

## ARCHITECTURAL SHOWCASE

ACUTE CARE HOSPITAL

**Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates** [MECHANICSBURG, PA]  
**Summa Rehab Hospital** [AKRON, OH]

# HEALTHCARE DESIGN

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Howard Doughty

The Summa Rehab Hospital, located in Akron, Ohio, represents a joint venture between Summa Health System and Vibra Healthcare. The goal of the hospital is to be a Center of Excellence through the programs offered, incorporation of the most up-to-date industry standards, and integration of cutting-edge technological equipment. The state-of-the-art hospital offers a host of programs, including inpatient physical rehabilitation, radiology, dialysis, bariatric care, and dedicated pharmacy and dietary services.

Situated at the corner of the Akron City Hospital campus, the all-private room, 60-bed acute care hospital marks the east entrance to the campus and the newly established Akron City Biomedical corridor. An elevated, two-story glass rehabilitation space fronts the main thoroughfare and creates a signature element for the campus gateway. This open area is the focal point of



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the hospital and serves as the space where patients will spend a minimum of 15 hours per week rehabilitating from various conditions. The openness lends itself to collaboration among not only the caregivers but among the patients, as well. An outdoor healing garden, which doubles as an ambulatory course, cantilevers adjacent to this second floor rehabilitation area. This garden is enclosed with metal screening to offer the patients a sense of privacy and solitude in the urban setting while still offering views.

Reduction of stress and improved patient outcomes were key drivers of the design and were especially relevant given the longer length of stay of the patient population. These design principles are emphasized through the use of natural light, the integration of nature, and the inclusion of family spaces. Collaboration with family was a prominent theme carried through the design with dedicated family zones in each patient room, family-centered gathering space on each unit, and an Activities of Daily Living suite, where family members could participate in trial overnight stays prior to the patient being discharged.

The use of natural materials,

**Project category:** New construction (completed January 2012)  
**Chief administrator:** Cheryl Henthorn, Chief Executive Officer, (330) 572-7300  
**Firm:** Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates, (717) 458-0272  
**Design team:** Thomas Crabtree, President; Rick LeBlanc, Director of Design; Scott Cousin, Project Manager/Lead Designer; Pat Brady, Architectural Project Coordinator; Joe Crabtree, Designer; Kate Cashdollar, Interior Design Project Manager  
**Photography:** Howard Doughty; Stacey Shurman  
**Total building area (sq. ft.):** 70,000  
**Construction cost/sq. ft.:** \$220  
**Total construction cost (excluding land):** \$15,400,000

incorporation of inviting colors, and selection of complementing artwork help to create a warm and calming environment that strays away from the institutional function. At the same time, given the acuity of the patients, functionality and accessibility remained important aspects in the design. The final built environment creates a backdrop that enhances the healing process and has helped establish the Summa Rehab Hospital as one of the premier rehabilitation facilities in the Akron area.



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