



Upscale and onward

Sky Ridge Medical Center, Lone Tree, Colorado

PROJECT SUMMARY

Client: HCA/HealthONE

Hospital Architecture: Gresham, Smith & Partners

Medical Office Building Architecture: Davis Partnership

Civil Engineering, Interior Design, Structural Engineering, Mechanical Engineering,

Plumbing Design, and Electrical Engineering: Gresham, Smith & Partners

Photography: Rion Rizzo/Creative Sources Photography

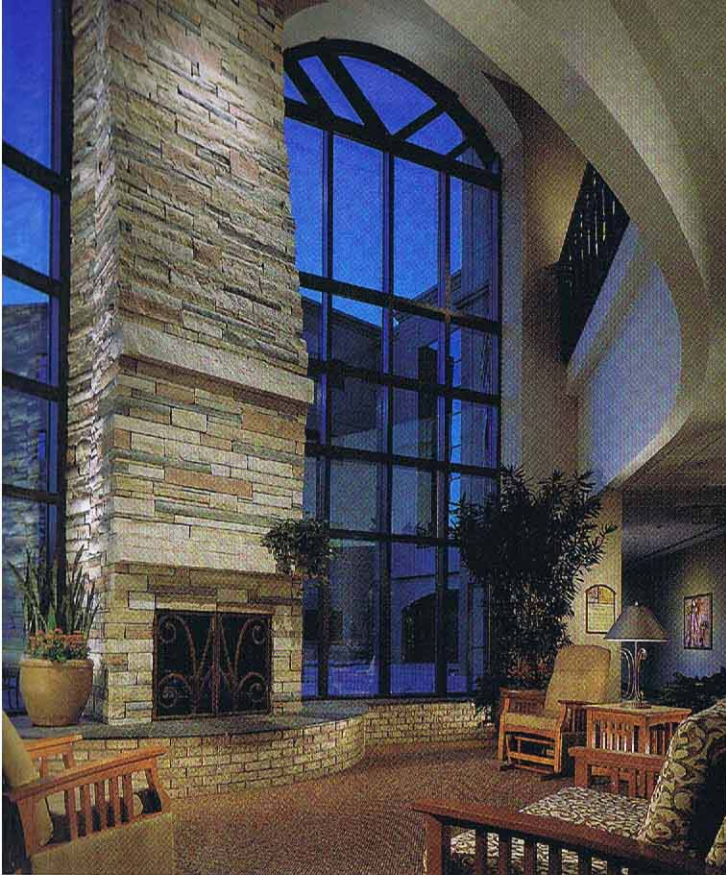
Completed: August 2003

Total Building Area (sq. ft.): 362,500 (hospital), 131,000 (MOBs)

Total Construction Cost: \$84 million (excluding land and FFE)

August 20, 2003, saw the opening of a sparkling new hotel/ski lodge in affluent Lone Tree, Colorado, a suburb of Denver.

No, wait, that's really a *hospital*. It's called Sky Ridge Medical Center, and it's complete with all the appurtenances of a hospital: patient rooms, ERs, ORs, medical offices, radiology equipment, and more. It's just that if you pay a visit there, sit in the lobby, dine at the garden-side restaurant, or occupy a patient room—particularly the special ones on the top floor—you would swear you had been transported to a four-star winter-resort hotel. Sky Ridge is the culmination of the vision of HCA/HealthONE; the Nashville-based architectural firm Gresham, Smith & Partners (GS&P); and Sky Ridge Chief Executive Officer Maureen Tarrant and Chief Nursing Officer Marian Savitsky. Indeed, Tarrant was dubbed the project's Chief Vision Officer, and for good reason. "She was the driving force behind this project," says Gregory A. Gore, AIA, GS&P's project manager/lead designer, "in that HealthONE and HCA had bought into her grand vision for serving the upscale demographic of Douglas County, and she challenged us on every decision that we made to achieve that vision." Recently, Tarrant and Gore took *HEALTHCARE DESIGN* Editor Richard L. Peck on a verbal tour of Sky Ridge, and explained the decision making behind its many unusual—and definitely upscale—features.



Tarrant: We very much wanted the lobby to have the warm, welcoming look of a hotel/lodge, and not to look like a traditional hospital. GS&P redesigned their original concept of the lobby, and it looks lovely.

Gore: The highlights of the lobby are a two-story fireplace and a grand staircase leading down to the lower lobby. The grand staircase incorporates a wood and ornamental metal railing, finished to appear to be aged wrought iron, to add to the upscale appearance. We used lots of fieldstone, masonry, and brick, both here and in smaller fireplaces throughout the facility, and wood in bookcases throughout the building. In general, we wanted a richness of materials and finishes in these areas.

Tarrant: For the visitor, we designed the adjacencies so that someone sitting in the lobby or proceeding through it to the patient care areas would not be aware of the clinical activity going on only a few feet away. Essentially, the visitor moves from a large circular zone housing the lobby toward a smaller rotunda that serves as a central wayfinding point. Corridors radiate from the rotunda, leading to the clinical departments, such as Surgery, the ICU, and Emergency. Visitors entering the rotunda cannot see the activities in the patient care areas, but feel oriented by the simplicity of the design and can find their way quite easily. As a further cueing device, the flooring materials change from slate in the public area to sheet vinyl (of the same color) in the clinical area, to indicate that one is moving from one zone to the other. Also, each of the outpatient departments on this floor has its own parking area and entrance for convenient access. Altogether, the layout is very patient-/visitor-friendly.

Gore: Because of the grading of the property—a change in elevation of approximately 90 feet—we were able to create a bottom floor, called the Garden Level, housing offices for administration, dietary, education, and support functions, all of which are out of public view and access.

Tarrant: Approaching these areas at this level is a central courtyard, which is bordered by the Sky Ridge Café, the outdoor Healing Garden, an outdoor dining patio, and a children's play area.

