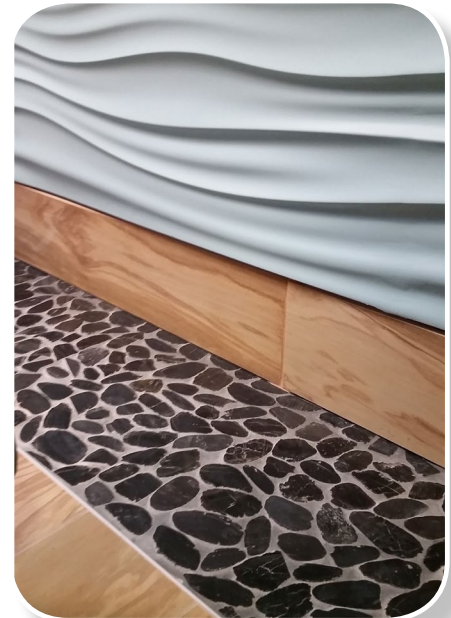


CASE STUDY



Creating Peace, Comfort and Tranquility

Palliative and hospice care is gut wrenching and somber. Far too often, a family finds itself needing support and medical services at the end of their child's life when that child would be far more comfortable at home. In an effort to soften that experience and make the hospital feel less scary and more comforting, Genesys Medical Center hired FUNchitecture to design a room that could do just that for pediatric hospice patients.

The first thing FUNchitecture suggested was adjoining two rooms within the hospital. This would allow a family, especially one who might have many visitors throughout this difficult time, to have a room separate from the patient to eat a meal or talk quietly with family and friends. It also gives siblings a chance to be near

their sick brother or sister, while not interrupting care or procedures. Hospital beds in the adjoining room serve as a place for family to sleep so they do not have to leave the hospital or their child. If a family does not need the additional space, the room can be used to provide care for other patients.

An organic wavy wall offers visual distraction and black lava stones provide a border on the floor and are the same stones that can be used for black "hot rock" massage therapy, which is a popular high-touch treatment to ease a child's pain while in hospice care. Wood floors soften the room and feel more home-like than traditional hospital-grade vinyl tile, while LED ambient lights recessed in a perimeter ceiling bulkhead

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C A S E S T U D Y

Continued from front...

provide soothing and calming light throughout the space in lieu of standard hospital lighting. A faux skylight in the ceiling changes light levels to simulate sunrise to sunset throughout the day, adding white puffy clouds above the patient's bed, transporting them to a feeling of ethereal calm.

A jellyfish tank replaces the television as the rhythmic breathing of these unique creatures mimics the respiratory rates of humans and can provide a calming affect on anyone watching them. Studies prove that by observing these free-swimming animals, blood pressure rates return to normal, benefitting both patients and their caregivers. Lastly, FUNchitecture incorporated new tile and blue countertops and replaced standard hospital fixtures in the integrated room's bathroom, another opportunity to make the room feel homey and less institutional.

The donor who made the room possible, as well as all who interact or pass by this suite, often comment, "All places in the hospital should be so comforting. This room is amazing, soothing and beautiful!"

