

PROJECT PROFILE

Application/Building Type: Hospital
Name: Ochsner Medical Center
Location: New Orleans, Louisiana, USA
Architect: Rozas-Ward Architects
General Contractor: Stewart Interiors
Featured Product: USG Panz™ Metal Ceiling System



AT OCHSNER MEDICAL CENTER, GREAT DESIGN STARTS FROM THE TOP DOWN.

In 2011, Ochsner Medical Center, already among the largest medical centers in Louisiana, chose to expand into a warehouse located across the street from one of its main facilities. Once completed, this new space will hold an additional 96 exam rooms and 40 physician offices.

Ochsner turned to EDR Architecture to design the exterior and Darren Rozas and Michelle Hanks of Rozas-Ward architects for the interior design. Faced with an open floor plan that was nearly 80,000 square feet, their interior design vision called for keeping the character of the warehouse, including the high ceilings.

The design started with a 14-foot high ceiling in the large patient waiting area and 10-foot walls as the frontage for the exam rooms adjacent to the waiting room. The high ceiling appears to dramatically span over the entire clinical space, giving the impression of a distinct and overarching ceiling plane.

But it wasn't just the height of the ceiling that was designed to make a visual impact, it was also the ceiling itself.

"Maintaining an open feel meant that the ceiling was very important. And we didn't just want any ceiling, we wanted something that made a statement." – Darren Rozas, President, Rozas-Ward Architects

Rozas-Ward designed a unique, one-directional metal ceiling. Eschewing typical modular 2'x2' or 2'x4' panels, their plan called for a range of custom-sized panels that created variations in the visual flow. To add to this effect, some of the panels were perforated, while others were solid, to create diversity in texture and size. All of the panels worked within a concealed grid for a clean, finished feeling, which is especially important in a healthcare environment.

Additionally, to break up the space without disrupting the flow of the ceiling, some of the sections of the ceiling actually turned down to become vertical elements.

"By taking the ceiling structure and modules and creating a vertical application, we were able to create the impression that the ceiling is actually folding down to become a wall. Helping add to the idea of a visually stunning monolithic ceiling plane." – Darren Rozas, President, Rozas-Ward Architects

“We didn't want just any ceiling, we wanted something that made a statement.”

Darren Rozas,
President,
Rozas-Ward Architects



These 16-foot walls also had a very practical purpose, creating a home for information monitors, televisions and logo signage.

A UNIQUE MODIFICATION SETS A NEW STANDARD

Originally, the ceiling was specified with a different ceilings manufacturer. However Don Browning, an Architectural Services Representative with USG, whose acoustical ceiling panels were specified in other areas of the medical center, approached the architect with a unique option.

We were able to modify an existing system and provide the look and refinements the architects wanted.

John Bankston,
USG Ceiling Solutions Group

“We proposed a ceiling system that featured a one-of-a-kind design that was created and patented just for this project. It offered easier access to the plenum, making maintenance and upkeep easier. And it delivered significantly better pricing.” – Don Browning, USG Architectural Services Representative

The originally specified ceiling was based on a torsion spring system. USG's Ceiling Solutions Group, led by Applications Architect John Bankston, adapted the standard USG Panz™ Metal Ceiling system and designed a unique, inter-leafed edge to enable the client's design intent.

“It wasn't one of our standard systems, but we were able to modify an existing system and provide the look and refinements the architects wanted.” – John Bankston, USG Ceiling Solutions Group

Working under challenging deadlines, USG developed a sample of John's hybrid Panz solution to share with the architects. Once Darren and Michelle experienced how the system looked, worked and felt, and reviewed the cost benefits of the modified standard system, it was a simple decision.

“USG not only had the price right, but they were able to help us achieve our vision. It was more than just about price. We had a lot of input from USG's in-house team to ensure that we could get everything that we needed.” – Darren Rozas, President, Rozas-Ward Architects

Along with detailed drawings and packaging with each system component clearly labeled, the unique product design and installation went smoothly. And the USG Contractor Specialty Team was “on call” to help support the installation process and ensure the quality of the finished system.

“Once we understood the complexity of the metal ceiling system, it was fairly easy to install.”
– Clem White, Stewart Interiors Project Supervisor

Creative design, collaboration and teamwork helped fulfill and exceed expectations.

“The client is thrilled to death. Everyone is overwhelmed with the space and they comment a lot on the ceilings. USG has always been in our spec books for more traditional applications, but as we need more custom ceilings they have proven to be a resource that we can go to as an alternative to other higher-end ceiling manufacturers that you usually think of.” – Darren Rozas, President, Rozas-Ward Architects

“I'm so proud of our USG teams of experts in architecture, product design, manufacturing and construction who provided outstanding technical and product support and quality assurance for my architects and their clients.” – Don Browning, USG Architectural Services Representative

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