About Our Firm

RPA Design is dedicated to working with clients to discover creative design solutions that meet operational needs, schedules and budgets. Our approach focuses on assembling the best collaborative resources, emphasizing fiscally responsible solutions appropriate to our clients’ goals.

Our design approach is best summarized by our basic philosophy that the best solutions are a direct result of the Owner being an integral part of the planning and design team. We have found that good communications are essential, which means we must be good listeners. We utilize a highly interactive approach that involves our clients and the design team with the goal of developing consensus among stakeholders.

We provide full architectural and interior design services from planning through construction administration. We combine our experience utilizing evidence based design and lean planning processes with current trends in creating healing environments.

Comprehensive Services

- Strategic Facilities Planning
- Master Facilities Planning
- Facilities Programming
- Architectural Design
- Fire and Life Safety Planning
- Interior Design
- Environmental Graphics and Way Finding
- Construction Administration Services
Our reformed process
brings our collaborative team to your campus.
Interaction through visual thinking
resulting in consensus from the experience.

Informing your design
applying research and multiple viewpoints
sharing experiences to focus on new ideas
resulting in a solution which is for you.

To transform healthcare
by driving economically responsive solutions
recognizing the cultural and organizational challenges in healthcare
and embracing the necessity for change.

Scenario Planning / Owner Interaction

Engaging stakeholders in a thoughtful and orchestrated manner develops creative options, creates buy-in, and generates excitement. It also minimizes elements of surprise. For these reasons, we have developed the highly collaborative approach we call scenario planning.

The Scenario Planning process usually occurs during a three-day period and includes both structured time as well as drop in time while the design team works on campus. We believe our process offers several advantages:

- Flexibility for senior management to engage a wide range of stakeholders, if so desired.
- A jointly developed agenda customized to the goals for each planning session.
- Regularly scheduled debriefing at the end of each day to confirm with senior management discussions and direction.
- Planning sessions which focus first on understanding the operational and business goals that the building must respond to.

The ultimate objective of scenario planning is to explore multiple ideas and build consensus about facility concepts and planning directions that respond and support the Owner’s “vision.” We have found that using quick graphic illustrations and visual thinking is an effective means of communicating ideas and solutions.

Finally, an added benefit to our process is the integration of specific consultants and resources to support our commitment to “Collaborative Innovation.” Collaboration with other firms and independent specialists has resulted in objective planning which brings a national perspective to focus on local, specific issues.
RPA Design provided professional services for this campus for many years and completed more than 25 projects valued at over $60,000,000. Attention to temporary moves, infection control, disruption plans, interim life safety strategies and other operational considerations were required.

The most challenging project involved the redevelopment of the campus to support a business focus on orthopedic services. The best solution was also the most challenging from an implementation standpoint. It included demolition of two buildings, a new five-story medical office building and two parking decks. Connectivity of the new medical office building to the hospital at all levels was also critical and required utility tunnels across the front of the campus and a new tunnel in the middle of the building. Project components included:

• 12 Room Surgical Suite
• Pre-op/Recovery
• CSS
• New Lobby
• Pharmacy
• Medical Practice Space

“We are thankful we had the opportunity to work with RPA Design on our renovation/construction project. They were excellent at translating our Patient Centered Care goals into a design and architecture that supports and is meaningful to creating a healing environment. Our goal was to embrace the Planetree philosophy design principles which include an emphasis on natural light, curves instead of straight lines, and a functional design for staff efficiency and patient safety.”

Phyllis Wingate-Jones, President
CHS - Mercy Hospital
Jackson, Tennessee: The West Tennessee Healthcare Medical Office Building at Jackson Madison County General Hospital is the first project to be developed as part of a long range master plan. The initial phase of the project includes a 100,000 square foot medical office building, 676 car parking deck and an elevated concourse to the Medical Center. The concourse provides the main pedestrian circulation between the current medical campus and the new campus.

