Unleashing Design’s Healing Power

Celebrating 25 Years. Help us Build the Next 25.

EDAC Advocate Firm Project
CannonDesign, Advocate Health Care

EDAC Advocate Firm Project
Stantec, Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center’s Heart and Vascular Institute and emergency services expansion.

EDAC Advocate Firm Project
HDR Architecture, Great Plains Health patient tower addition.
The Mission of The Center for Health Design:

To transform environments for a healthier, safer world through design research, education, and advocacy.

The Center for Health Design advances best practices and empowers healthcare leaders with quality research that demonstrates the value of design to improve health outcomes, patient experience of care, patient and staff safety and provider/staff satisfaction and performance.

Through design research, education, and advocacy, we’re leading the way in transforming hospitals, clinics, wellness centers, doctor’s offices, and residential care facilities for a safer, healthier tomorrow.
Dear Friends,

The Center for Health Design has been the leading voice and resource for professionals focusing their efforts on developing the best, most effective healthcare environments. For more than 25 years, The Center has provided knowledge, professional support, and guidance for all who are interested in improving the way healthcare environments are designed and built.

As we plan the next 25 years, we are excited by the many opportunities before us and the ability to continue to drive and shape the ways healthcare facilities and environments deliver care to patients and improve the ability of those working in them to provide care. We have identified what it will take to remain the leading voice and advocate in our field and are excited to move forward with these initiatives. We will focus our efforts in three specific areas including:

- **Research Based Practices** which will include recording best practices and identifying ways to connect and unify the healthcare environment. This will ensure designers and architects are able to understand the most current and effective interventions in the design of healthcare environments.

- **Future Focused Expansion** reflects our desire to bring the knowledge we have attained through our work in acute facilities and apply that knowledge to other areas of health such as the home and community based settings.

- **Standardized Post-Occupancy Evaluation** through the creation of a database accessible to all members and Affiliates.

The participation and dedication of our supporters has allowed The Center for Health Design to attain the goals it originally set for itself 25 years ago. As we plan for the continued growth and expansion of our organization, we will again look to those who recognize the value The Center provides to our field, to those who work in the healthcare field, and especially to those patients who benefit from improved outcomes.

I thank you for your past support and invite you to join me in this next phase of our evolution because as we all know, design has the power to impact and influence many things... Design Can.

Sincerely,

Debra J. Levin, Hon FASID, EDAC
President and CEO
The Center for Health Design
Design Can Make an Impact

In 1993 a team of forward thinking individuals came together with a vision to create healthcare facilities that promoted healthier environments for patients and staff. What came next was the founding of The Center for Health Design and a movement that has changed the way healthcare facilities are designed, knowing that Design Can make an impact.

Since its inception, The Center for Health Design has gained a proven track record of creating, launching, and delivering programs that provide true, measurable value to the healthcare design industry. Under the guidance of our members, facility design to support care is improved and optimized with the intention of enhanced patient experience and staff performance. With The Center's assistance, healthcare facilities across the world are incorporating designs to address many healthcare issues. Solutions such as daylighting and providing access to nature, as well as single-bed patient rooms and thoughtful design details that can reduce falls and infection, are among some of the critical changes incorporated into facility design. These positive changes are generating improved outcomes for all who work and receive care in these environments.

Known for the creation and delivery of programs that provide true value to the healthcare design industry, The Center for Health Design is recognized as a ground-breaking leader. In addition to the varied programs offered through The Center, it is also home to the largest collection of healthcare design research, best practices, resources, and tools for today's most urgent and challenging healthcare design issues.

EHD Touchstone Award Recipient
Clemson University Architecture + Health Program, OR prototype
Evidence-Based Design Accreditation and Certification (EDAC): EDAC provides individuals with in-depth knowledge of evidence-based design. Over 2,500 individuals who have passed the EDAC exam are part of a global community of professionals who envision a world where all healthcare environments are created using evidence-based design.

The Pebble Project: Part incubator, part accelerator, the Pebble Project has been a unique and dynamic collective where innovators share their knowledge, goals, questions, and challenges. Here, healthcare organizations, architects, designers and industry partners work with The Center to improve patient and worker safety, clinical outcomes, environmental performance and operational efficiency. Expert guidance from our research team encourages a visionary spirit of collaborative change based on the most current research.

Research-Based Tools: The Center’s research has resulted in influential literature reviews, research briefs, and robust guidance tools that help owners, architects, and designers translate research into design. Organizations such as the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the California Health Care Foundation, the Kresge Foundation, the ASID Foundation, and the Donghia Foundation have all supported advancing the knowledge-base about the connection between the design of the built environment and outcomes.

