Swedish Medical Center Edmonds

Ambulatory Care Center

Edmonds, Washington
Patient-Centered in the Puget Sound

SWEDISH EDMONDS AMBULATORY CARE CENTER
Edmonds, Washington

Founded in 1908, Swedish Health Services—now part of the broader Providence Health & Services—is the largest nonprofit healthcare provider in the greater Seattle area, operating five hospitals in the region. By the 21st century, Swedish Edmonds (formerly the community district hospital, Stevens Hospital) outgrew its aging buildings designed in the 1970s and ’80s. The campus needed an expansion to provide areas for critical medical care, as well as improve patient flow and wayfinding and create a front door to the campus.

The resulting Ambulatory Care Center incorporates the latest in efficiency planning and pulls inspiration from the surrounding geography while referencing the region’s historic roots.
In breaking with the older part of the hospital campus, Swedish Edmonds envisioned an Ambulatory Care Center that would serve as a welcoming sanctuary—open and light-filled—to put patients and their families at ease as well as give physicians and staff a well-organized workplace.

The new addition provides streamlined spaces for care teams, staff and patients. The design prioritizes efficient throughput. By providing clarity in design, Swedish Edmonds has increased productivity and lowered health care costs, while improving its regional positioning.
Ambulatory Care Circulation, Streamlined and Separated

Having outgrown their emergency department, Swedish Edmonds needed a critical facilities upgrade that would provide much needed space and a refresh. Medical planning for the Ambulatory Care Center incorporated an array of techniques to maximize efficiency, as well as increase visibility and wayfinding for both patients and caregivers.

Circulation is differentiated between onstage (patients, family and care team) and offstage (care team). There are separate entrances for the emergency department, lobby and ambulances, to help streamline patient care and assessment.

The Emergency Department serves as a new front door to the Swedish Edmonds campus. A portion of the old Emergency Department is now the Observation Unit.
Space Planning for Efficient Care

Patient volume analyses provided a foundation for the project team to create separate tracks for patients depending on their acuity of healthcare needs. To ensure there is the right room for the right patient, medical care spaces are gradated in acuity, from low, to medium, to high.

The Level IV Trauma Center provides ease of access for caregivers evaluating and treating high-acuity patients. High-acuity spaces are located closer to the Emergency Department’s ambulance entrance, while lower-acuity areas are located near the front lobby, helping increase patient throughput.

The open care team station (above right) and a dedicated area for behavioral health (below right) allow for more efficient communication between health providers and patients. These areas serve as central hubs for emergency care.
A Transformed Patient Experience

The waiting area and lobby connects the old hospital to the new in a welcoming, warm way. Extensive windows, high ceilings and skylights bring in calming natural light. Lighting elements in the lobby reference the Pacific Northwest’s carved glacial beginnings while wood features— including ten laser-etched woodcuts drawn from historic photographs provided by Edmonds’ historical museum— also celebrate the region’s past and serve as a point of community connection and discovery.
Local Materials, Local Connections

Throughout the building, design features honor Edmonds’ logging past, giving the campus a local identity that respects the heritage of the surrounding region while looking towards the future.

The lobby (right) houses boom logs salvaged by a tugboat captain, boom log collector and former marine biologist.

Striated metal panels make up the façade of the building, inspired by sedimentary layers formed during the region’s glacial past. These standardized panels not only kept costs down, but also created a bold façade and canopy.

Landscape architecture firm Site Workshop incorporated salvaged wood from the site to create forms inspired by the shingle mills of Edmonds' past.
CLIENT
Swedish Health Services
Providence Health & Services

SIZE
77,000 SF

COMPLETION DATE
May 2016

COMPONENTS
Emergency department, outpatient imaging, observation unit, main lobby, waiting area, shelled expansion space

SERVICES PROVIDED
Master planning, programming, architecture, interior design, lighting design, environmental graphic design, medical equipment planning, construction administration, Lean services

SUSTAINABILITY
Tracking LEED Silver

AWARDS
IIDA Healthcare Interior Design Award
Modern Healthcare Design Award

PUBLICATIONS
Fast Company, “How The Affordable Care Act Is Transforming Health Care Design,” March 27, 2017
Modern Healthcare, “Senior Friendly Award: Swedish Edmonds Ambulatory Care Center,” September 2, 2016

“This new facility was designed in a very thoughtful and methodical way in order to enhance the experience for patients, family and other members of our community. From the flow of the rooms to the placement of the various equipment and supplies, everything is in a strategic location.”

JENNIFER GRAVES, FORMER CEO OF SWEDISH EDMONDS
ABOUT NBBJ

NBBJ is an award-winning global design and architecture firm focused on helping clients capitalize on the relationship between people and the design of physical space to enhance organizational performance.

The world's leading healthcare providers trust NBBJ to deliver measurable and sustainable improvement in performance and care. Our teams have partnered with some of the leading healthcare institutions worldwide, including nine of the top 14 U.S. News and World Report Honor Roll hospitals. Within the architecture industry, NBBJ has been hailed as "Most Admired" by peers in Interior Design's annual Healthcare Giants survey, and ranked as the second largest healthcare design practice in the world by BD World Architecture.

NBBJ’s network of offices enables us to deliver quality projects that are regionally and locally appropriate. It allows us to act as a single creative force, leveraging the latest thinking from our NBBJ colleagues in other locations, bringing a rich blend of expertise to each project.