

Florida Medical Center *Puts on a Sunny Face with EIFS*



The Leesburg Regional Medical Center's new administrative and acute care patient wing has an EIFS cladding highlighted by customized lightpink and terra-cotta colors.

As part of an ambitious five-year building and consolidation plan, the Leesburg Regional Medical Center in Lake County, Fla., is getting a bright new exterior look, thanks to an EIFS application.

The center's 294-bed acute care south campus is undergoing an exterior rehabilitation to cover the faded yellow brick of existing buildings with a sunny custom-colored light pink and terracotta-red design that reflects the brilliant Florida light. Two new campus buildings—a busi-

ness office and a new patient wing—became the first recipients of the new look, which was designed by Scott Partnership Architecture Inc, of Orlando, Fla., specialists in healthcare and educational facilities.

The new 45,000 square-foot patient wing is a two-story structure with a curved glass-mirror centerpiece topped by a metal pyramid roof. Split-faced bookend blocks cap the building at each end. Reflective glass panels section first-floor administrative offices, and dual columns

on each side of the mirrored glass centerpiece support second-floor acute care facilities.

The EIFS cladding on the new wing starts at the second-floor level and consists of the standard Senerflex system from Senergy Inc., of Cranston, R.I., applied over metal and gypsum sheathing, says Grady Botens of Botens Commercial Systems of Winter Garden, Fla. The manufacturer's finish, a siliconized acrylic finish designed to provide greater water repellency, was added



The finish provides a "waterslide" effect to repel water quickly and thereby minimize harmful buildup of mildew on the building's surface.



The two-story structure is decorated with split-faced bookend blocks capping each end, along with paired medallions, inverted chevrons and half-round windowsill elements.

to the application to combat mildew development, a significant problem in Florida's humid climate. The "waterslide" effect of the finish sheds water quickly to minimize prolonged dampness.

The Scott Partnership specified an EIF wall system for the new buildings, according to architect Gary Cox, because of cost benefits and insulation enhancements, as well as ease of application and maintenance.

"Design objectives in terms of shapes and decorative touches are also easier to achieve with EIFS," Cox says. For the new buildings at the LRMC, a combination of paired medallions, inverted chevrons and half-round window sill elements were used to create a clean, symmetrical exterior design.

Custom colors were created in a light pink as the main element, complemented by a slightly lighter hue of pink for the chevrons and a contrasting red to dress the medallions and window sill half-rounds.

"We chose terracotta-red as the contrasting color element to be in harmony with the roofs on an existing group of medical office buildings just across from the new wing," Cox says. "All in all, the color scheme is meant to achieve a bold new look for the center's south campus."

"The new look on the south campus is not only part of the center's five-year bricks and mortar cam-

paign," says Wendy Leadbetter of the LRMC. "It also reflects a new image for the center as we continue to shape our mission in meeting the needs of the growing suburban community we serve."

Application of the EIFS cladding over the yellow brick of the other university buildings on the south campus should be completed this month or next, according to Grady Botens. □