Kenall Luminaires Illuminate New State-of-the-Art Psychiatric Hospital in Missouri

Project Summary: The New Fulton State Mental Hospital and Nixon Forensic Center in Fulton, Missouri was completed in May 2019. The facility is nearly 500 thousand square feet and includes 12 residential halls, a treatment mall with stores, teaching kitchen, gymnasiums, chapel, and a medical center.

Challenge: Engineers wanted to blend the best attributes of the newer psychiatric facilities they toured: lighting must be safe and secure for patients but contribute to a “therapeutic and uplifting environment”.

Solution: A variety of sealed luminaires, including: EnviroSeal™ ES3; MightyMac™ RMCA and RMCD troffers and MMEX exit signs; SimpleSeal™ CSEDI; Millenium™ Stretch MLHA, downlight HADL, Round MR17, Finite FN9 and FN15; and Stratalume™ undercabinet lighting.

Benefits: Sealed, design-friendly lighting with behavioral health-specific features, including sealed, ligature resistant housings, tamper-resistant fasteners and impact-resistant polycarbonate lenses.

“Kenall is one of the few manufacturers that offers architecturally sensitive products that are also physically robust enough to be considered for these environments.”

– Mark de la Fuente, Senior Associate, Mazzetti
Fulton State Hospital (FSH) has been a fixture in mid-Missouri since 1851, but in 2014, the oldest psychiatric hospital west of the Mississippi was in desperate need of replacement. Home to high and low security psychiatric patients, developmentally disabled clients and a Sexual Offender Rehabilitation and Treatment Service program (SORTS), FSH operated in 1930s era buildings, with some equipment leftover from the Korean War.

A state bond issue provided $211 million in funds to replace the facility, and the new Fulton State Hospital and Nixon Forensic Center was completed in May 2019. The state-of-the-art complex is nearly 500 thousand square feet and includes 12 residential halls, a treatment mall with stores, teaching kitchen, gymnasiums, chapel, and a medical center. It incorporates two large outdoor areas and multiple smaller courtyards, and can house up to 300 patients.

Kenall lighting is found throughout the facility: Mark de la Fuente, a Senior Associate at Mazzetti, said, “Our greatest challenge was trying to achieve a therapeutic and uplifting environment while utilizing high security luminaires. In general, this genre of luminaries is focused solely on function and cost; the majority seem to be fluorescent products with LED boards in place of lamps.” But the old days of flickering fluorescents filled with water from a leaky roof are now gone: the new lighting manufactured by Kenall is all-LED, sealed against water and protected from vandalism, but still design-friendly. “Kenall worked with us to make small adjustments in order to meet the project requirements. We used more attractive vandal-resistant luminaires in supervised locations, while correctional grade, ligature resistant luminaires were used in spaces with direct patient contact.”

“From the start Kenall was receptive to what we needed and helped us configure their products accordingly. They replaced prismatic lenses with more attractive diffusing films, and added sky images to their security troffers in meditation rooms at our request.” These changes to the lighting helped FSH “combine the security of a maxim security penal facility with the therapeutic and uplifting environment of a mental health hospital”.

“The project was designed to meet ASHRAE 90.1 2013 and IECC 2015,” de la Fuente continues. “As a result, the facility is expected to have significant energy savings over the facility it replaced. In addition, the use of LED lighting should result in maintenance savings. Finally, the use of high abuse architectural products and selective application of correctional-grade luminaires should result in reduced replacement requirements.”

Former Missouri Governor Jay Nixon, for whom the Forensic Center is named, describes the new FSH as a “100 year” facility, and de la Fuente feels that having a trusted manufacturer is critical to achieving that goal: “We were committed to specify luminaires of the highest quality and from manufacturers that would stand behind their products in the years to come”.

Kenall Luminaire Features:
- Sealed housings that discourage vandalism
- Tamper-resistant fasteners
- IP ratings for wet locations (showers)
- Meets or exceeds patient safety standard guidelines

Benefits to Fulton State Mental Hospital:
- Lower energy utilization and reduced energy costs
- Maintenance savings
- Reduced replacement requirements

For more information, please visit us on the web at www.kenall.com