

WHITE PAPER

HOSPITAL DESIGN AND HIPAA: The Changing Face of Patient Privacy



The future of vision & daylight control



TABLE OF CONTENTS



Patients need privacy to heal.....1

New hospital design approaches seek to address these issues.....2

A move towards using insulating glass with integrated cord-free louvers.....3

Why integrated louvers?4

Compelling advantages over other solutions.....5

Leading hospital projects include integrated louvers.....6

 Mercy Medical Center NICU7

 Lurie Children’s Hospital.....8

 Glendale Adventist Medical Center9

 Banner Thunderbird Medical Center.....10

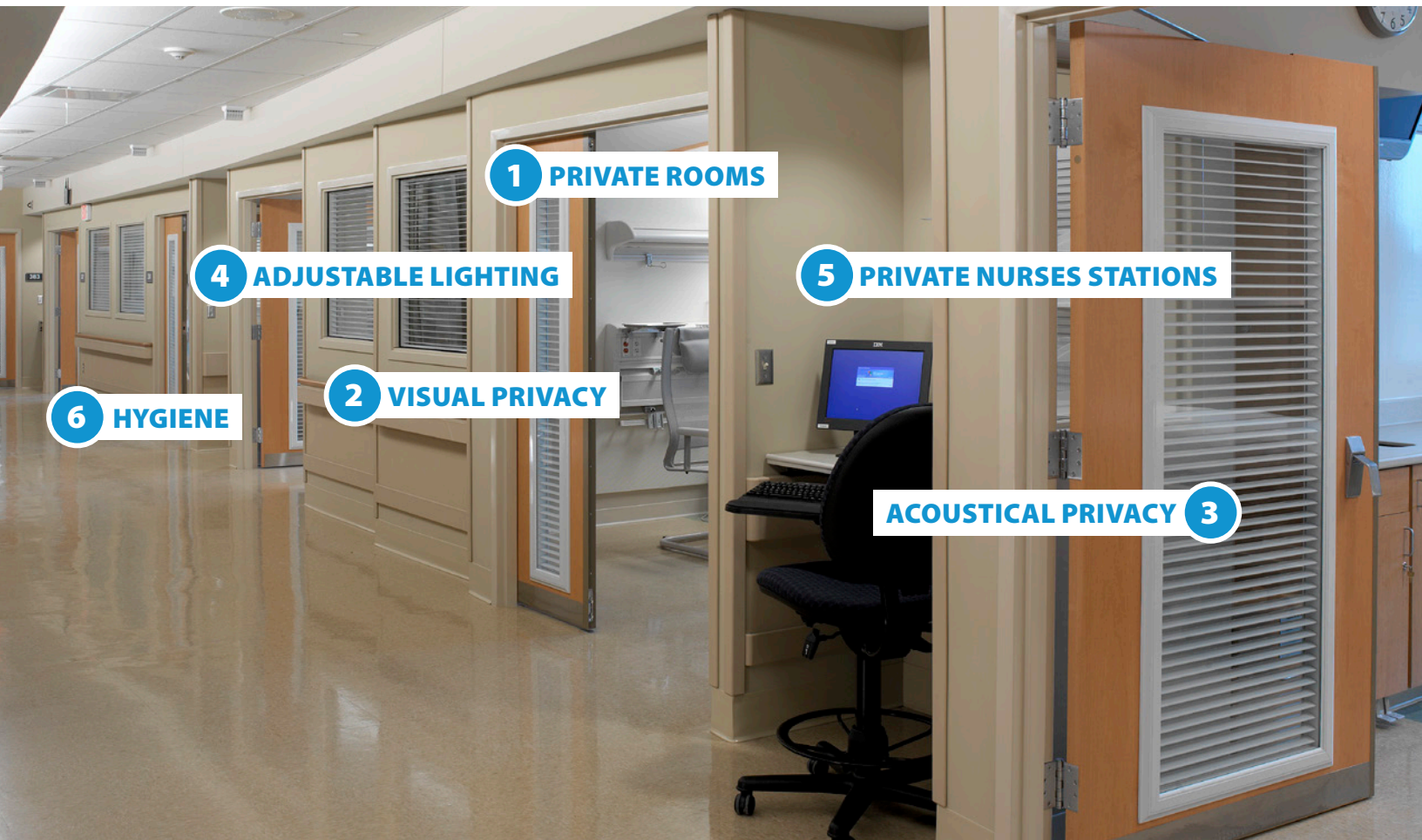
About Unicel Architectural.....11

PATIENTS NEED PRIVACY TO HEAL



New Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) rules were created to protect the privacy of a patient's health information. As a result, HIPAA has spurred on a greater awareness for - and sensitivity to - patient privacy across multiple spectrums in hospital settings. Recent studies suggest that lack of privacy, excessive noise and glare can create stress, including faster heart rates and increased blood pressure, in both adults and babies. Healthcare facilities are now looking more closely at how privacy should be reflected in terms of visibility, light filtering and noise in all patient spaces.

