

The Retreat at Buffalo Hill KALISPELL, MONTANA
AG Architecture WAUWATOSA, WISCONSIN



Immanuel Lutheran Communities has served the senior living marketplace in scenic Kalispell, Montana, for more than 50 years. This project is the first step toward implementing a new master plan to reinvent long-term care on this campus.

This thoughtful solution features a freestanding, 16-resident Rehabilitation Cottage, and a unique 2,500 square-foot Therapy Pavilion. The new building combines cutting-edge practices in both rehabilitation and person-centered care to create an extraordinary facility—a real architectural experience amidst the breathtaking backdrop of Glacier National Park. Voluminous spaces and finishes inspired by the natural surroundings blend both a residential and hospitality

PROJECT CATEGORY: New Construction
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Jason R. Cronk
FIRM: AG Architecture, (414) 431-3131
DESIGN TEAM: Architecture (AG Architecture); Interior Design (Studio 121); Marco DePalma, Owner's Representative (The Belaire Group, LLC)
PHOTOGRAPHY: Gibeon Photography
NUMBER/TYPE OF HOUSING UNITS: 16 single occupancy
TOTAL AREA (SQ. FT.): 18,120
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST (EXCLUDING LAND): \$3,500,000
CONSTRUCTION COST/SQ. FT.: \$193
COMPLETION: January 2012





appeal that make this cottage and therapy center the antithesis of the typical rehab facility.

The Rehabilitation Cottage includes smaller scale, intimate spaces that offer guests choices—a variety of gathering spaces to promote independence and encourage socialization. Whether enjoying a book in the library, relaxing in the company of family in the living room or engaging in the food preparation process, there are stimulating activities that support healing. Abundant natural light, outdoor spaces and unobtrusive staff support areas add to the residential and hospitality appeal which is continued in the guest rooms. European-style showers provide a touch of luxury yet allow caregivers to assist guests as needed. Each room includes a ceiling-lift system to facilitate transporting nonambulatory guests to the toilet and shower.

For the Therapy Pavilion, the design team was consistently pushed to transcend the stereotypical image of a space full of acoustic tile ceilings with fluorescent lights. Now, voluminous spaces and abundant natural light become the new standard. The design takes cues from the surrounding scenery, using stonework and other residential-inspired materials to add warmth and create a unique rehabilitation experience in each space. A variety of small rooms provide guests the opportunity for more privacy during treatments, while the large, more public physical therapy gym creates a fitness center atmosphere. An ADL apartment along with state-of-the-art equipment, such as the ceiling lift and harness over the treadmill and parallel bars, and an aquatic therapy pool with a state-of-the-art treadmill and underwater camera were also incorporated into the design.



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