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CASE STUDY

White Oak Medical Center | Montgomery County, Maryland

BILCO Hatches Sit Atop New Maryland Hospital in 'Science Gateway'

The doors of the new Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center will swing open in August 2019, bringing yet another key piece to a "Science Gateway" in the eastern section of Montgomery County, Maryland.

An integral part of the \$400 million facility is a central utility plant to house mechanical components. Atop the plant are four custom-made roof hatches manufactured by The BILCO Company that will allow workers to access the generators when they eventually need to be replaced.

The roof hatches are 9-feet by 22-feet and were installed by Cole Roofing. "This is the largest hatch I've ever been associated with," says Rick Brigham, who led the Cole installation team. "The BILCO hatches were the best choice for this job due to their ability to custom fabricate them to meet special size requirements."

BILCO's roof hatches are equipped with compression spring operators to provide smooth, one-hand operation regardless of size. They also include automatic hold-open arms to lock the covers in the open position to ensure safe egress, and are constructed with corrosion-resistant materials.

Large and unique hatches

CallisonRTKL served as the architect for the project and specified the hatches, according to Robb Macdonald of CBG South, the sales representative who recommended the hatches. "CallisonRTKL was impressed by BILCO's ability to engineer and fabricate hatches of such a large and unique size," Macdonald said.

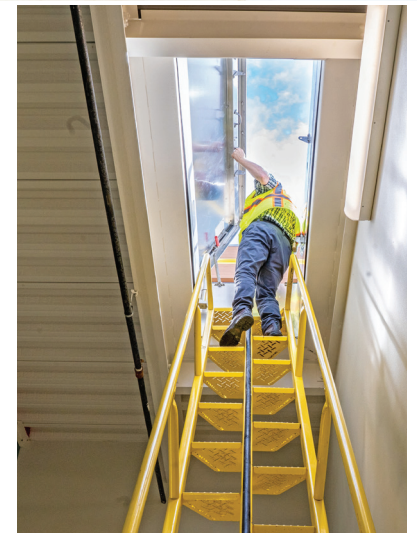
"They considered the life span expectations of the generators and looked for a way to replace them down the road. The site's slope presented a challenge to the traditional way of removing large equipment through the sides of the building, so rooftop access was the best solution."

Set apart from the hospital, the two-story, 16,000 square foot central utility plant houses generators, boilers, water heaters and other components. Central utility plants (commonly called CUPs) are key to the infrastructure of any hospital, as they must last for the projected life span of the hospital campus. They also need to be expandable, adaptable and allow easy access to replace aging equipment.



Photos: LNJ Designs Photo

"Locating all of the generators, chillers, electrical switchgear, and hot water heaters separate from the hospital allows more future flexibility for the hospital and removes some of the more hazardous mechanical, electric and plumbing equipment from the hospital," said Ryan Dellinger, architect for CallisonRTKL.



Key Piece to the 'Gateway'

The plant includes four emergency generators, a cogeneration generator, four chillers, four boilers, ten hot water heaters, electrical panels and switchgear, and a small office for the building manager.

The hospital is a critical piece to the White Oak Science Gateway. The area includes 3,000 acres, including the new headquarters for the Food and Drug Administration, mixed-used projects, new public amenities, and the first rapid bus transit system in the state. The new hospital will replace Washington Adventist Hospital, which is located about six miles away in Takoma Park.

"This allows us to replace an aging building — a structure that, depending on which part of the building you're talking about, was built between 1950 and 1980 — and was suboptimal for modern health care," Hospital President Erik Wangsness said.

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