



Legacy of Hope

Angie Fowler Adolescent & Young Adult Cancer Institute welcomes patients' unique needs

By Dennis Castiglione | Photos by Eric Hanson

Char and Chuck Fowler experienced what no parents should ever endure – the loss of a child. In 1983, the Fowlers lost their daughter, Angie, to melanoma. Theirs and Angie's experiences during her battle led to generous donations by the family (and others) that ultimately resulted in the construction of the Angie Fowler Adolescent & Young Adult Cancer Institute at University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital (UH Rainbow).

The eighth-floor outpatient treatment center opened in April and the respite rooftop garden and ninth floor atrium opened this fall as part of the first phase of the project. A 30-bed, in-patient treatment center is planned for the seventh floor in the second phase.

The Fowlers' generosity and passion for the project has been contagious and the design and construction team assembled enthusiastically perpetuated that passion.

"All you have to say is 'kids' to these guys," explains Ray Krankowski, project manager with Mid-Continent Construction Company, the builder

on the project. "Everybody has kids so they rallied especially hard to do their best."

Brian Peterka, project manager with Stanley Beaman & Sears, the architects working on the project agrees.

"Everybody has had the goal in mind from the beginning to do everything right and so everyone strives for it," he says. "It's been a pretty amazing experience."

A driving force behind that enthusiasm is Char Fowler who has been inspirational in sharing her vision.

"Mrs. Fowler is so passionate about this project," says Robert Telecky, project

manager with University Hospitals. "She has been very hands-on."

In 2007, the Fowlers donated \$1 million to UH Rainbow in memory of Angie to fund the first endowed chair in the United States dedicated to adolescent and young adult (AYA) cancer, allowing Rainbow to recruit a nationally recognized physician-scientist with expertise in AYA. (The Fowler Chair is currently held by Joe Matloub, MD, clinical director of the Division of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology at UH Rainbow.) The Fowler gift was matched by \$500,000 from the Rainbow Babies & Children's Foundation.



PLAYFUL ESCAPE A rooftop healing garden (above) incorporates full-size animal sculptures, creative landscaping and a sound system with well-disguised speakers that emits sounds of babbling brooks and birds during the day and crickets and frogs at night. Light and illumination are incorporated throughout the project. For example, a multi-panel, multi-color glass arching canopy (opposite page) scatters prisms of light throughout the space.

That was just the beginning of their generosity – and commitment to the project.

Since then, the Fowlers have donated \$17 million toward the establishment of the Angie Fowler Adolescent & Young Adult Cancer Institute. Their daughters and sons-in-law, Chann and Ed Spellman and Holley and Rob Martens, joined them in making this transformational gift.

“When Angie was getting her care in Texas years ago, the facilities were either bent toward very young pediatric patients or adults,” says Char Fowler. “We’re supporting a treatment center and program that surrounds teens and young adults with an atmosphere more suited to their unique needs.”

A journey of light

The early planning on the construction began in 2010, according to Telecky, and proposals by architects were reviewed in 2011, culminating in the selection of Stanley Beaman & Sears.

“When Stanley Beaman & Sears came in to make their proposal, they explained that they have explored what a rainbow meant and that rainbows are symbols of hope and that they are composed of light and illumination,” Telecky says.

“We told UH that we believe that the treatment of childhood cancer and this institute should be looked at as a ‘journey of light,’” explains Peterka.

True to their concept, Stanley Beaman & Sears incorporated light and illumination into every facet of the project, from a multi-panel, multi-color glass arching canopy on the rooftop garden that scatters prisms of light throughout that space to an extraordinary media wall in the eighth-floor lobby of the outpatient care center.

Patients can even choose the lighting in their exam and treatment rooms.

“These young adults have no control over what they’re going through,

but Mrs. Fowler wanted to give them control over something that may seem simple, but is truly a significant feature for them,” says Krankowski. This was no simple or inexpensive element, either – the lighting system in the treatment rooms is a \$6,000 investment per room.

Lighting throughout the eighth floor is LED, so it’s energy efficient, and the choice and placement of fixtures complement the overall design as well as providing extraordinary design enhancement.

Up on the roof

One of the most unique aspects to the project was the construction of a rooftop healing garden with views of the Cleveland skyline and surrounding landscapes. It is a place where patients can go outside and be away from the medical space in their own oasis.

