

# THE TOP TEN

MOST INNOVATIVE FACILITIES

IN HEALTHCARE

2002

CENTER FOR  
INNOVATION  
IN HEALTH FACILITIES



*The Center for Innovation in Healthcare Facilities is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization created by D. Kirk Hamilton, FAIA in 1997.*

*The Center fosters innovation in evidence-based design, planning, and operation of healthcare facilities. It promotes research, conducts surveys, publishes books and is building a national clearinghouse for information on best practices.*

*The Center recently conducted a survey seeking information from 5000 healthcare CEOs and 250 healthcare consultants regarding innovations in the healthcare environment. Data from this survey resulted in a "Top Ten" List of Most Innovative Facilities for 2002.*

# TOP TEN



The ASK Pediatric Oncology Clinic  
Richmond, VA

The ASK Pediatric Oncology Clinic is located on the second floor of the Nelson Clinic, part of the VCU Health System in Richmond, Virginia. The project involved the renovation of an existing medical space. ASK, the Association for the Support of Children with Cancer, was the driving force behind the new clinic.

The ASK Pediatric Oncology Clinic blends healthcare with imagination, embracing empowerment, hope, and youthful energy during a family's most challenging time. Vibrant colors and patterns elevate the mood and create nine unique bedrooms, a comforting and entertaining twist on the typical exam room. Twinkling star fiber optics, residential inspired cabinetry, abundant artwork, and a corridor filled with floating drywall clouds erase the typically intimidating clinic atmosphere. The treatment room provides an underwater escape with an aquatic mural, video games, and neon bubbling tanks. The outcome is a warm and welcoming haven for children, families, and staff.



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The ASK Pediatric Oncology Clinic has received considerable attention and positive feedback from both those using the space and the public. The most rewarding change has been the morale boost felt by the patients, parents, and staff. Parents remark that their children don't want to leave because they enjoy playing in the lobby and watching the stars twinkle. (As one patient said, "Today I get to go to the elephant room!") Larger exam rooms with comfortable seating for families have alleviated the overcrowded, stressful lobby condition that previously existed. The design of the treatment spaces with integrated storage areas and workstations have created a more efficient flow that enhances patient care.