

Planetree

SLAM is a certified Planetree design firm and a member of the Planetree Visionary Design Network. For more than two decades, SLAM has played a leading role in implementing Planetree principles that have helped to shape the development of patient and family focused care at hospitals throughout the United States. Through our long-standing involvement at Griffin Hospital in Derby, CT (the "Planetree Pioneer" hospital), active participation on the Planetree Design Advisory Committee, commitment to research and development as it relates to evidence-based design, and as on-going Planetree consulting & design practitioners, SLAM is at the forefront of being able to provide special insight into the holistic nature of Planetree transformation.

We understand the challenges, as well as the opportunities, inherent in change and how a multiplicity of organizational, operational, and philosophical factors can enhance the shaping and design of physical space.



Griffin Hospital Cancer Center
Derby, CT

"Griffin's facility and care model have set a new standard for hospitals and architects. Griffin has won the Design Award from The Center for Health Design which recognizes design that promotes well-being and healing; the American Hospital Association, American Society for Healthcare Engineering 1996 VISTA Award for new construction; and the New England Hospital Assembly top design award sponsored by the Boston Society of Architects. Groups from more than 500 hospitals, both domestic and foreign, have visited Griffin since 1994."

- Pat Charmel, CEO - Griffin Hospital

Patient-Centered Care

As a pioneer and thought-leader related to the implementation of patient-centered principals we do not believe that there is one approach that fits all institutions. Rather, we seek the need for common dialogue and recognition of the interrelatedness between the architectural team and the institution's leadership during the design process.

Applying these principals begins with recognition of the impact that architectural planning can have on organizational behavior changes. This can be reinforced only when designers gain a command and understanding of the issues, and translate and integrate them into the physical environment. Key aspects include; gaining an understanding of the mission, recognizing the role of the physical environment in healing, and focusing on elements that best fit your institution, community and resources.

Patient-Centered care should empower the patient, through:

- Decentralized or accessible nurse stations
- Providing access to information, open medical records and resource centers
- Encouraging communication between caregivers and patients

As well as empowering the staff, by:

- Engaging employees and aligning goals and incentives in creating a fantastic organizational culture
- Employees developing a common vision
- Adopting patients perspective
- Eliminate fear, encouraging risk taking
- Differentiating the institution for strategic/financial reasons
- Communicating

Planetree Affiliated Clients include:

- Griffin Hospital - Derby, CT
- Northern Westchester Hospital - Mount Kisco, NY
- Lakeland Regional Health System - Niles Facility, St. Joseph, MI
- UMASS Memorial Hospital - Worcester, MA
- Stamford Hospital - Stamford, CT

Members of our design team are annual presenters at the Planetree conference. Presentations include:

- Transformation of Patient, Visitor and Staff experience at Danbury Hospital through the Physical Environment, 2011
- How the Vision of a Holistic Healing Community Became a Reality, 2009
- Northern Westchester Hospital, Innovation in the Emergency Department, 2008
- Creating a Holistic Healing Community, Planning and Designing the New Griffin Ambulatory Care and Community Cancer Center, 2007
- Innovations in Emergency Departments, 2006
- Lakeland Niles, Extreme Makeover, 2005
- Griffin Hospital – ICU, 2004
- Healing Environments, 2004
- Outcomes of Implementing Patient Centered Care, 2003
- Elements of Planetree Design, 2002