The long range master plan developed site concepts allowing the development to expand and include up to 2,600 parking spaces in decks, additional 350,000 square feet of Medical Office Building and future acute care facilities. The design team and hospital explored multiple scenarios for development to determine the best long range site allocation. This planning process was critical to the placement of the initial structures on the campus and site improvements.
RPA Design has provided architecture, interior design and planning services to CaroMont Health for many years. During that time we have worked on dozens of projects, with the largest being renovations to the patient tower. Our most current project will involve development of system wide master planning and implementation strategy. Other projects include:

- Space Utilization Study
- 7-Floor Patient Tower
- Human Motion Institute
- Dialysis Unit
- Business Office Relocation
- ED / Psych Unit
- Physical Therapy
- Hospitalists & Intensivists
- Radiology
- Neurology
- Wound Care
- ED Renovations
- Outpatient Registration
- Cardiovascular Short Stay
- Ultrasound Mammography
- Cath Lab
- Day of Surgery Unit
- ED - CT Expansion
- Physicians Lounge
- Occupational Medicine
- Courtland Terrace Addition
- O.R. Upgrades
- CEO Office Suite
- War Memorial

“RPA Design understands the health care environment. They deliver practical solutions that create a positive patient experience, improve staff satisfaction, and control costs. They listen to our needs.”

Richard Blackburn
Vice President, Support Services
CaroMont Health
There were no surprises in our work with RPA Design. Budgets and schedules were met and the finished product exceeded expectations. The RPA team packaged and presented design alternatives in such a way that it was easy for user groups and the owner to make key decisions.

RPA Design is a high quality architectural firm that knows health care. On top of that, they are wonderful people to work with. I recommend them without equivocation for any health system needing design professionals."

Tom Paisley, Former Executive Vice President
Lancaster General Hospital

The Health Campus Medical Office Building was constructed on a nine acre tract as part of the Lancaster General Health Campus. By accommodating a 19,000 square foot ambulatory surgery center as an anchor tenant in the first floor, the physician capacity on campus has expanded in surgical space and medical office space.

The proportions of the building allowed for a surgery center footprint to optimize the connection between pre-op/post-op areas and the operating rooms. To better accommodate surgery center patients, an easily identifiable entrance has been provided for ambulatory surgery patients and families. The site configuration proportionally distributed parking for surgery center patients, medical office patients, physicians, and staff. The building core accommodates rear service entry for the physicians and surgery center without compromising leasing efficiency for tenant space.

Health Campus Medical Office Building
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

**OWNER**
Cogdell Spencer Advisors and Physicians Surgery Center

**SIZE**
68,000 Square Feet
Health Pavilion Hoke
Raeford, North Carolina

OWNER
Cape Fear Valley Health System

SIZE
131,104 Square Feet (MOB, Outpatient Center, and Central Energy Plant)

Health Pavilion Hoke is designed as a gateway to future hospital and ambulatory care services. The first phase of the new 60-acre wellness campus includes an outpatient center, clinical services and physician practices to provide expanded healthcare services currently unavailable within this high-growth area of North Carolina. The outpatient center will house urgent care services, primary care practices, specialty care, imaging services, women’s center, retail pharmacy, and community conference center.

Health Pavilion Hoke includes three distinct components: ambulatory care, clinical practices, and a central energy plant for Phases I and II. This mixture of occupancies provides flexibility for adding future clinical services. Phase II of the project includes a 41-bed hospital with nine observation beds. Beyond Phase II, the future vision of the campus includes medical office buildings, medical retail space, and a family fitness center.

“RPA Design and TSP’s collaborative approach and planning process engaged stakeholders in exploring innovative solutions and building consensus for our first new campus!”

Herbie Hames
Owner’s Representative
Cape Fear Valley Health System
This freestanding radiation cancer treatment center is 5,400 square feet and houses a linear accelerator. Circulation and layout were designed to facilitate ease of future expansion to add a simulator room.

Patient privacy as well as an interior environment to assist in reducing stress for patients, family and staff was essential. Waiting areas were planned with an outside view of the natural environment. The careful use of lighting, colors, materials and artwork help provide a soothing space.
Mebane, North Carolina: Mebane Outpatient Center is a 63,000 square foot expandable medical office building. The strategic vision for the campus is to expand services to ultimately become a fully functional hospital. The facility is designed to double in size as the needs of the community grow.

The facility offers a surgery center with three operating rooms, outpatient imaging, urgent care, and medical offices. A cancer center wing was added in 2009.