As you step out of the elevator onto the rooftop, you realize immediately how





BRIGHT SIGHTS At one end of the 7,500-square-foot garden is a 40-foot sculptured living wall tapestry (above). On the opposite end, beneath the colorful rainbow canopy, is an observation deck that gives patients a chance to view the cityscape of Cleveland.

thoughtful a plan this is. Beyond the rainbow canopy, there is color everywhere in every aspect of design. There are primary colored benches and seats throughout the space. Full-size animals fashioned like origami are scattered throughout the garden area, which features an array of shrubbery, trees and lighting fixtures. A sound system with well-disguised speakers fills the space with the sounds of babbling brooks and birds during the day and crickets and frogs at night.

At opposite ends of the 7,500-square-foot garden are a 40-foot sculptured living wall tapestry and an observation deck (beneath the rainbow canopy). The observation deck includes two high-powered binoculars, giving patients a chance to view the cityscape of Cleveland. One of the pair of binoculars is at an adult (standing) height, while the other is positioned for shorter or wheelchair-bound patients.

A centerpiece of the garden is a kaleidoscope planter donated by the Fowlers (in honor Mrs. Fowler's mother). The two eyepieces – at two levels with one for 'adults' and one for 'kids' – are aimed into the flower arrangement in the basin

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Robert Telecky
University Hospitals

of the sculpture, creating an extraordinary color masterpiece for the viewer.

“This part of the project definitely morphed,” laughs Krankowski. “What began as a \$1 million refresh of the existing roof became a \$5 million build-out and reroofing. But in the end, look what we have!”

What might be lost in the story is the fact that the replacement of the roof was done in the brutal 2013/2014 winter months.

“With a solid specification to start, the onset of the early winter – colder temperatures – required our team to make some adjustments, the most significant of which was to change the waterproofing on the main plaza from a urethane base to a hot applied, reinforced rubberized asphalt to accommodate the lower outdoor temperatures,” says Joe Slattery, of Tremco's Roofing and Building Maintenance division. The ballast was removed, the hot fluid applied asphalt was installed and the ballast was replaced. “Additionally, we changed the roof replacements for the surrounding roof levels to a single-ply system, which also was better suited to the lower temperatures. Even though the weather was a driving factor in these decisions, the solutions chosen are

SUITABLE SPACES The outpatient center has two distinct units, one for adolescents and young adults (top) and one for pediatric patients (middle), with amenities specific to each age group. Carried through both is a consistent, colorful design motif and a graphic theme that features poppies, which are etched in glass (bottom) and repeated in custom wallpaper.

not compromises – they are extremely durable and will provide exceptional weatherproofing for years to come.”

Patient interaction, tech extras add to comfort, care & treatment

As one steps from the elevator into the lobby of the eighth-floor outpatient center of the Angie Fowler Adolescent & Young Adult Cancer Institute, you are compelled to swivel your head to take in the color and calm of the facility all around you. You are immediately greeted by a 60-foot media wall that not only changes color, but also depicts an animated underwater scene. (Angie Fowler had a dream to become an oceanographer and the underwater motif pays tribute to her desire.)

Curved Corian walls and counters in common areas are complemented by frosted glass (some of it also curved, imported from Japan) used in consult rooms and meeting space. A graphic theme featuring poppies is used throughout the facility – etched in glass, repeated in custom wallpaper, sometimes subtle and sometimes bold. Art procured by Tom Huck, UH’s art curator, is generously spread throughout the building, adding color as well as discussion-worthy displays.

A teen lounge includes an interactive wall that looks like a 10-foot iPhone on its side. An Internet bar provides plenty of connectivity for technology-savvy adolescents in the lounge. There are also quiet, private spaces in the lounge for reading or watching television or videos.

“This lounge was created to give the kids a chance to come and socialize, to get out of their rooms,” says Telecky. “We’ve incorporated some really cool technology features to distract them from where they are and what they’re going through.”



The patient treatment rooms each have their own color scheme and patient controls for the lighting, as well. Window treatments allow for complete dark – or various levels of light depending upon the needs and desires of the patient. The rooms also feature magnetic, dry-erase glass walls for patients to doodle and leave notes.

