

Sutter project adds a piece

CAPITOL PAVILION DESIGNED FOR OUTPATIENT TREATMENT

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Beneath its glossy copper-colored exterior, a newly opened \$130.6 million medical office building by Sutter Health is expected to provide better care for patients who don't need to spend the night in a hospital.

The four-story Sutter Capitol Pavilion is part of a \$724 million project to replace the aging Sutter Memorial Hospital on F Street by creating a modern medical campus linked by bridges and underground tunnels.

The midtown campus includes a women's and children's center and a remodeled Sutter Cancer Center and Sutter General Hospital. Funding for the plan came from tax-exempt bonds sold by Sutter Health, and from donations.

"I look at this building and it's become a work of art," said Tom Blinn, the CEO of the Sutter Medical Foundation during a news conference Tuesday. "It's become a patient center community-based medical building that's going to fit into our new campus."

The 209,781-square-foot facility includes offices for 40 physician specialists, 128 exam and proce-



The four-story Sutter Capitol Pavilion is part of a \$724 million midtown expansion project that will phase out Sutter General Hospital, which was built in 1937.

dures rooms, four operating rooms and 13 outpatient imaging rooms.

Plans to replace Sutter Memorial Hospital, built in 1937, have long been in the works because the building no longer meets health care needs in a modern age, said Larry Maas, the project's assistant administrator.

The 600,000-square-foot Sutter Memorial Hospital and Sutter General Hospital combine inpatient and outpatient care rather than separating them.

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Sutter: Artwork carefully chosen

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About 45 percent of Sutter General Hospital's clients are outpatients, making it difficult for physicians to juggle procedures, Maas said.

At the Sutter Capitol Pavilion on Capitol Avenue, physicians focus solely on outpatient services.

"There's nothing to disrupt your care like a patient coming through the emergency department," said Maas.

The size of the campus will also make it easier for the Sutter Medical Center to keep up with the latest medical technology.

At the pavilion on Tuesday, Michael Beneke, a general surgeon for the Sutter Medical Group, said the new operating room is bigger than most operating rooms at Sutter General, and the layout is more modern because surgeons no longer need to wheel around equipment on racks. He pointed to high-definition monitors and a ceiling-mounted boom, which stores equipment.



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Artwork along a wall at Sutter Capitol Pavilion was selected to augment the healing environment and help put patients at ease

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TOM BLINN,
the CEO of the Sutter Medical Foundation during a news conference Tuesday

"It really makes for ease of moving things around and a lot more flexibility," said Beneke.

An important aspect of patient care is creating a healing environment, which is why there's a huge emphasis on art in the building, said Kira Stewart, owner of Art Consulting Services.

Throughout the Sutter Cap-

itol Pavilion, a variety of paintings, limited editions, photography and fine art poster prints hang on the muted-color walls. Each piece complements the medical speciality of each office.

In the pediatric area, whimsical images of birds and fish fill the waiting area. Overall, nature and the Sacramento Valley are the overriding theme, said Stewart, because of their ability to calm patients down.

"The whole site is about patient care and adding to the quality of their experience," said Stewart.

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