Case Study
Phoenix Children’s Hospital

Location
Phoenix, Arizona, USA
Philips Lighting
LED Lighting
“Only Philips Color Kinetics had the quality, specialized product offerings, and customer service needed to realize our vision.”

Scott Oldner, Scott Oldner Lighting Design
With its innovative LED lighting design, Phoenix Children’s Hospital entertains and comforts patients and visitors alike with vibrant, magical color and light.

When architectural firm HKS of Dallas, Texas, performed a $538 million expansion of Phoenix Children’s Hospital, they based their renovation design on the theme of a desert flower blooming at night. Scott Oldner, Principal of Scott Oldner Lighting Design in Dallas, helped HKS form an oasis in the desert with innovative interior and exterior lighting that reflected the project’s theme. Oldner specified Philips Color Kinetics LED lighting fixtures to create an immersive escape for patients and families, a distraction from the medical ailments surrounding them.

For the exterior design, Oldner had to comply with a number of uplighting and building lighting restrictions. Oldner wanted to illuminate exterior architectural elements to turn the building into a beacon that could be easily seen from almost any direction while adhering to the local Dark Sky ordinance and the project’s sustainability and budget requirements. LED lighting fixtures were the perfect choice. Oldner used iColor Accent Powercore (now specified with iColor Accent MX Powercore) to outline the building’s distinctive architectural fins and serve as a canvas for artistic, animated color displays. Long ribbons of iColor Accent Powercore fixtures descend the front of the building and merge into runs of iColor Cove MX Powercore fixtures in the lobby area, visually connecting the building’s exterior and interior.

Upon entering the building, patients and visitors find themselves in a cheerful, colorful lobby uplit with rows of concealed, color-changing iColor Cove MX Powercore fixtures. The main corridor features a water wall that’s a bit of a surprise. The initial design called for an indoor wall fountain using actual water, but due to costs another alternative needed to be found. “Why not do it with light?” Oldner suggested. HKS lined the wall from floor to ceiling with textured, wave-patterned acrylic, then Oldner used iColor Cove MX Powercore fixtures to uplight each section of the acrylic with a water-like effect incorporating varying shades of blue and aqua. To add more life to the water wall, Oldner used theatrical gobos in various shapes to project colored patterns on the walls. Finally, Oldner embedded iColor Cove MX Powercore fixtures in the ceiling domes to line the hallway with bright, vivid colors. All interior and exterior LED lighting fixtures are controlled by a single Light System Manager lighting controller from Philips Color Kinetics.

Due to budget constraints, Oldner could not use LED lighting fixtures throughout the hospital. In those areas where he used traditional cove lights, Oldner specified fixtures that the hospital could easily retrofit with LED replacements for additional energy savings in the future.
Interior designer Sandra Miller suggested embedding iColor Tile MX fixtures in the walls for way-finding and interactive fun down at the toddler level. iColor Cove MX Powercore fixtures also illuminate the back walls of the retail store display boxes, while halogen spotlights, properly dimmed, set off the merchandise in white against the full-color backdrop.

“From the start of the design process, beautiful, magical color was required for the Desert Blooms concept, the brainchild of HKS,” said Oldner: “Only Philips Color Kinetics had the quality, specialized product offerings, and customer service needed to realize our vision.”

Because of the flexibility and precision of Philips Color Kinetics LED lighting systems and the high level of support offered by Philips Color Kinetics sales engineers, Oldner was able to design a lighting system that closely matched his renderings. By turning his lighting vision into a reality, Oldner satisfied the expectations of HKS while creating a carefully orchestrated experience for the hospital’s visitors. “We gave the children and their families something unique, vibrant, entertaining, and full of life to distract them from the challenges they face entering the building,” said Oldner.