



Photography © CJ Berg

**ARCHITECT**

Caldwell Associates Architects, Inc.  
Pensacola, Florida

**GLAZING CONTRACTOR**

Merritt Glass Company  
Pensacola, Florida

**FEATURED PRODUCTS**

1600 Wall System®1 IR  
(Impact Resistant) Curtain Wall  
IR (Impact Resistant) 501 Framing  
350 IR (Impact Resistant) Entrances

# Cancer Center of Sacred Heart Hospital

PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

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PROJECT PROFILE  
HEALTHCARE

## BUILDING A SYMBOL OF QUALITY AND COMPASSION

Visible at night to airplanes flying to the Pensacola Gulf Coast Regional Airport, the aluminum, glass and concrete ellipse of the Cancer Center of Sacred Heart Hospital is a symbol of the quality and compassion the Center brings to patients throughout Northwest Florida. Designed to be a leading, unique cancer facility for patients, their families, physicians and other healthcare professionals, the 95,430-square-foot Sacred Heart Cancer Center both consolidates and expands Sacred Heart's cancer services. As an addition to the original Sacred Heart Airport Medical Park medical office building in Pensacola, the four-story facility houses infusion and radiation oncology services, physicians' offices, cancer services administration, patient support services, the cancer registry and cancer research staff.

To design the new Cancer Center selected Caldwell Associates. Merritt Glass Company was selected to fabricate and glaze the project, as well as help meet on-site challenges. The company immediately brought in Kawneer to provide curtain wall, storefront framing and entrances for the facility, as well as architectural and engineering expertise.

## DESIGN HIGHLIGHTS

Although the new Center itself is relatively straightforward in design, a unique egg-shaped structure was added to the building to join the Cancer Center with offices and conference rooms, as well as the original Airport Medical Park building, Caldwell Associates (teaming with HKS as design consultants) designed the aluminum and glass "Egg," as it became known, which is elevated so that cars could travel underneath. At the tip of the Egg is a 70-foot high concrete, glass and aluminum stairwell, which is affectionately known as the "Yolk."

## CHALLENGES

- Creating a smooth curvature was challenging as the Egg was a true ellipse with multiple radii. The splay portion of the curtain wall also left little room for error.

- Local building codes proved to be another challenge that the design and construction team faced. Sacred Heart Cancer Center is located in one of Florida's vulnerable coastline cities, which requires additional measures for hurricane and wind protection.

## SOLUTIONS

- To construct the Egg, a template was created to demonstrate where the roof and 1600 Wall System®1 IR (Impact Resistant) Curtain Wall would meet. The template was also used as a measurement for each vertical mullion to keep the height of all of the mullions consistent with the roof. Several custom splayed shapes were required, as well as a custom-drop in the horizontal mullion.
- Structural engineers from Kawneer worked closely with the design and installation team to ensure that strict statewide building standards were met. Kawneer's on-site involvement and quick adaptation to necessary adjustments provided for a relatively smooth installation process.
- The impact resistant version of 1600 Wall System®1 Curtain Wall and IR 501 storefront framing system, with impact resistant glazing, were used to help meet building standards.
- 350 IR Entrances with laminated impact resistant glazing were used in the building to provide extra strength and windborne debris protection.
- The Egg and Yolk were constructed using approximately 50,000 pounds of glass. Supporting that weight, while still elevating the Egg, required precise engineering.

The successful construction of the Cancer Center of Sacred Heart Hospital can be largely attributed to teamwork and collaboration, matching to the similar unwavering commitment of the hospital and medical staff to providing quality care for patients. The new state-of-the-art Center helps fulfill the goals of Sacred Heart Health Systems to serve as a healing environment for patients and their families who face the challenge of overcoming cancer.

