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## HMC Architects



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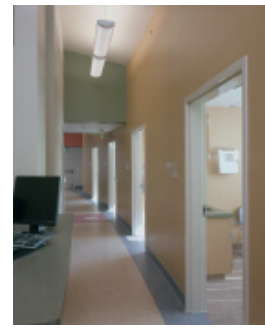
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Santa Ysabel Community Healthcare Center  
Santa Ysabel, California



How should a modern healthcare facility accommodate patients who may feel uncomfortable with Western medical practice? Can the resulting space be compact and efficient, as well as sympathetic? These were among the major challenges facing the Indian Health Council and HMC Architects in developing the new, one-story, 6,100-square foot Santa Ysabel Community Healthcare Center in Santa Ysabel, California. The issues weren't new to the Council, a consortium of nine tribes promoting Native American

health, wholeness, and well-being in California's North San Diego County. Yet the award-winning medical and dental office complex displays fresh solutions. Among them are an acknowledgement of Native American cultural concerns about the land, movement of the sun, and views of the distant valley and mountains in the building's location. The architecture and materials uniquely reflect the surrounding environment and the versatile interiors are organized into related functional



**Above:** Corridor and examination rooms.

**Left:** Exterior.

**Lower left:** Seminar room.

**Opposite:** Entry/waiting room.

**Photography:** Jim Brady.



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Washoe Family and Urgent Care/Washoe Imaging Center  
Sparks, Nevada



With a heritage as northern Nevada's leading healthcare provider dating back to 1862, Washoe Health System has been busy extending its reach beyond four regional hospitals to neighborhood clinics and other decentralized facilities in its service area. Each new location is inevitably unique, based on the local population, on-site conditions and available resources. For the Washoe Family and Urgent Care/Washoe Imaging Center in Sparks, a young, growing community of some 81,014 residents (2004 estimate)

east of Reno, HMC Architects designed a new, one-story, 15,600-square foot building in a residential neighborhood of single-family homes. The resulting prairie-style structure of stone, stucco and glass, topped by a tile roof, succeeds by relating to its environs and creating a warm, casual setting for outpatient services, imaging center, urgent care, family practice, admittance/check-in, and medical offices. Extending the non-institutional image indoors, the interiors interpret the prairie-style theme with natural

light, home-like furnishings, soft colors, and a material palette of drywall, stone and wood. How Sparks feels about its new "neighbor" can be measured through patient volume and revenue, which met projections for the first 18 months within one year.

**Above left:** Entry/waiting room.

**Left:** Open MRI.

**Photography:** Vance Fox.



**Above:** Exterior.

**Right:** Nurses station.



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Providence Holy Cross Medical Center  
Mission Hills, California



Replacement hospitals represent an extraordinary opportunity for fresh thinking. But their key planning issues—in addition to such ongoing concerns as time, cost, patient volumes, staffing, procedures, equipment and space—can be formidable. For the four-story, 136-bed, 111,080-square foot addition to Providence Holy Cross Medical Center in Mission Hills, California, Providence Healthcare Systems and HMC Architects balanced HIPPA compliance with the safety of patients and staff, maintained uninterrupted operation during construction, and assured the community after other area hospitals closed. This first phase of a total replacement deliberately stands in front of the existing facility, declaring

the hospital's long-term intent. It's an auspicious start, encompassing women's services, surgery, recovery, general medical/surgical patient rooms, endoscopy, ICU, chapel, lobby/waiting and public dining rooms. Among its notable features are easily serviced, "same-hand oriented" placement of furniture and supplies in patient rooms; nurse stations offering centralized observation of patient rooms; efficient separate staff and patient circulation; centralized lobbies, entries and cafeterias that promote wayfinding; and quality interiors. A hotel-like ambiance should make residents of the Santa Clarita Valley feel much better soon.



**Above right:** Exterior.  
**Above left:** NICU.  
**Left:** Nurses station.  
**Lower left:** Chapel.  
**Opposite bottom:** Patient room or labor/delivery.  
**Illustration:** Klyde Wilson and Chris Grant/HMC Architects.



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Kaiser Downey Medical Center  
Downey, California



Even in Downey, a city with a population of 110,600, a metropolitan region of 3.6 million, and one of the highest concentrations of medical professionals and healthcare institutions in California, the new Kaiser Downey Medical Center is a big deal. The complex, designed by HMC Architects, will include a 650,000-square foot hospital, 117,000-square foot and 178,000-square foot medical office buildings, a 50,000-square foot central plant, and a 1,387-car addition to an existing parking structure. Notable achievements are its ability to integrate flexibility in design,

address user needs and respect budget constraints while using Kaiser's new templated building system; its use of design-build for MEP project delivery; and its foundation, designed for a site that contains liquefaction. Patients and staff will be drawn to the robust wayfinding system, based on a concourse that runs along the spine of the site and links all publicly accessible departments, restorative gardens for patients and families and an emergency department that can effectively evaluate, treat and disperse a large flow of incoming patients. To the frequently asked

question of whether Kaiser's commitment to standardized care accommodates creative design solutions, Downey declares a resounding "yes."

**Upper left:** Exterior showing medical center complex.

**Left:** Exterior glass curtain wall link between buildings.

**Lower left:** Exterior with yellow connecting concourse.

**Illustration:** Klyde Wilson/HMC Architects.