A “Drum” and a “Mall” serve as a grand entry to the building and a spine for adding new wings to the building and expanding the envelope to accommodate the expansion of services. The future wings of the building are envisioned as having additional medical office space.
Lancaster Rehabilitation Hospital is a 52,800 square-foot facility constructed on a 6.39 acre tract of land as part of the Lancaster General Health Campus. The Rehabilitation Hospital has 50 private rooms with separate wings devoted to long term, short term, and brain injury patients.

The objective of the new facility was to create a warm, productive environment that would be conducive to the recovery of the patients. Areas were created in the new facility to allow patients to interact with their families in warm, comfortable environments other than their own rooms. Warm colors and finishes were incorporated into the highly functional design that would promote a positive healing environment for those who spend time in the facility, whether it be short term or long term.
This multi-phased project includes a new 12-bed Hospice addition and a Hoptel at the ground level along with renovations to the long term care unit at the 2nd and 3rd levels. The major feature of the Phase I renovations is conversion of existing atrium space to a community living center. Phases 2 and 3 will continue expansion and renovations of the skilled nursing units to convert existing semi-private and ward patient rooms to “neighborhoods” and single resident rooms.

The scenario planning process and Building Information Modeling (BIM) were utilized effectively to quickly assess the issues, concepts and budget / scheduling impacts.

Engineering included reworking of internal mechanical, electrical and plumbing plus site/civil for relocating storm, sewer, water and electrical lines around the buildings. Work also includes landscaping and reworking the internal road circulation.

"The experience we have had with RPA Design in development of our multi-phase Long Term Care Center of Excellence for Veteran Care has been revolutionary. The process of critical planning and thinking with involvement of staff and even the patients at all levels, and the emphasis that no idea is too small to consider, has been superb in overall design quality. We look forward to a long term relationship with RPA Design and their dedicated staff."

Joseph M. Laurer
Asst. Chief Engineering Services
VA Medical Center, Salisbury
Carolina Forest Medical Office Building is a two-story facility built in association with HCA Grand Strand Hospital. As part of the project, HCA has an Imaging Center and a Senior Center on the first floor. The second floor is multi-tenant physician office space. The Imaging Center includes mammography, MRI, CT scan, ultrasound and other diagnostic imaging.
Blending a tradition of excellence with an innovative design, Huntersville Oaks offers progressive skilled nursing care and rehabilitation. To generate a sense of belonging, the facility incorporates neighborhoods in which residents live, eat, socialize, and receive various levels of care. Each neighborhood is divided into households with a fully-accessible country kitchen, living room, dining room, screen porch, and garden, and is staffed by a household service team. The neighborhoods allow residents to live as big families and have general a feeling of belonging.

Neighborhoods are connected by a central Main Street which provides shopping, cyber cafes, a post office, a hair salon, restaurants, a chapel, multi-purpose activity rooms, and an indoor children’s play area with a gingerbread cottage.

The state-of-the-art rehabilitation department provides caregivers specializing in physical, occupational, and speech therapy. A ‘going home’ cottage in the rehabilitation area gives residents opportunities to practice meal preparation, dish-washing, bed-making, bathing, and other life skills before returning home.
Originally built in 1962, Madison Community Hospital's 50-year-old building was no longer meeting the needs of patients and staff. The existing landlocked site limited expansion of the building and parking. The Hospital and Clinic's multiple-level layout made it difficult to provide efficient services while the contour of the existing site prevented services from operating on one level. Access points created excess staffing requirements and additional security concerns.

Countless meetings were held with hospital administration and staff to determine goals and priorities for the new hospital. Departments expressed challenges and concerns while the planning and design team worked to find solutions.

The one-story, 99,300 square foot replacement hospital will house 20 licensed inpatient beds, ancillary medical services, support services, and medical clinics. Plans of the new facility have generated renewed excitement in local healthcare for the citizens of Madison, South Dakota and surrounding communities.
RPA Design was selected to work with Healthcare Concepts to explore options for improving the critical care and med/surge inpatient environment. Through our scenario planning process, the team explored a series of options that considered renovation of beds, a combination of new and renovation, and an entirely new bed tower. As a result of consensus building with the scenario planning sessions and the users, it was decided a new 152-bed tower should be developed. The next task was to explore the best use of the backfill existing bed tower.

RPA’s software conversion to REVIT allowed the users to understand their decisions more quickly and thoroughly. RPA also worked with the hospital to develop a Silver LEED project and utilized many latest “Lean Design” planning processes to test costs and operational impacts to the project.