



The Finishing Touch

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FEATURED PROJECT - ZEELAND COMMUNITY HOSPITAL REPLACEMENT FACILITY - ZEELAND, MICHIGAN

Zeeland Hospital officials along with the construction manager, Elzinga, Christman JV, broke ground in 2004, on a four story, 122,000 square foot hospital and a two-story 28,000 medical office building connected to the hospital. The hospital is located on a 40-acre site east of Zeeland, and will cost approximately 40 million dollars.

The design of the new facility incorporates the latest in healthcare design, while honoring the communities of the past. The base of the hospital will feature a dark red brick that resembles the historic Veneklasen bricks made by the Zeeland Brick company which was one of Michigan's largest brick manufacturers producing upward of 40 million brick per year.

The masonry division began work on the site early December 2004, probably at the worst time of the year. Work had nicely begun when it became necessary to provide winter protection (enclosures) and heat in order for the work to continue. Not only was it necessary to enclose the work area but also necessary to heat all of the material that was to be used. The masons, tenders and other employees had to work in these conditions until early April of 2005.

This was not a typical building because of the height, various angled corners, columns, blend of three different color brick laid in a pattern with radiused elevations, including the task of working and setting scaffolding on lower roofs to reach the higher floors and penthouse. We needed to use a crane for approximately one month to feed material to the scaffolding for the masons.

The project consisted in laying 142,000 utility brick, consisting of three different colors in a design pattern and 14,000 block in the lower area of the hospital. Because of the design and layout it was necessary to develop detailed shop drawings showing each brick for each elevation, and hand cut more than 5,000 brick to fit the design intent of URS Architects and Engineers, from Grand Rapids.

Now that we are nearing the completion of the project we have also been awarded the second medical office building which will also be attached to the hospital at the opposite end of the first medical office building. This is also a two-story, 28,000 square foot building, matching the brick design of the hospital.

Once completed the hospital will serve patients from Zeeland, Holland, Hudsonville, Georgetown, Hamilton, Allendale, West Olive, Byron Center and Jenison.



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