NEW HOSPITAL DESIGN APPROACHES SEEK TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES



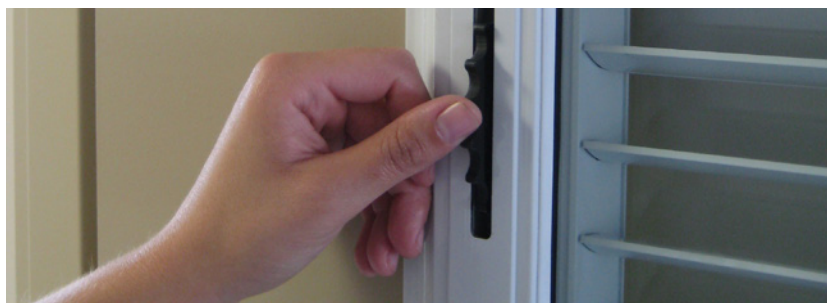
As new hospitals are built and existing ones renovated, forward-thinking designers are focusing more on the following patient-centered elements:

- 1. Private rooms** – To speed healing, more and more hospitals are opting for single patient rooms to reduce the risk of infection, reduce noise, and create more private, tranquil spaces.
- 2. Visual privacy** – From patient examination rooms to ICUs to recovery areas, patients need privacy at time when they can be most vulnerable.
- 3. Acoustical privacy** – Hospitals are busy, dynamic facilities. Recovering patients need tranquil spaces to recuperate. Conversations between doctors and patients need to be private.
- 4. Adjustable lighting** – Both bright sunlight and bright interior lights need to be controlled to manage glare and darken patient spaces as required for optimal healing.
- 5. Private nurses stations** – Nurses' stations need to be enclosed to prevent casual views of patient information, yet still provide adjustable levels of visibility into patient areas.
- 6. Hygiene** – Creating more sterile environments is of critical importance. In addition to private rooms, building materials need to encompass the most optimally hygienic finishes.

A MOVE TOWARDS USING INSULATING GLASS WITH INTEGRATED CORD-FREE LOUVERS



Vision Control® hermetically sealed glass units combining louvers within glass are designed specifically to provide an infection-resistant patient privacy solution for hospitals and other healthcare facilities. Their advanced louvered glazing technology controls vision, sound, light and infection.



WHY INTEGRATED LOUVERS?



- **Best ROI** – Ranked tops for long-term durability, functionality and quality.
- **Best solution for privacy** – No other solution on the market offers comparable levels of flexible vision control and acoustical privacy.
- **Best solution for infection control** – Hermetically sealed louvers are dust and germ-free.
- **Best solution for light control** – Superior filtering control for daylighting or darkening as needed. LEED® certified in exterior applications.
- **Best solution for sound control** – Increased airspace thickness significantly reduces noise for much quieter patient areas.
- **Easy to install** – Fits more setting conditions for doors, windows, transoms, sliding doors and sidelights.
- **Easy to operate** – Multiple reliable and user-friendly operating mechanisms. No more cords!
- **No design limitations** – Available in customizable shapes and sizes for any requirements.
- **Glazing options** – Available with fire-rated, polycarbonates and specialty glazing options for radiology labs, X-ray facilities and more.

COMPELLING ADVANTAGES OVER OTHER SOLUTIONS



Other options don't compare:

