

Managing Editor
Chris Curtland's
Choice Project

UCSF MEDICAL CENTER AT MISSION BAY

San Francisco
Stantec Architecture

The UCSF Medical Center at Mission Bay blends three facilities together under one roof, linked together not only by the exceptional care provided there, but also by the calming and whimsical environments in which it's provided. The complex's 878,000 square feet house a cancer center, children's hospital,

TOP Among the center's sites are the Bakar Cancer Hospital, Betty Irene Moore Women's Hospital, and others. While each has a separate identity, they're woven together by art.

and women's care facility—and while each maintains a separate brand and visual identity, they're woven together with a unified aesthetic through artwork.

"Art is a healing modality. It creates a more emotional connection and it's individually personable," said Lynn Befu, principal of interiors at Stantec. "For this project, art was also used to engage with the community and patients aside from their medical and science mission."

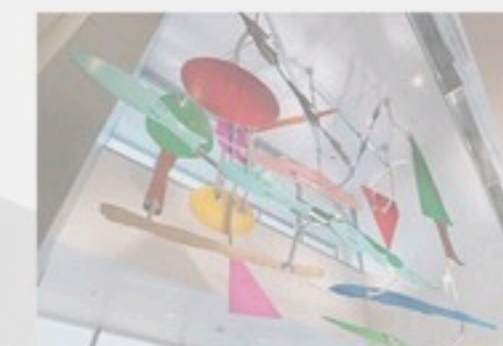
An art review board identified artists that would work with the hospital to essentially curate the space. "The works are distinctive and very specific to UCSF, its goals, and patients," Befu added.

But the arts program at UCSF extends beyond the professional, commissioned pieces. Its Ernest H. Rosenbaum MD Art for Recovery program enables patients to process and express the intense feelings that arise in life-threatening illnesses—through painting, poetry, and more. Providing patients and staff a safe, therapeutic haven helps them find solace and support. The resulting creations are displayed alongside world-renowned works in the hospital.

"The mission is to provide healing beyond just the medical," Befu explained. "We want to engage and heal holistically. It's not just your body—it's your life, your future, your soul, and your whole being."

The site also recently hosted the 11th annual California Child Life Professionals

TOP THE UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital San Francisco recently held the California Child Life Professionals Conference, which evaluated the role of arts, play, and creativity in a child's recovery.



Conference in early November. Its focus was the function of arts, play, and creativity in the pediatric healing process.

And although you'll find various pops of color throughout the site, there are also several shades of green in the building operation. Having earned LEED Gold certification, it features a 90 percent landfill diversion rate, 4.3 acres of green space (one of which in rooftop gardens), 4-million-gallon-saving water conservation practices, and energy performance strategies that slash power use by 50 percent compared to an average U.S. hospital.

The work being done at UCSF is exceptional, inspiring, and beautiful—at least in the eye of this beholder.

TOP + LEFT Throughout the facility's many functions, pieces from professionals hang alongside artwork done by patients in the Art for Recovery program.