

Great IDEAs

Second annual Interior Design Excellence Awards.

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INSTITUTIONAL **Best Idea: HM Design,** **Indianapolis—Purdue** **University Dauch Alumni** **Center in West Lafayette**

The Spurgeon Hall of Spirit on the first floor of Purdue University's new Dauch Alumni Center serves as the center's main entryway, reception hall and as a museum for art, photographs and memorabilia telling the story of Purdue's history and achievements.

Step into the sunny

Indiana **Business** | March 2007

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A 'wow' space

A mobile-like piece of artwork depicting tumbling mortar board hats hangs in the Purdue University's Dauch Alumni Center, designed by HM Design.

four-story atrium and you're immediately overtaken by a 30-foot-tall soaring astronaut exhibit. Hanging from the ceiling and attracting your eye even further upward is a mobile-like piece of artwork composed of diacrylic glass depicting dozens of golden and sparkling mortar board hats tumbling from the sky. A 3-D version of the school's boilermaker mascot juts out from one wall of the walls.

"It was designed to be a 'wow' space," says Jeryl Mitsch, HM Design's president.

A big job for designers, she says, was to organize the museum's collection. They achieved this by creating themes including "Faces of Purdue," "Spirit of Purdue" and "Future of Purdue," as well as traditions and athletics. Each theme is housed in an alcove off the main hall.

Visitors enter each alcove through archways trimmed in wood that contrast with

the hall's white terrazzo floors and walls. Interactive kiosks also tell the school's history and alumni achievements.

HEALTH CARE

Best Idea: Maregatti Interiors, Indianapolis—Clarian North Medical Center in Carmel

As modern hospitals move away from an institutional look, it's not unusual today for admissions, waiting areas and other public spaces within them to have the welcoming look and feel of a hotel. What's less common is for patient rooms to be finished to the same level of comfort and delight as they are at Clarian North Medical Center.

Patient rooms have separate zones for patients, staff and family. Medical equipment and supplies are concealed behind wooden cabinetry. The labor-delivery-recovery rooms have whirlpool baths. Carpeting in the nursing corridors keeps noise to a minimum so patients can rest.

While the design of the hospital is meant to reflect the affluent community it serves, it also fosters healing, says Ana Maregatti of Maregatti Interiors.

Spiritual symbols representing the seed of life, the flower and life, the circle of life and the spiral of life are incorporated in fabrics, floor

patterns and signs to help patients and visitors find their way through the facility. In common areas these symbols are embedded in floor-to-ceiling glass partitions that are lit internally. More than 200 framed sentences and quotes evoking humor, courage and love adorn hallways and rooms.

The elevator tower in the five-story, 10,200-square-foot atrium symbolizes the tree of life and helps orient visitors. Rings in the terrazzo flooring help guide people past an open café and informational kiosks to the elevators. An original sculpture—made of aluminum and dichroic glass panels that reflect light and change color—depicts the spiral of life motif.

"We're trying to elevate the consciousness of people," says Maregatti. "Body, soul and mind. You need to connect all three of those to heal." ■

Patient room? Clarian North Medical Center in Carmel was designed with the look and feel of a fine hotel by Maregatti Interiors.



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