Focus groups of patients and staff led to a more open, accessible layout for nurse’s stations, too. “The message they delivered is that they wanted ‘no barriers’ between staff and patients,” says Telecky. “It was heard, loud and clear.”

The eighth-floor outpatient center actually has two distinctly different units. One is for adolescents and young adults, while the second is a pediatric unit. The design motif is carried through both units; however some of the patient amenities are specific to the age group.

While the Angie Fowler Adolescent & Young Adult Cancer Institute is connected to the rest of the UH

campus via its pneumatic tube system, a unique feature of the Institute is an on-site pharmacy which sits in the middle of the unit in its own pod. Prescriptions for cancer patients in the Institute are filled from this pharmacy.

There are also nutrition centers in

“We looked for the best possible deals we could find on materials and so forth, but the sacrifices on the ‘wow factor’ for the functionality that is often the earmark of health care construction were never made. These donors [the Fowlers] wanted the best and that was what was built.”

Ray Krankowski
Mid-Continent Construction Company

strategic locations in the Institute for patients and their families.

Infrastructure provides challenges

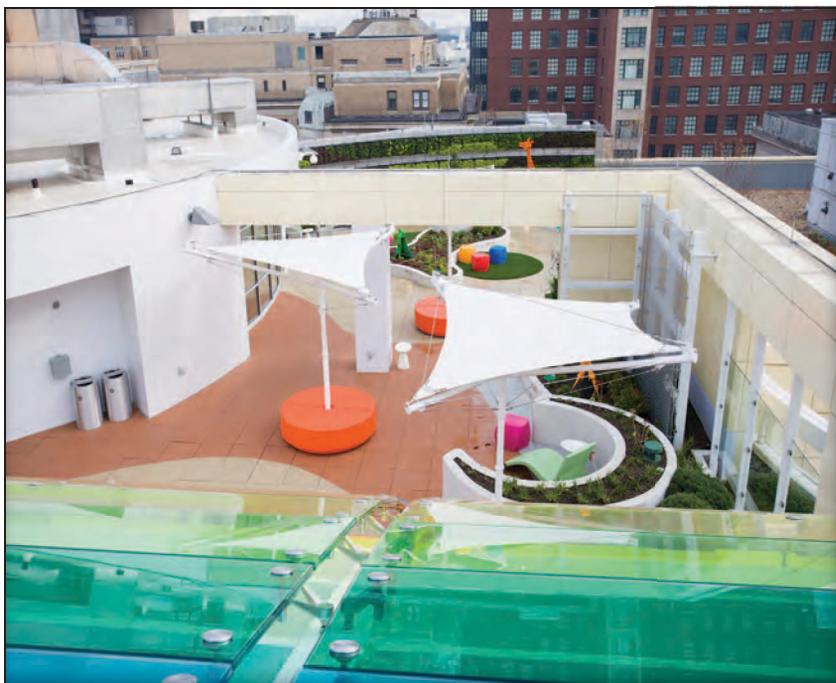
Those who have experience in healthcare construction recognize the challenges that building in and around

existing facilities present. Ray Krankowski has been working in this market segment for more than 20 years and yet he constantly discovers new wrinkles.

“When we looked at the current structure, nothing worked as far as infrastructure,” he explains. “We had to relocate 22 plumbing stacks, install new emergency power feeds for the entire building, put in a new air handler and work around varying deck heights. It’s easily the most complex renovation we’ve ever done.”

Brian M. Widowski, P.E., vice-president of Mechanical Engineering with FF&H Engineers, Inc., concurs. “As this patient population have a weakened immune system, all the air serving the space must be filtered to the highest level we see in healthcare,” he says. “The best solution was to add a new system, which allowed us to take pressure off the rest of the building and meet the filtration goals.”

Krankowski, whose team has worked at Summa in Akron and the Cleveland



Tremco’s Commercial Sealants & Waterproofing and Roofing & Building Maintenance Divisions are delighted to have been chosen to help build the **ANGIE FOWLER ADOLESCENT & YOUNG ADULT CANCER INSTITUTE** for University Hospitals.

We congratulate the Center on its vital mission of specifically helping adolescents and young adults manage the unique challenges they face.

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DIVERSIONS BY DESIGN Treatments rooms have their own color scheme, patient controls for lighting and magnetic, dry-erase glass walls that allow patients to doodle and leave notes.

