

High Tech Plastic Brings Bold Color and Luminosity to Hospital Décor

Nashua, NH February 6, 2006 ... In an effort to shed the image of a hygienic world of white, many hospitals across the country have incorporated more color and a sense of warmth and welcome into their facilities and the AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center's Mainland Division is no exception. The designers of the new 65,000 square foot division incorporated an inventive, soothing, colorful resin-acrylic plastic, called Lightblocks®, into its décor.

As it became apparent that AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center had a growing need for a more sophisticated birthing center and a larger emergency department in the Atlantic City area, it provided the Medical Center with an opportunity to take an innovative approach to hospital décor.

Following a regional search for a high-end architectural firm to assist in the interior design of the facility, AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, unreservedly chose the healthcare facility design expertise of Haley Driscoll, the leading interior designer for Francis Cauffman Foley Hoffman Architects, Ltd. (FCFH) to design and install architecture casework for all the reception area desks, nurse stations and accent panels throughout the entire facility using the innovative material Lightblocks.

After careful research to find just the right medium, Driscoll and her team decided upon a translucent material called Lightblocks, a sturdy acrylic or polycarbonate plastic that is nearly impossible to scratch and offers a warm, soft light reflecting quality. Lightblocks' versatile qualities make the product suitable for any hospital by being impervious to penetration, germ resistant and having the ability to be cleaned very easily with germicidal solutions without damaging the application. Lightblocks is also available in a Class A Fire Rated version in accordance with the ASTM E84 test method.

Since the Medical Center was very close to the Jersey Shore, Driscoll wanted to incorporate elements of the seashore into the décor of the center. Lightblocks provided a complete range of custom colors allowing her to do just that. "Our goal in using Lightblocks was to push the design aesthetic in a healthcare facility," said Driscoll. "We wanted to get away from traditional design and make the space more distinctive. Lightblocks contributed significantly to the design by giving it a fresh new look and lightness, as if being near the water."

Lightblocks, created by artist Mary Boone Wellington, adds a special experience to any interior design project. Made up of a lightweight, translucent polymer and base material from acrylic, PETG or polycarbonate, Lightblocks is a powerful design medium that seems to naturally glow with internal light and color. Its beauty, versatility and strength make Lightblocks an elegant alternative to glass and has captured the imagination of some of the nation's most influential architects, designers and artists. The array of colors is infinite as the hand-pigmented hues can be customized to match any paint chip or fabric swatches. The only limit is the vision of the individual.

Because the project managers of the Medical Center were accustomed to using traditional materials such as glass, corian, wood or laminate, it was a challenge for Driscoll to convince the team initially that Lightblocks was the way to go. Driscoll herself had not used this type of medium in her design before, but she had a vision. She not only wanted a product that would mimic a sea glass element, but she also wanted one that would withstand every day use, scratches and would maintain its luster over time.

Lightblocks proved to be a great success to the enhancement of the overall interior design space for the AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, Mainland Division. It presented the sea like effect Driscoll was seeking without flaw. As well, Driscoll enjoyed working with Lightblocks representatives to design the reception area surfaces and develop custom colors for the facility. "Because the product is so new and cutting edge to interior design elements," Driscoll said, "I see a lot of potential for its uses and I will absolutely use Lightblocks again in upcoming projects as it is suitable."

Lightblocks are utilized in many areas of the Mainland Division including all the reception desk areas and the shelving in the third floor patient restrooms. The colors of the shelves were uniquely formulated to compliment the sea like colors of the shower curtains in water like shades of lavender, blue and green. The colors provide a very soothing effect.

Designer Mary Boone Wellington commented on the AtlantiCare project, "The essence of Lightblocks is its translucency, light, and color. Lightblocks was the perfect compliment to the interior design of the AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center. Clients will instantly feel a sense of calm and not even know that it's the Lightblocks effect that makes them feel that way. It's just a subtle and beautiful design element."

About Francis Cauffman Foley Hoffman Architects Ltd.:

Francis Cauffman Foley Hoffmann Architects Ltd. has supported its clients since 1954 with innovative architecture, planning and interior design services. The practice is recognized for being on the leading edge of new investigations in Healthcare, Academic Research & Teaching, Corporate Research, Corporate and Advanced Technology, and Government & Justice planning and design. The firm is a national and international practice with multiple offices. For more information about Francis Cauffman Foley Hoffman Architects visit www.fcfh-did.com or call 215.568.8250.

About MB Wellington Studio:

MB Wellington Studio is headquartered in Nashua, NH. It was founded by Mary Boone Wellington, who began manufacturing and marketing Lightblocks in 1999. Lightblocks is a versatile plastic that is stronger than glass, nearly impossible to scratch and provides a soothing, colorful glow when backlit. Lightblocks is made from the polymer most appropriate to the application and colored via a patented technique. Lightblocks has been used in a variety of high profile projects including the Beverly Center, IBM eBusiness offices, Hartford Hilton, The National Aquarium in Baltimore, Worcester State College, Atlantic City Medical Center and many more. More information about MB Wellington Studio and Lightblocks can be obtained at www.lightblocks.com or by calling 603-889-1115.

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