

Ranken Jordan Pediatric Specialty Hospital

Maryland Heights, Saint Louis, Missouri



Client: Ranken Jordan
Design Completion: 2002
Construction Completion: 2004
Construction Budget: \$1.2 million
Project Size: 8 acres

Role of Landscape Architect:

**SITE MASTER PLANNING, LANDSCAPE DESIGN,
CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS, CONSTRUCTION
OBSERVATION, PLANT SELECTION**



SWT Design's primary focus for the new Ranken Jordan Pediatric Specialty Hospital was to help children recover from their debilitating injuries and illnesses by allowing them to experience the great outdoors. At Ranken Jordan, patients are taken beyond the facility's protective walls where they can experience the open air while exploring the spacious grounds. This philosophy of healing led to the primary design concept, a metaphor of an abstract children's village-like hospital.

The site features a challenge path, an interactive spray ground, two large playground units - one interior and one exterior, a butterfly garden, an imagination garden, a rose garden, a multi-purpose field, an amphitheater lawn, and various themed sculptures throughout the property. The outdoor butterfly and imagination gardens include native shrubs and perennials known to attract hummingbirds, butterflies, and other insects. The campus design purposely devoted these various site amenities to enhance the child-centered experience for the patients, their families, and the staff, by surrounding them with the sights and activities that create a nurturing environment.

An intimate collaboration was established with the architect to develop a successful inside-outside relationship. This exchange was achieved by using thematic surfaces that lead the eye outside with playful swirls of color. By far, SWT Design's most important role in this project was creating a very imaginative site design throughout the campus. This design nurtures wellness and playfulness that a child staying at Ranken Jordan needs on their journey of hope and recovery.

"Ranken Jordan's space was a blend of ideas where creativity was encouraged between SWT Design and members of Ranken Jordan's staff. The walking trail has proven to be useful on a daily basis for patients, family and staff. It is very soothing for the Ranken Jordan family to be able to leave our troubles behind and stroll along the path everyday, enjoying the nature and beauty surrounding us."

— Lauren Tanner
President & CEO, Ranken Jordan - A Pediatric Specialty Hospital



Featured in "Wicked Cool: Showcase Facility",
Healthcare Design Magazine, November 2005.

SWT Design is an environmentally conscious, high design, planning and landscape architecture firm.