- **Curtains can provide visual privacy.** However, they provide no acoustical privacy—conversations behind curtains can be easily overheard. They gather dust and dirt, are difficult to clean, and do not provide adjustable levels of visibility.
- **Blinds offer adjustable levels of vision control,** but accumulate dirt and dust, making them unhygienic and difficult to maintain. They also have holes and gaps, which render them ineffective for those instances when complete privacy is a must. They offer no sound control.
- **Venetian blinds-between-glass are more hygienic than just blinds,** but are prone to damage. Exterior cords frequently lead to entanglement and other maintenance issues. They can also get easily misaligned leaving visual gaps. They are not known for long-term durability.
- **Frosted or sandblasted glass that mimics the lines of blinds offers only a partial solution.** Visibility is limited, but not adjustable. The translucent lines do not fully block light—either from the sun or bright hospital lights—which can significantly inhibit a patient's rest.
- **Liquid crystal glass solutions can provide instant privacy with the click of a button.** They can also easily infringe on patient privacy when the switch is turned off to reveal clear glass. These solutions don't provide adjustable levels of seclusion, and are unwieldy as their on-or-off-only options do not permit discreet observation of patients by medical staff. They are more expensive to install and operate.
- **Smart glass, magic glass, or switchable glass refers to electrically switchable glass or glazing which changes light transmission** properties when voltage is applied. Smart glass is a less than ideal solution for hospitals in terms of installation costs, increases in electrical use and long-term functionality issues. It is also very limited in terms of quick control

LEADING HOSPITAL PROJECTS INCLUDE INTEGRATED LOUVERS



Hundreds of leading hospitals from around the world have included integrated louvers into both interior and exterior applications to better manage sunlight and privacy for the best possible healing environments. The following case studies illustrate progressive healthcare projects that have set industry benchmarks for design, privacy and patient care.



MERCY MEDICAL CENTER NICU

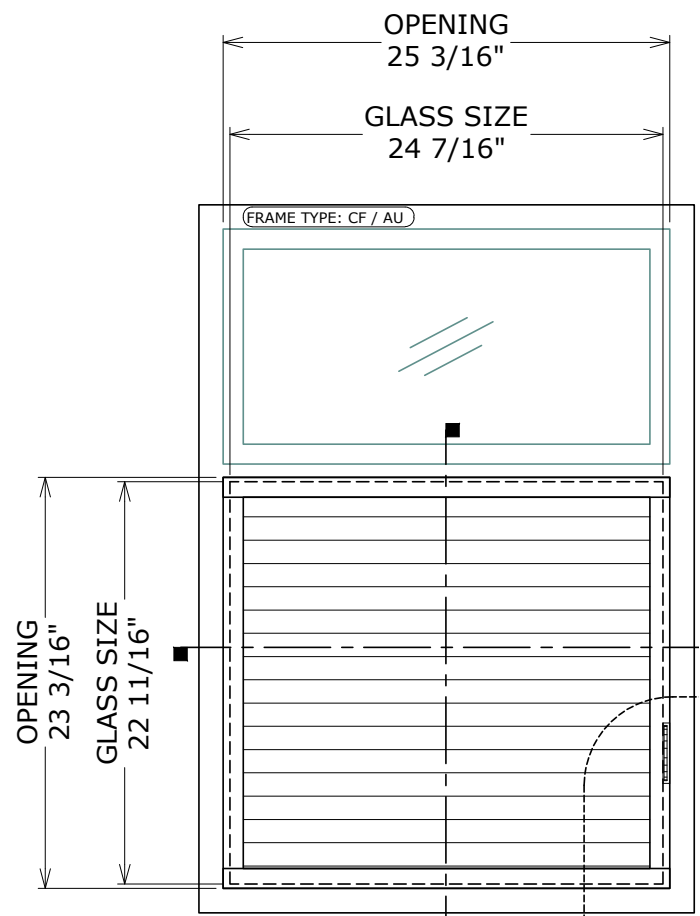


Baltimore's Mercy Medical Center's new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) features the latest in healthcare technologies and special amenities for patients and families. Project architects wanted to ensure that the NICU reflected both progressive healthcare design elements and special considerations for patient privacy throughout the facility. The smallest of patients particularly need quiet, private spaces to be able to develop and improve under the watchful eye of NICU staff. As part of the overall design approach, Unicef's Vision Control® integrated cord-free louvers were selected for both interior windows and sliding doors to ensure flexible privacy options along with sound attenuating attributes.

