



## Interior Design Plans Are Revealed. . .

On February 17 and 18, the interior design plans for the Vertical Expansion Project were on display in the small cafeteria room. Over two hundred employees, students and visitors attended the event. All the adult floors were on display, plus the Children's Hospital bed tower and Treehouse entrance. Comment cards were available on which to submit feedback regarding the color schemes, flooring and lighting fixtures. Overall, the comments received were very positive. Karlsberger (the architectural firm) has tweaked the color palette on the 9<sup>th</sup> Neuroscience floor based on feedback from the presentation.

A number of attractive interior features include: a glass stairwell joining the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> floors in the Treehouse; a proposed fireplace in the solarium/garden room; a water feature wall in the meditation room; funky lights in the communication centers; innovative carpet in the family lounges; very bright/playful colors, textures and shapes throughout the Pediatric units (especially in the playrooms); and

peek-a-boo window openings as you are riding in the Treehouse elevator. The interior design on the adult floors provides a healing, soothing environment.

### Vertical Expansion Interior Design Themes

During a visioning session with Karlsberger, the Upstate Core Team, the Upstate Executive Committee and various Upstate staff members representing the service lines that are moving, a dialogue was started as to what everyone wanted this project to be, and what it meant to Upstate as well as to the greater community of Syracuse and Central New York. The architects heard many words including "comforting, welcoming, soothing, understandable, strength, high-tech, intuitive, peaceful, inspirational, calming, light, hopeful, fun, imaginative, discovery." Taking cues from the already established "treehouse" concept for Pediatrics, the architects related these words to various levels or attributes of nature which fit the words heard and helped them to formulate an abstracted representation of the theme for each of the

floors/service lines of the Vertical Expansion Project.

- The 8th floor, Cardiovascular, relates to "rivers and streams" representing strength . . .
- The 9th floor, Neurosciences, relates to "paths and trails" representing intuitiveness and understanding . . .
- The 10th floor, Oncology, relates to "horizons" representing hope and light . . .
- The 11th floor, younger Pediatrics, relates to wind and movement representing fun and imagination . . .
- The 12th floor, adolescent and teen Pediatrics, relates to stars and planets, representing discovery . . .

Karlsberger has taken these themes/ideas not in a literal sense, but perhaps more as a tone of voice in helping them to develop a palette of materials and colors unique to each floor. They have implemented these ideas in abstract forms in floor patterns, wall treatments, lighting and color combinations. The interiors will be fresh and new; light and airy. They will enhance the interior

architecture and wayfinding throughout the facility. The idea of using nature as an interior aide is not new, as it is well documented that nature helps the healing process. However, the architects feel they have chosen creative aspects of nature to complement the service lines which are a part of the Vertical Expansion Project.

#### **Arts Committee Formed**

An Arts Committee has been formed to focus on integrating pieces of theme-related artworks for both the adult floors and the Children's Hospital. Members of the Arts Committee include: representatives from Upstate Marketing and Pediatrics, the Upstate Foundation, the Family Advisory Council, the Everson Museum and Syracuse University.

Proposed items include: a fireplace and pier-mounted observation binoculars in the solarium/garden room, light sculptures for the east and west courtyards, a water feature for the mediation room, kiosks/interactive elements for the Treehouse, and a mobile in the glass stairwell in the Treehouse. The feature walls in the public corridors will also be addressed.

#### **Constructability Meetings**

Constructability meetings are continuing to occur on a regular basis. The purpose of holding constructability meetings is to plan and discuss the hows of construction and subsequent impact on patients, staff,

visitors, students, the immediate neighborhood and general community. Applicable timetables related to construction are also discussed. Key decision topics are: the placement of the tower crane (it will be the largest available crane in the country), the location of all underground utilities including the oxygen tank, the equitable use of Memorial Drive which runs in between Crouse Hospital and Upstate. Other items include general contracting, roles and responsibilities during the construction process, commissioning, and the impact on the Emergency Department parking lot and the 6<sup>th</sup> floor patient care areas.

Participants throughout the process are: Upstate Planning, Hospital Administration, Facility Design, Physical Plant, Finance & Management, affected hospital departments, the architects, the engineers, State University Construction Fund, the construction manager, and all other consultants and affected parties as necessary.



*Figure 1: Aerial north view of the Vertical Expansion.*

Constructability meetings are also starting to take place

regarding the extension of the four existing elevators in the east wing, as well as the addition of three new visitor elevators in the east wing which will go from the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to the 12<sup>th</sup> floor. Representatives from all affected hospital areas are encouraged to participate.



*Figure 2: Ground south view of the Vertical Expansion.*

#### **Project Timeline**

**4/4/05** - Architect submits Construction Documents for Upstate to review.  
**6/1/05** - Project goes out to bid.  
**9/1/05** - Contract Awarded.  
 Construction will start as soon after this date as the contractor is able to mobilize crews.  
 Demolition of the two houses on Irving Ave will occur at the onset of the project along with site preparation.

Any questions or comments regarding the Vertical Expansion Project can be directed to: [VEupdate@upstate.edu](mailto:VEupdate@upstate.edu).

**Visit our display in the main lobby near the chapel. Please drop all comments/questions in the box provided.**