



The Children's Mercy Hospital

## Children's Mercy Hospitals & Clinics

### Unitee CR Brings Flexibility to Operating Room Ceilings

#### Project Summary

**Project Type:** Renovations to Operating Rooms

**Project Cost:** \$1.5 million per Operating Room

**Year Completed:** Multiple Operating Rooms beginning in 2004

**Square Footage:** Five Operating Rooms each between 450 to 600 ft<sup>2</sup>

**Price Products Used:** Unitee CR Ceiling Systems

**Price Representative:** Jorban-Riscoe & Associates

Children's Mercy Hospitals & Clinics (CMH) in Kansas City, MO is a comprehensive pediatric medical center consistently ranked among the nation's leading children's hospitals.

Ongoing improvements to this state-of-the-art facility are a crucial component in creating an environment where they can continue to meet their high standards for patient care. Renovations to existing operating rooms have been ongoing since 2004, with HMN Architects, Inc. working closely with Brack & Associates Consulting Engineers, P.A. to increase the usability and technical efficiency of these extremely critical environments.

Price's Unitee CR Ceiling Systems are consistently featured in CMH's modernized O.R.'s because of their ability to maximize mechanical flexibility while ensuring that the highest standards for performance and safety are met.

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### **The Challenge: Maximize Mechanical Flexibility**

One challenge that CMH faced and that is fundamental to any renovation is coordination of the many steps, elements, and trades required to complete the job. Some parts of the job cannot begin without others being completed first, which can often extend the timeline and the budget for a project beyond what was originally allotted.

Another significant challenge faced by CMH for Operating Room renovations in particular is working around the myriad of systems in the space. Given CMH's dedication to evolving systems and capabilities to match advances in technology, flexibility for the future addition of new or supplementary systems must also be taken into consideration. CMH's goal was to accommodate future upgrades to ceiling equipment while minimizing lost operating time during renovations and without having to bear the burden of significant renovation expenses.



### **Design Team Profile**

#### **Brack & Associates Consulting Engineers, P.A.**

Founded in 1984, this firm is staffed by approximately 20 employees in Topeka, Kansas. Recognized for their attention to detail, on-time completion, accurate construction documents, and strong client/design team focus, Brack & Associates has experienced constant growth over the past 25 years.

Their current clientele base is over 90 percent repeat clients and their projects include hospitals, medical facilities, research laboratories, higher education, corporate, and institutional facilities located in the Midwest. Their work portfolio also includes design of central plant / pumping systems, HVAC, emergency power systems, building control, and energy management system improvements providing cost effective energy efficient systems.

#### **HMN Architects**

HMN Architects is a 60-person architectural firm headquartered in Overland Park, Kansas with offices in Springfield, Missouri and Kansas City, Missouri. Founded in 1990, they provide quality, full-service architectural and interior design services, specializing in health care, research facilities, corrections and higher education.

HMN's mission is to deliver the highest level of service and to contribute to their clients' successes through superior design and project execution, and by maintaining and developing superb talent that thrives on

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compassion, collaboration and deep immersion in their clients' worlds. Based on this philosophy, HMN enjoys a 90% repeat client ratio.

### Price Solution

#### Unitee Ceiling System Brings Flexibility to the O.R. and the Construction Schedule

Brack & Associates and HMN had previously selected Price's Unitee ceiling system for work at Stormont-Vail HealthCare and, based on the positive results of that installation, identified it again as a high-performance, cost-effective solution to maximize mechanical flexibility while adding efficiency to the construction process.

"The Price system makes sense to me and my client. The system affords access above the ceiling and installs faster than conventional gypsum wall board ceiling."

Matt Jennings,  
Architect & Principal, HMN Architects, Inc.

The Price Unitee Cleanroom Ceiling System is designed to provide convenient access to the ceiling space as well as support the installations of diffusers, infill panels, light fixtures and Unistrut. The vinyl gasket prevents air leakage between the ceiling plenum and occupied space, and the sterile white powder coat finish is formulated to resist deterioration from hospital grade cleaners and disinfectants.

Unitee CR Ceiling Systems are supplied as separate components for field assembly, allowing quick and tool-free access to plenum-mounted equipment after



installation through the use of universal assembly clips.

The easy long-term access to the ceiling plenum allowed by the Price Unitee system at Children's Mercy Hospital has both short-term and long-term benefits.

In the short term, replacing a traditional sheetrock ceiling with a Price Unitee CR Ceiling System allowed for installation independent of the timeline of the other contractors working on the project, removing the ceiling system from the critical path and minimizing coordination and total construction time.

In the long term, the design team's specification of the mechanically flexible Price Unitee CR Ceiling System has ensured that the operating rooms will be equipped to accommodate new technologies and evolving systems in the future without the significant cost and lost operating time that a complete renovation would incur.

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