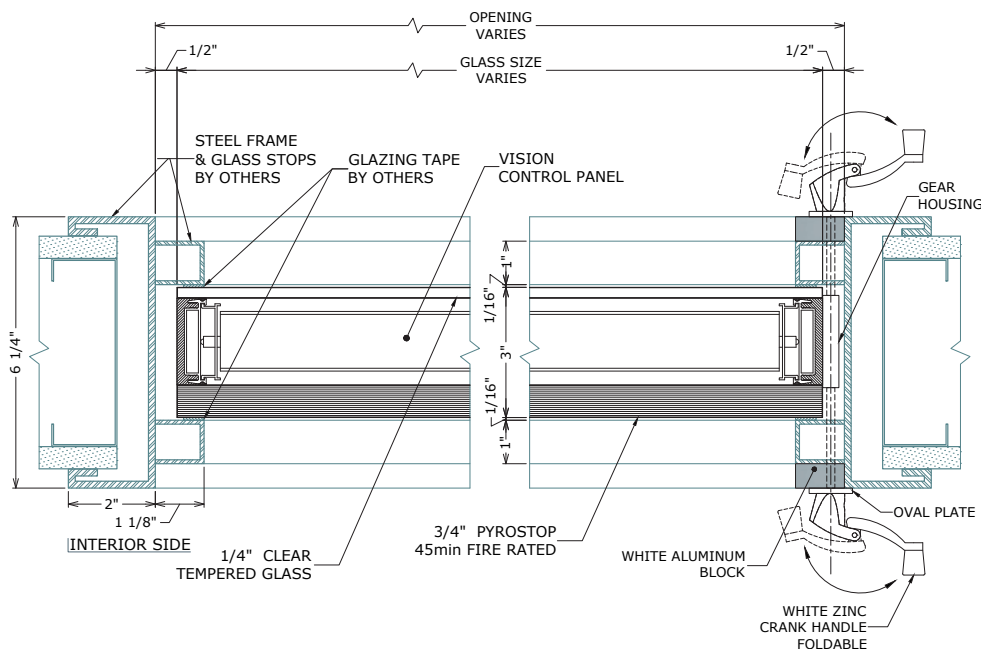


LURIE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago (Lurie Children's) is a groundbreaking new facility that includes world-class innovations in medical care, clinical programs, pediatric research and family amenities. Patient privacy is a top priority for Lurie Children's for both critically ill children and their families. The project design team had very exacting requirements for privacy and hygiene to ensure an optimal healing environment. To support Lurie Children's priorities, over 500 Vision Control® louvers-within-glass units from Unicl Architectural were installed in doors and partitions to ensure adjustable privacy options for patients and staff. The nursing stations feature Vision Control® units that allow staff to adjust viewing enough to monitor patients as needed while still maintaining reassuring privacy levels.



GLENDALE ADVENTIST MEDICAL CENTER



The Glendale Adventist Medical Center's (GAMC) new 35,000 square foot West Tower III includes seven stories for expanded patient care and encompasses leading-edge approaches to patient technology, comfort, convenience and safety. To help ensure patient safety and privacy, project architects had stringent requirements for privacy controls on interior windows and doors to be hygienic, adjustable, easy-to-operate and fire-resistant. They selected Vision Control® integrated louvers combined with Pilkington Pyrostop® glazing to give GAMC patients the peace of mind that comes with knowing that their privacy solution is protected by glazing with enhanced fire-retardant capabilities. The combined Vision Control® and Pilkington Pyrostop® glazing assembly has been UL fire-rated by Underwriters Laboratories,® Inc. for doors, windows, transoms and sidelights.

BANNER THUNDERBIRD MEDICAL CENTER

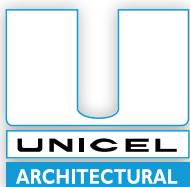


Arizona's Banner Thunderbird Medical Center undertook a 470,000 square foot expansion project that included some 200 beds, state-of-the-art surgical suites and a new heart center. Banner's stated mission focuses on an extraordinary patient experience. The new patient and exam rooms and operating rooms had to be fitted to meet the highest standards of hygiene, indoor air quality and privacy control. Over 300 Vision Control® units were installed in borrowed lites and doors to provide adjustable privacy and ensure a germ-free environment. Today, Banner is recognized among leading consumer and watchdog organizations for clinical and operational excellence across many aspects of the patient care experience.



ABOUT UNICEL ARCHITECTURAL

For nearly 50 years, Unicel Architectural has built a reputation for the most advanced aluminum and glass solutions. These solutions encompass louvered glazing, skylights and more, to enhance major global construction initiatives with the utmost quality and reliability. With its proprietary technology, Unicel's Vision Control® delivers unprecedented comfort and control over vision, light, temperature and sound with a patented combination of louvers between glass that are hermetically sealed and cordless. Unicel's solutions are guaranteed for longevity, optimized for energy efficiencies, and customizable to any design, environmental or cultural requirements. Unicel combines its market leading know-how with great design to ensure optimal aesthetics and sustainable performance. For more information visit: www.unicelarchitectural.com



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