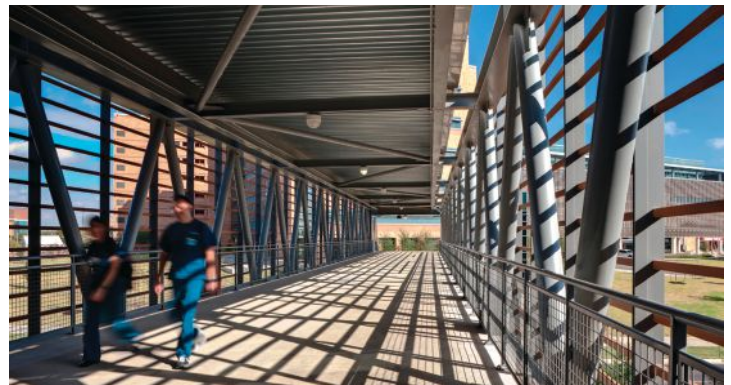


San Antonio Military Medical Center

Fort Sam Houston, Texas

RTKL Associates, Inc.



Category: Built, more than \$25 million
Project: San Antonio Military Medical Center
Owner/Client: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ft. Worth District
Project Location: Fort Sam Houston, Texas
Architect: Wayne Barger, RTKL Associates, Inc.
Interior Design: RTKL Associates, Inc.
Landscape Architecture: Half Associates
Structural Engineering: Walter P. Moore Associates
Mechanical Engineering: Smith, Seckman, Reid, Inc.
Electrical Engineering: Smith, Seckman, Reid, Inc.
Plumbing/Fire Protection Engineering: Smith, Seckman, Reid, Inc.
Civil Engineering: Half Associates
Construction Management: Clark/Hunt Joint Venture
Photographer: © Charles Davis Smith, AIA
Building Area GSF: 767,000
Construction Start Date: March 2009
Completion Date: September 2011

The San Antonio Military Medical Center (SAMMC) is the largest inpatient medical center for the U.S. Department of Defense. A premier Department of Defense facility, the work on the SAMMC, a 760,000-square-foot addition to the existing Brooke Army Medical Center campus, involved several challenges.

The LEED Silver certified building added 102 beds, a rehabilitation clinic, expanded operating room capabilities, a new emergency department and a new patient bed tower. The design inspiration for the building was derived in part from it being the agency's only American Burn Association-verified burn center. Using the common burn injury treatment of skin grafting as a metaphor for designing the new envelope, samples of the existing brick were taken off the old building, meshed, and applied to the new addition in the form of terra cotta sunscreens, seamlessly integrating the old and the new.

Programmatically, the addition's design was informed by the layout of the existing building: the inpatient, diagnostic/treatment and outpatient areas of the addition are located adjacent to corresponding areas in the existing facility, providing functional continuity for caretakers and patients, compatible yet distinguishable.

The use of glass on the new addition, along with a system of shading devices—while ensuring that that DoD requirements for Blast Protection and other Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection guidelines were met—marked the facility's evolution from a military "fortress" toward an architecture of transparency and lightness.