

West Park Healthcare Centre (WPHC): Helping patients get their lives back



Photography: Patrick St. Arnaud

West Park's new hospital provides specialized rehabilitative and complex care for life—altering illnesses or injuries such as lung disease, amputation, stroke, and traumatic musculoskeletal injuries. As an integral part of a larger campus rejuvenation, the hospital is paving the way for the future of healthcare delivery, education, and research.

An Integrated Campus of Care

Nestled in the picturesque Humber River Valley in Toronto, the new \$1.2 billion hospital spans 730,000 square feet and six stories. This facility represents the first phase in West Park's larger plan to establish an

integrated campus of care. The hospital's primary mission is to help patients regain ability and rediscover their sense of self—to essentially get their lives back.

Creating Destinations

Recognizing that most patients in West Park's care require long-term stays of weeks, months or even years, it was essential for the design and development team to ensure patients feel connected to the outside world. Elements such as gardens, walking trails, therapeutic spaces, and outdoor terraces on every floor help connect patients to the park setting outside the hospital. "We've created a warm, welcoming environment. When they enter the building, patients and staff alike feel uplifted, energized, and embraced by the space," says Shelley Ditty, Vice President, Campus Development and Support Services, WPHC.



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“On the lower levels, public spaces like the cafeteria, piano lounge and pool are larger volume spaces that feel light and airy. As you ascend floors to the clinics, therapy gyms and inpatient rooms it becomes more intimate, private, and personal,” explains Marsha Spencer, Vice President, Business Practice Leader, CannonDesign. Additionally, the building incorporates visual elements inspired by nature to enhance wayfinding and bring a sense of the outdoors in.

Promoting the Healing Process

The building is designed to promote the healing process. “Being in a rehabilitation center is hard work. Patients need the time and space for breaks,” says Ditty. Spaces that act as destinations have been designed throughout the floorplan to create opportunities for staff, patients, and visitors to stop, meet, and reflect. For example, built-in seating nooks along the hallway provide patients with resting spots as they traverse the hallways, while lounge-like seating areas accommodate small group gatherings. “Many of our patients have some challenges in terms of their physical abilities. The right furniture enables them to do things like get in or out of a chair themselves or pull comfortably up to a dining room table in their wheelchair to join their friends. It may seem like a small detail, but in fact, it’s key for their rehabilitation and the healing journey they’re on.”



FEATURED PRODUCTS

River+ seating, Willow seating, Enable tables, Primacare seating, Collingwood seating, Coast Glider, Swap tables, Popcorn seating, GC Wind seating, Accord seating, Gala II seating, GC Sirena, Adeline seating, Bakhita seating

ARCHITECTS

CannonDesign and Montgomery Sisam Architects

DEALER

Harkel Office Furniture