Affiliate Program: The Center’s Affiliate program provides opportunities for individuals and organizations of every size to advance their understanding of evidence-based design strategies and benefits, and to demonstrate their support of The Center’s values and mission. The Affiliate+ program is designed for healthcare providers, architecture and design firms, product manufacturers and other organizations that are actively integrating evidence-based design principles into their healthcare projects.

HERD Journal: Health Environments Research & Design Journal (HERD) features articles and research papers on the relationships between health and environmental design and organizational, provider, and patient outcomes. As a peer-reviewed translational journal linking research to practice, HERD features both rigorous research from academic sources and applied research from practice. The journal is comprised of papers on research methods and techniques, theory, integrative and synthesized reviews of literature, case studies, and critical reviews of new books.

The Healthcare Design Expo and Conference: Healthcare Design Expo and Conference is the industry’s premier educational offering devoted to how the design of responsibly built environments directly impacts the safety, operation, clinical outcomes, and financial success of healthcare organizations, both now and into the future. Attendees have the opportunity to earn continuing education credits, network with peers, discuss best practices, view innovative design products, and influence the direction of the industry as it advances into the future.

“It’s hard to think of any situation in which design does not make a difference, both positive and negative.”

Jain Malkin, CID, AAHID and EDAC Interior Designer, retired
The community we serve is diverse, comprised of architects, interior designers, healthcare executives and professionals, researchers, product manufacturers, educators, and students. Each member is dedicated and committed to optimizing healthcare facilities and those they serve. Healthcare design is changing and The Center for Health Design is on the forefront of that change, providing the tools needed to ensure improved outcomes. The rate of our industry’s evolution is not slowing down and we aim to keep pace with all the innovation and changes we see coming. We have the talent and the knowledge; we simply require the fiscal resources.

EDAC Advocate Firm Project
CannonDesign, ProHealth waiting area, The University of Wisconsin Cancer Center
The result — a cancer center designed from the inside out—is an important reminder that form doesn’t follow function; form follows experience. © Craig Dugan Photography 2016

EDAC Advocate Firm Project
HKS Architects, Kay Jewelers Pavilion at Akron Children’s Hospital
The success of [the project] is a direct result of early planning sessions, close collaboration, and plenty of thought put into exactly how the building would work—and grow.
“When I was a freshman in college my mother was dying of cancer at University Hospital in Madison, WI and visiting hours were so restricted that even with her being so ill I was not allowed to see her except perhaps two hours a day and I still, so many years later, am haunted by the thought of her lying there alone in a visually “sterile” room with no family to comfort her or be at her bedside as she died. She was all alone. I will always recall the housemother of my dorm knocking on my door in a darkened house to say that the hospital had called to say that she had died. Today this situation would be incomprehensible in just about any hospital in the nation and the idea of patient’s rights would be asserted. We have come a long way in terms of patient safety, visual aesthetics, environmental health and being guided by what is right and convenient for the patient.”

Jain Malkin, CID, AAHID and EDAC
Interior Designer, retired

Pebble Partners
HOK/Hillier, Penn Medicine Princeton Medical Center

The new hospital was designed with the following goals in mind: to achieve outstanding clinical outcomes, enhance patient satisfaction, provide convenience and privacy, and attain cost effectiveness.

EBD Touchstone Award Recipient
Clemson University Architecture + Health Program, operating room prototype

The interdisciplinary project delivers an evidence-based approach to advance the design of operating rooms.
Design Can
Drive Innovation

The work of The Center for Health Design falls into five major categories, each offering a unique benefit to members and all who utilize our expertise. When combined, the information, exchange of ideas, and execution of best practices results in dramatic improvements and solutions to existing healthcare facility design challenges.
**Education:**
Through regional and national events, industry professionals have access to educational opportunities to further their ability to address industry issues. At these events, professionals are brought together to share, learn, and advance best practices in healthcare design. Our educational programs also allow professionals to obtain the tools and training they need to effectively evaluate, test, prioritize, implement, and optimize facility investments. One such program is the Evidence-Based Design Accreditation and Certification (EDAC), which was developed by The Center in 2008 and is now considered the gold standard in the healthcare design profession.

**Research:**
The Center connects industry leaders with the research and resources that help them identify and quantify the impact the investment in facility design can make. This ties directly into our goal of bringing a varied cross section of industry professionals together through initiatives such as the Pebble Project, Research Coalition, and Research Advisory Services programs.

**Advocacy:**
The Center for Health Design promotes the voice and work of the professionals we serve to help ensure they maintain a presence in their respective fields and foster relationships with other like-minded industries. By advocating for changes to industry guidelines, The Center aims to elevate the minimum standards for our professionals. This directly supports our goal to attain the best possible outcomes. As an organization, we celebrate the milestones achieved and encourage new research through our New Investigator Award.
Outreach:
Vital to spreading the importance of our work is educating the general public on the benefits of healthcare design and the impact it has on patient outcomes and staff performance. Our goal, through outreach programs, is to do this while simultaneously reaching younger and new-to-the-industry professionals. By offering free student Affiliate memberships to those still in training, we are helping to connect and educate the next generation.

