



## [ Green Construction- New ]

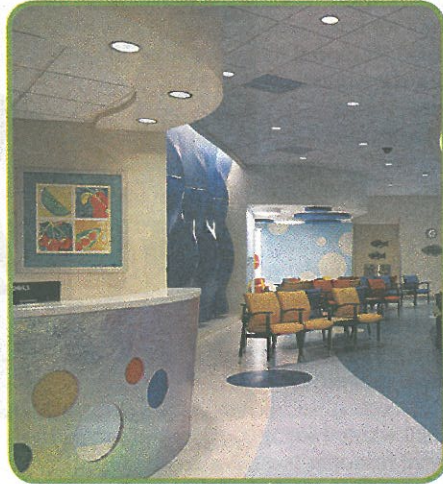
URS Corporation

**Spectrum Health** credits **URS Corp.** in Grand Rapids for its key role in "leading our green initiatives and strategies" in building the new Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, which is seeking LEED Silver certification, said Steven Coates, director of design and construction services for Spectrum.

"While green principles and new hospital building codes and requirements are thought to be competing initiatives in many areas, URS created complementary strategies, integrating and balancing key principles with new building requirements," Coates said. "URS's vision led us to seamless solutions rather than fragmented alignment between operational programs and green principles."

According to David Byl, senior project manager for the health division of URS, and Art Veneklas, URS LEED project administrator, the architecture and engineering firm had several meetings with Spectrum and the construction team of **Wolverine Building Group** and **Turner Construction Co.** to make the \$286 million, 14-floor facility as green as possible.

The hospital's sustainable design



The lobby of Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. COURTESY PHOTO

began with its location and shape, as it was built into the Medical Mile hillside. This "optimized clinical space and adjacencies and reduced the building envelope's exposure to the elements, thus saving energy," Coates said.

Among the hospital's numerous sustainable-design elements are a

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## [ Green Construction- Existing ]

West Michigan Shared Hospital Laundry Services

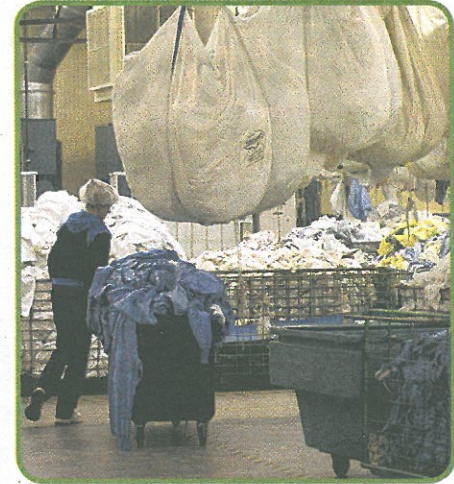
West Michigan's growing identity as a health care destination was a major factor in **West Michigan Shared Hospital Laundry Services'** recent plant retrofit, Executive Director Duane Houvener said.

"The original building was constructed in 1975 to serve 12 owning members using up to 15 million pounds of linen annually," Houvener said. "Since then, the membership has grown to 31 health care facilities reaching from South Bend, Ind., northward to Ludington, Mich. Efficient production had been maximized within our old footprint using our previous equipment."

The Grand Rapids organization can now increase its production from 30 million pounds of linen annually to approximately 36 million to 38 million pounds annually. The expanded plant also can accept new equipment, which could increase output to approximately 65 million to 70 million pounds annually "when and if that need arrives," Houvener said.

The retrofit also produced many environmental and economic benefits.

"Our previous system required the use of a very large, very inefficient boil-



West Michigan Shared Laundry Services. GRAND RAPIDS PRESS PHOTO

er to create steam to heat water for the wash process, as well as create pressure for the ironers we use to iron sheets and pillowcases," Houvener said. "Part of our due diligence for the project was an energy audit."

That audit found the boilers were only 65 percent efficient, at best.

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