

## HCD EXPO TOUR

# ORLANDO VA MEDICAL CENTER: A CASE STUDY IN FLEXIBLE DESIGN

**THE HCD EXPO** included nine facility tours, including a visit to the Orlando VA Medical Center. Opened in 2015, the 950,000-square-foot facility houses a 134-bed hospital and an outpatient building with 25 clinics, training and education spaces, an auditorium, medical library, and simulation lab.

During design and programming of the Orlando VA Medical Center, the project team, including the joint venture team of RLF and Ellerbe Becket (which was acquired by AECOM in 2009), focused on providing flexible and collaborative patient room and staff workspaces. That foresight and planning strategy proved invaluable shortly after the facility opened, when the VA reorganized its clinical services into Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACTs) built on the patient-centered medical home model.

Laura Finrock, construction coordinator at Orlando VA Medical Center, said the clinic building includes 14 pods of six exam rooms arranged around a central staff workspace with two doors for each exam room, one leading to an on-stage corridor for patients and the other to the offstage staff area. When the VA adopted its PACT model, the layout was already equipped to handle the team-based care approach, with staff members, including behavioral health specialists, social workers, a pharmacist, nurses, and clinicians, utilizing the offstage zone.

Another example of flexible thinking came early in the timeline of the 10-year project, when the prospective facility site was sold to another buyer after design and planning schematics had already begun. A new greenfield site was chosen and the team began adapting its plans to the 65-acre location, including figuring out where to locate 1,200 parking spaces. The team didn't want patients and visitors to walk long distances in the Florida sun, while the client didn't want a massive garage built in front of the main entrance.

The solution was to divide the parking into two garages and locate them on each side of the facility. The garages feed directly into light-filled corridors that connect to the inpatient building on the south end of the campus and the outpatient building on the north side. The design team then flipped the onstage and offstage areas, putting waiting areas, exam rooms, and patient spaces closer to the center of the building to reduce travel distances, while the back-of-house areas were moved to the perimeter.

The adaptable planning strategies and design features helped the design team deliver on its goals to create a facility that was monumental and efficient for the staff, while honoring vets. "We thought, this is our one chance to do something great for our veterans," Finrock said.— **AD**



The winners of *Healthcare Design's* annual Design Showcase and Remodel/Renovation Competition programs were celebrated during an awards luncheon at the HCD Expo. Pictured from left to right: Douglas Carney, senior vice president, facilities services, real estate and construction management, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia; Julie Robertson, interior design practice leader, HDR; Jocelyn Stroupe, principal, director of healthcare interiors, CannonDesign; Diane Osan, CEO, FKP Architects; Jennifer Kovacs Silvis, editor-in-chief, *Healthcare Design*; Mark Shoemaker, principal, Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects; Scott Thomas, senior vice president, CannonDesign; Kent Muirhead, design principal, CannonDesign; Carolyn BaRoss, design principal, Perkins+Will; and Suzen Heeley, executive director, design and construction, Memorial Sloan Kettering. (For more on the 2017 Remodel/Renovation Competition, see page 43.)

## NIGHTINGALE AWARDS

### 2017 EXPO HALL WINNERS

*Healthcare Design* Editor-in-Chief Jennifer Kovacs Silvis and *Contract* Editor-in-Chief John Czarnecki announced the winners of the 2017 Nightingale Awards at the HCD Expo. Named after Florence Nightingale and presented in partnership with The Center for Health Design, the program recognizes contributions to the healthcare built environment through product design that contributes to healing. Jurors judged the products in the expo hall, selecting 27 winners in 14 product categories. Mohawk Group's Lichen carpet collection was honored as the Best of Competition winner. See below for gold winners, and watch for expanded coverage in the February issue of *Healthcare Design*.

- **Gold Award in Architectural Products: Clinical**  
Acrovyn by Design Patterns Collection, Construction Specialties
- **Gold Award in Architectural Products: Non-Clinical**  
Ligature-Resistant Sliding Door System, Accurate Lock and Hardware
- **Gold Award in Carpet**  
Lichen, Mohawk Group
- **Gold Award in Fabrics & Textiles**  
Project ICU, C.F. Stinson
- **Gold Award in Flooring: Resilient**  
Norament Arago, Nora Systems
- **Gold Award in Furniture: Clinician Support**  
Intent Solution, Herman Miller
- **Gold Award in Furniture Collections**  
Resilia Drum Table, Stance Healthcare
- **Gold Award in Seating: Guest/Lounge**  
Valayo Collection, Integra Seating
- **Gold Award in Seating: Patient**  
Ruckus Task Chair, KI
- **Gold Award in Technology-Integrated Solutions**  
IQvitals Zone, Midmark Corp.