.
- **Lower Medication Levels.** Inpatients often find they do better with reduced medication levels; upon admission to Willson, they are carefully evaluated by the Medical Director who makes recommendations regarding types and dosages. The reassuring presence of professional caregivers alleviates anxiety and pain, making both patients and families more comfortable and potentially lessening the need for medications.

Effect on Families

- **Energetic Outreach** The Hospice program conducts a full year-round slate of educational programs and hosts family bereavement counseling group meetings on campus more than 75 times annually.
- **Increased Volunteerism** Volunteers who were formerly hesitant or unable to venture to patients' own homes are enthusiastic about the immediate contributions they can make in the new facility. Volunteers man the front reception desk, bake home-made cookies and share them with families, bring pets, and visit patients in their rooms.
- **Respite Care** More than 40% of the new hospice's admissions are for respite care to provide relief for family caregivers. In a recent week Willson Hospice housed two patients, one whose spouse underwent surgery, and another whose family was able to travel to a son's out-of-state graduation ceremony.

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Effect on Staff

- **Unified Mission** One of the project's initial goals was to create a shared sense of purpose and team spirit between the travelling home care staff and the inpatient staff. Common spaces like the staff break room help reinforce their interaction and sense of community.
- **New Hires** 22 new employees have been brought in to care for the inpatients. Many were attracted by the intentionally calm and measured pace of the hospice's palliative program in the new facility; they find it a rewarding contrast to the hectic pace sometimes associated with other healthcare settings

Effect on Community & Visitors

- **Dramatically Increased Interaction** The project has actively encouraged community/ health system interactions, drawing a wide range of local groups to campus, among them
 - Albany Audubon Society (quarterly chapter meetings and bird counts documenting species on the site)
 - Albany Women's Garden Clubs
 - American Chestnut Tree Supporters (lecture and tour)
 - Albany Boy Scout Troop 3 (Eagle Scout projects furnished books and toys for the children's playroom, and 16 bluebird houses)
 - Albany Rotary Club
 - Business and Professional Women's Club of Albany
 - Darton College's track team (cross-country team training on perimeter site loop)
 - Informal runners and walkers
 - Albany Cancer Support Group
 - Dougherty County Medical Society
 - Hospital Authority of Albany-Dougherty County
 - Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association (state meeting)
- **Generous Continued Contributions** PPMH has surpassed its initial fund-raising goal of \$5 million in outside gifts by more than \$2.4 million and continues to receive on-going major donations, like a recent quarter-million dollar bequest which created a Veteran's Memorial Garden, dedicated by a Marine Corps Color Guard.
- **Increased Public Profile** The unusually high public profile of Willson Hospice has drawn local and national interest, energizing the healthcare system's overall public relations. Design 2011, Contract Magazine, and Medical Construction & Design featured the project in cover stories, major articles, and webblasts. Local television coverage began with the building's dedication, and has continued through its Audubon International Sanctuary designation, LEED Silver designation, sponsorship of local civic projects, and major gift recognitions.
- **Expanded Referral Base** Albany Community Hospice operates its home care program through an 11-county area, which normally would be the sole referral base for inpatients for the new Willson Hospice House. However, because none of the competing local hospice services have dedicated buildings for inpatients, Willson is also receiving patients from their home care bases, effectively expanding its overall service area.

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Effect on Community & Visitors through Off-Site Services

- **Growing Palliative Home Care Services** Coordinated care teams of physicians, nurses, aides, social workers, and chaplains provide care to an average of 165 terminally ill patients in their own homes each month.
- **Camp Good Grief** The staff conducts two sessions of Camp Good Grief annually, a free age-targeted program for children who have lost family members. Forty to fifty children attend each session.
- **Community Speaking/ Civic Progrms** Staff make 20 - 25 annual presentations for civic groups.
- **Educational Programs/ Training** Hospice staff teach pain management techniques to local nursing homes' and care facilities' personnel, leading seminars on request.

Future Projects

Willson Hospice House looks forward to many more projects during the coming months of its second year of operation:

- Fall walk through the nature trails with a local naturalist to culminate in a brown bag picnic on the grounds.
- Development of a monarch butterfly hub which will be the sister of a similar hub in east Albany.
- Increased visits from local school groups to further strengthen community awareness, including craft projects like the construction of take-home bird houses.
- Addition of a recycling collection site for magazines and glass to gather materials within the property.

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Protection of people + environment + community

Willson Hospice's LEED Silver sustainable features include:

- Energy usage was reduced by 20.8% through the use of
 - High-efficiency water source heat pumps, cooling tower, and high-efficiency condensing boilers for heating;
 - Roof overhangs, trellises and other exterior shading devices to minimize heat gain and control glare;
 - Efficient double-pane low-E glazing; and
 - R-21 insulation at walls and R-30 insulation at roofs
- Potable water usage was reduced by 21.9% by using ultra-low flow water closets, showers and faucets
- High glazed walls allow the penetration of natural lighting, reducing electricity usage. More than 80% of spaces are daylit; more than 92% have outdoor views.
- Site design leaves 93.5% of its acreage unspoiled vegetated space for native fauna and flora.
- Preferred parking is provided for low-emitting/ fuel efficient vehicles.
- The project includes shower, changing room, and bicycle racks for cyclists.
- The heat island effect is reduced by 50%.
- Light pollution is minimized.
- The incorporation of native species and efficient systems reduce the use of potable water for irrigation.
- More than 50% of construction waste was diverted from landfills.
- More than 13% of construction materials contain recycled content. Cork, bamboo, and MCT floor finishes are rapidly renewable.
- More than 20% of construction materials were harvested or manufactured within 500 miles of the project.
- Permanent CO2 monitoring system verifies performance of the mechanical ventilation system.
- Zero-VOC and low-VOC adhesives, sealants, paints, and coatings are used inside the building.
- Carpets and pads comply with the Carpet and Rug Institute's Green Label Program.
- Urea-formaldehyde products were eliminated.
- More than 80% of spaces are daylit, and more than 92% of spaces have outdoor views.