Clinic as well as other locations for UH, makes a point to applaud Widowski and Joseph Cruz (mechanical engineers) and Todd Gienger and Ed Willis (electrical engineers) of FF&H Engineers for their role in the planning and build.

“These folks were paramount to the successful execution of one of the most complicated hospital renovation projects we’ve ever worked on,” he says. “Construction for patient care is always challenging, but when it involves relocation of patients, it’s twice as tough. The UH staff was amazing to work with. They understood our challenges and did their very best to accommodate our needs while caring for their patients.”

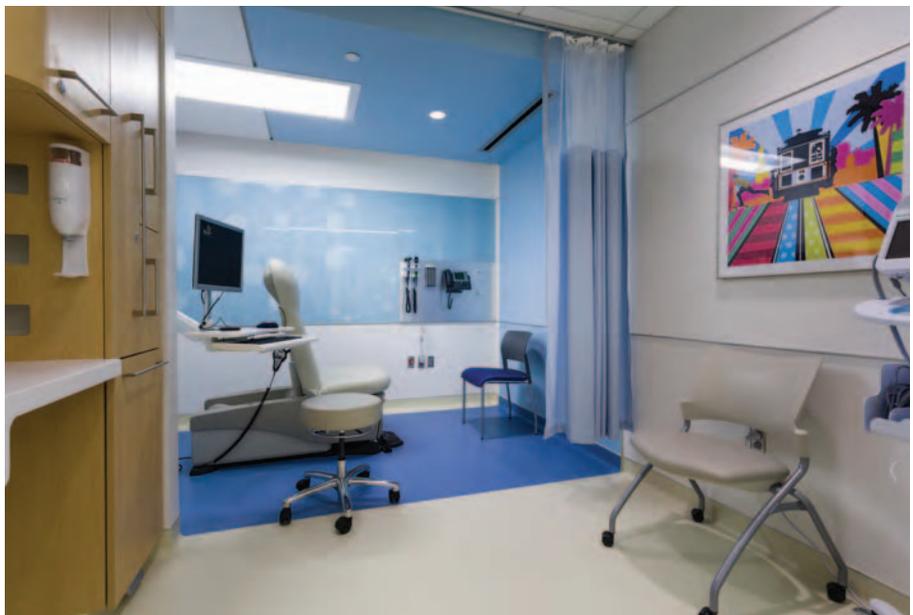
The seventh floor houses a sleep study unit, which caused the construction team to adjust their work schedules around patient studies. “Quite often mid-day building plans had to be adjusted because there were patients undergoing treatment at that time,” explains Telecky.

Schedules had to continually be adjusted to avoid patient care disturbances. “If we got a notice that a patient is exceptionally ill or can’t tolerate the noise or vibration, we would shut down until that patient was discharged or we would come back when they were a little more stable,” he continues.

While there was a firm design plan in place from the onset, there were continual meetings to address challenges, potentials and new concepts.

“The eighth floor was completely gutted and engineers went in to do a reassessment to tighten their drawings,” notes Peterka.

Renovation projects in health care usually must contend with tight access and limited staging space. The Angie Fowler Adolescent & Young Adult Cancer Institute was no exception. “We were moving materials around all the time because of our restricted space,” says Krankowski. “Our only crane access was the front street. Quite often we were using the crane on the weekends and needed police control on the street.”



Telecky notes one unique situation. “We had set one [crane] up and it was discovered it was in the middle of Rainbow’s toy drive,” he says. “So, we had a crew on the streets in Santa hats collecting toys so we could keep that process moving while our crane was moving the air handling unit.”

This was just another example of the cooperation and proud contributions made by the entire design and construction team on this 16,900-square-foot, \$19.9 million project. The purpose of the Institute and the vision and spirit shared by the Fowler family clearly was embraced by all those working on the project.

“I have never worked on a project, especially in health care, when everything that was originally designed was actually built,” Krankowski says.

“Naturally we went on a value-engineering quest and we looked for the best possible deals we could find on materials and so forth, but the sacrifices on the ‘wow factor’ for the functionality that is often the earmark of health care construction were never made. These donors [the Fowlers] wanted the best and that was what was built.”

The result is a space that has not only met the functional demands of one of the world’s elite cancer treatment centers but also satisfied the high standards the Fowlers set for their tribute to Angie. **P**

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