Convening:
Sharing ideas is an integral part of advancing our mission within the industry. When we provide a venue for this exchange of dialogue, we are also cultivating a sense of community and inviting members from across the profession to work collaboratively to ensure all aspects of our work are adding value to those we ultimately serve.
“It’s easy to build a pretty, new building. It’s really hard to improve the patient and staff experience. The Center for Health Design is helping us do this.”

Avein Saaty-Tafoya, MD, MBA, HCM, EDAC
President & CEO
Adelante Healthcare

A physician by training, Avein Saaty-Tafoya manages several roles as the President and CEO of the non-profit Adelante Healthcare. She understands first-hand the importance an environment can have on patients and staff and believes this part of healthcare is frequently overlooked. Until Avein was introduced to The Center for Health Design and became aware of and immersed in the concepts being driven by evidence-based design, healthcare environments were not getting the attention they deserved.

“Operating at the executive level of the organization, I was frequently not part of the early stages of planning for the design and construction of our facilities. We would end up with new buildings based on old paradigms. Now, after having worked with The Center, I have a better understanding of the science behind designing an environment which will help give patients the great care they deserve.”

Avein feels “lucky to have found The Center” and credits the ideas and concepts developed and shared by The Center as giving Adelante the differentiation it needed to stand out in its field. Adelante grew from a $20 million organization serving 17,000 patients when it was introduced to The Center for Health Design to its current $70 million organization serving 70,000 patients with a broader range of diagnoses.

“Investing in The Center will allow for its expansion and will bring more people together to change lives and advance the mission.”
As we plan for our future, we recognize three main areas of expansion and attention. By strategically focusing its efforts in these areas, The Center will influence the future and drive innovation to the next level.

I. Research Based Practices
The Center for Health Design will document best practices and uncover research that connects and unifies the built environment. Through this research, we will create actionable steps for design professionals and all who are involved in the development and planning of the space to create the best possible healthcare environment. This on-going initiative will provide support to those who look to The Center for Health Design for guidance and authority in the field.

II. Future Focused
Through our work with a wide array of professionals, we will capture new ideas and rogue projects to create a better roadmap for the future. We will push and encourage our industry to do more for patients through the incorporation of practices in new and expanding environments such as homes and community-based care facilities.

III. Standardized Post-Occupancy Evaluation
This ambitious project will provide a standard, evidence-based, post-occupancy evaluation. The result will be a database accessible to all, offering a critical method of informing and helping to shape future healthcare projects.

The Center for Health Design has been the resource industry professionals rely on when considering best practices, current standards, and ways to improve patient experiences. With the incorporation of the initiatives outlined above, the aim is to continue driving the level of quality and innovation professionals deliver while expanding our vision to create even more environments designed with health and safety in mind. The talent is available to us through the many professionals we work with and who advocate for this evolution in healthcare design. To ensure our vision becomes a reality, we will look to those who support the work we are doing and who share our desire to promote the best possible environments for the healthcare industry and those it serves. It will be through the generosity of those who truly value and understand the importance of our work that we will expand our reach and improve our ability to share knowledge and best practices resulting in better, safer, and healthier environments.
Design Can,
With Your Help

For a quarter of a century, The Center for Health Design has been influencing the ways in which healthcare environments are designed and built. We have demonstrated our commitment to our industry and those we serve through research, education, advocacy, and innovation. The work we do expands beyond industry professionals, reaching and positively impacting patients and their loved ones.

As we look to the next twenty five years, our goal is to continue to drive innovation and share all we learn with those designing and developing spaces of healing and comfort. To secure our future as the leader in our industry, we must embrace a culture of philanthropy to help us grow and maintain the caliber of services our constituents have come to expect and upon which they depend. Please consider making a financial commitment to The Center for Health Design so that we are able to improve patient outcomes and impact the lives of millions each day.
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Founding Principal Emeritus
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Jain Malkin, CID, A AHID, EDAC
Evidence-Based Design Consultant

Robin Orr, MPH
President
The Robin Orr Group

Derek Parker, FAIA, RIBA, FACHA, EDAC
Director
Aditazz

Roger S. Ulrich, PhD, EDAC
Professor, Department of Architecture
Center for Healthcare Building Research
Chalmers University of Technology
DESIGN CAN
Join us as The Center for Health Design celebrates 25 years of fostering measurable improvements in healthcare facilities, medical outcomes, and the experience of patients and staff.

Watch for announcements of celebration activities and our 25th Anniversary Campaign, inviting individuals, organizations and foundations to help support The Center’s ongoing work and future needs and initiatives.