

Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN
WAI Continuum SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA



To meet its changing needs, the organization looked to consolidate three underutilized sites to improve the cost efficiency of providing long-term care to its retired nuns. Looking to support them as they age and move out of service, the client also sought to add new housing and wellness options.

It was the philosophy of the international Franciscan order that Sisters, after a "life of poverty," be nurtured in their retirement in a homelike environment that provided a sacred, feminine, and creatively beautiful atmosphere offering opportunity for peaceful reflection.

A town square connects the community's neighborhoods and serves as the campus gateway. Upon arrival, visitors see a soft, curving reception desk, which provides an inviting welcome. The lobby has varying ceiling



heights and towering windows, offering an opportunity for friends to visit while observing the beautiful outdoor courtyard and fountain. Areas such as the coffee bistro, reflection pool, fireplace lounges, activity kitchens, and wellness center offer multiple points of choice for residents to gather and enjoy each other's company.

Visitors to this spiritual campus experience a feeling of awe and inspiration upon entering the chapel and memorial alcove. The cascading waterwall and reflective fountains

bring remembrance of baptism, while the stained-glass windows offer daily reminders of the values and heritage of the religious order.

In addition to upgrading finishes, this project used new, advanced technology for the conference center, to access international lecturers and religious orders abroad while housing up to 100 attendees locally.

Jury comment: A well-planned approach to foreseeing future needs of the organization and community.

PROJECT CATEGORY: New Construction/Remodel-Renovation
CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR: Steve Komp, Administrator
FIRM: WAI Continuum, (651) 227-0644
DESIGN TEAM: David Wolterstorff, AIA, Project Principal/Architect (WAI Continuum); Amy Nichols, Interior Design Consultant (Design Works); Christine Reinhard, Liturgical Design Consultant (Thornridge Studio)
PHOTOGRAPHY: Saari & Forrai Photography
NUMBER/TYPE OF HOUSING UNITS: 54 private rooms (20 skilled nursing; 20 assisted living; 6 independent living; 8 guest suites)
TOTAL AREA (SQ. FT.): 79,544
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST (EXCLUDING LAND): \$8,065,504
CONSTRUCTION COST/SQ. FT.: \$101
COMPLETION: July 2005

