

## U.Va. Earns ENR Best of the Best 2013: Best Healthcare Project for Hospital Bed Expansion and Helipad Project

February 28, 2014 | [Betty Wooding](#)

The U.Va. Medical Center Hospital Bed Expansion (HBE) and Helipad Project was named Best of the Best 2013: Best Healthcare Project by Engineering News Record (ENR) in December. The project is featured at [ENR.com](#).

The Facilities Management Health System project team members were Construction Administration Manager Nate Brown (Helipad), Senior Construction Administration Manager Chris Hoy (HBE), Senior Construction Administration Manager Bree Knick (HBE), Facilities Management Project Director Joe Rainwater (HBE), Senior Project Manager Steve Rohr (Helipad) and Construction Administration Manager David Watkins (HBE). The nomination was submitted by Gilbane Building.

“ENR’s Best of the Best awards are national, best in sector awards,” Facilities Planning & Construction Director Annette Cyphers explained. “Projects are nominated for consideration, then evaluated and ranked by industry professionals. The competition included major new hospitals across the nation and each had their own amazing challenges and successes. Seeing our project selected as the Best of the Best is a great recognition of the U.Va. team’s commitment to safety and quality.

“Safety is a guiding principle for any construction project and by any measure, this was a difficult construction project,” Annette continued. “Of course, the stakes are even higher when patient care and construction are occurring side by side. This team inherently understood, accepted and overcame these challenges to deliver a safe, quality project for UVa.”

The project, which had been named Engineer News Record’s Mid-Atlantic Region Best of 2013, Best Healthcare Project by a jury of professionals selected by ENR, advanced to national competition in December. This is the first ENR Best of the Best award that U.Va. has earned.

The HBE added 127,000 sq. ft. of new space which includes 72 acuity adaptable patient rooms to the University of Virginia Medical Center’s teaching facility. Designed by the SmithGroup, Inc. in Washington, DC, the project is a six story, 61,000 gsf addition to the north façade of the Hospital’s Central Bed Tower. The HBE bears on a truss structure constructed over the second story roof of the Hospital Lobby. An expanded mechanical penthouse is included to house new air handling equipment to serve the HBE. The project also involves 62,000 gsf of renovation to create the adjacent nursing units on each of the six patient care floors. Gilbane Building Company, in association with H. J. Russell & Company provide Construction Manager-as-Agent services through the design, procurement, and construction phases of this project.

The design of the exterior of the HBE was influenced, in large part, by the design of the Emily Couric Clinical Cancer Center (ECCCC). The University Hospital Bed Towers are oriented to face the ECCCC building site. The HBE facade is a unitized factory-glazed curtainwall

system. On the interior, the patient rooms are oriented to fully utilize this system to provide wall-to-wall and floor-to-ceiling glass. This maximizes the use of natural light in the patient rooms while taking advantage of the northern exposure. The HBE began construction in October 2008 with completion in August 2012. The HBE project budget was \$82.5 million

The Helipad was constructed on the roof of the University Hospital and functions as the main landing pad for helicopters arriving at the Hospital. Construction of the new Health System Chiller Plant negatively impacted the flight paths associated with the original ground-based helipad.

The project, completed in September 2013, includes the vertical extension of two hospital service elevators in the East Elevator Bank, safety nets, and a walkway to the pad location from the extended East Elevator Bank, as well as column upgrades to support the helipad loads. The helipad is a 46-foot square aluminum pad above the existing roof. The helipad system is designed with provisions for a snow melt system, all required FAA lighting and wind indicators, and required filtration to protect the penthouse air intakes for the Hospital's HVAC system.

Smith Group Inc. of Washington, DC provided the design, and Gilbane Building Company is the construction manager for the project. The Helipad project budget was \$6.7 million.

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Betty Wooding

*Information officer*

U.Va. Facilities Management

[ebw2s@virginia.edu](mailto:ebw2s@virginia.edu)

(434) 982-5846